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**Selection Process for Specialist Commissions:
Candidates for the Elections of the Specialist
Commissions**

Administrative Working Document



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I. Introduction

1. At the 91st General Session, members of the four WOAHS Specialist Commissions (the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, the Biological Standards Commission, the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission) will be elected for a 3-year term (2024 to 2027).
2. This paper describes the Selection process and the role of the Delegates in preparing for the elections that will be held during the Administrative Session on 28 May 2024.

1. The Selection process

3. [Resolution No. 16](#), adopted by the World Assembly in May 2017, outlined the process for the selection of experts seeking nomination for election as members of the four Specialist Commissions. In accordance with that resolution, WOAHS implemented the process for selection of experts for the third time in 2023. The latest process is described in the '[Guidance for Delegates and Applicants](#)'.
4. The 'Call for experts' was held between 3 July and 8 September 2023. A total of 150 applications were received, consisting of 131 new applicants and 19 current Specialist Commission members. Of the 150 applications received, 108 applications were considered eligible, and 42 applications were considered ineligible. Applications considered ineligible were due to incomplete information or a lack of endorsement from the Delegate per the conditions established in the Call for experts.
5. The 108 eligible applications were from 43 different Members and all five WOAHS regions: Africa (23), Americas (36), Asia and the Pacific (29), Europe (18) and the Middle East (2). Seventy-one percent of the eligible applicants were male.
6. The Director General established a Nomination Evaluation Committee (NEC) which included a representative from the Council among its members to undertake independent evaluations of 89 Delegate-endorsed new applications received. Applications from 19 current Commission members were considered based on assessments under the Performance Management Framework.
7. The WOAHS Council met in March 2024 and considered applications and evaluations from both the NEC report (proposing 35 suitable new applicants) and the Performance Evaluation Framework (comprising 19 current Commission members), taking into consideration the suitability specific to each Specialist Commission as well as the need for geographical and gender balance.

2. List of candidates eligible for nomination for election

8. The WOAH Council agreed on a list of 33 candidates for election, comprising 14 new applicants and 19 current Commission members. The list is presented in [Annex 1](#) for the Delegates' consideration ahead of the elections.
9. Further details on each candidates' expertise, including their CVs, are available on the secure Delegate's portal for consultation [here](#).
10. Note:
- The list of candidates in [Annex 1](#) may change due to requests for withdrawal from the candidate or the endorsing Delegate. Please refer to the Delegate's portal for the most up-to-date list.
 - In line with WOAH's privacy policy, Delegates are expected to respect the privacy of the candidates and not share any personal information for any purpose.
11. The distribution of the 33 candidates is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of the 33 Council-endorsed candidates by Specialist Commission, region and gender.

Commissions	Regions					Total	Gender	
	Africa	Americas	Asia Pacific	Europe	Middle East		male	female
Aquatic Animals Commission	1	3	2	2	0	8	2	6
Biological Standard Commission	1	2	2	2	0	7	5	2
Scientific Commission	2	2	2	3	0	9	5	4
Terrestrial Code Commission	1	3	3	2	0	9	8	1
Total	5	10	9	9	0	33	20	13

3. Guidance for Delegates

12. **Before the Regional Commission meetings**
13. We encourage Delegates to review the details of all candidates for all Commissions as provided in the list of candidates on the Delegates' portal so they can make informed decisions when voting on those nominated for each of the four Specialist Commissions. When discussing candidates, we strongly encourage Delegates to consider the need for each Commission to be balanced in terms of expertise, region, gender, as well as number of years in service (for current members) versus the need for a regular turnover that ensures a succession of institutional knowledge. The World Assembly of Delegates will determine the membership of the four Special Committees by voting for the most suitable candidates from the list during the elections at the General Session.

14. During the Regional Commission Meetings at the General Session

15. Each Regional Commission should review all candidates listed on the Delegate's portal and discuss potential nominees who are best suited to fulfil the role of members in each of the four Specialist Commission and for the following positions:

- Candidate to be proposed for election as President (there is one President per Commission);
- Candidates to be proposed for election as Vice-President (there are two Vice-Presidents for each Commission);
- Candidates to be proposed as members (there are three members for each Commission).

16. Note:

- Candidates may be removed from the list, either at the request of the candidate or the Delegate who endorsed the candidate's original application.
- To remove a candidate, the endorsing Delegate or candidate must inform the Standards department by emailing expert_applications@woah.org.

Annex 1: List of candidates

This annex includes the list of candidates eligible for nomination for election to each of the WOAH Specialist Commissions, i.e. Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, Biological Standards Commission, Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, respectively.

The tables below present the candidates for each Specialist Commission, including: surname, first name, gender, country, region, and if a current member, the number of years they have served on a Commission. Candidates are ordered in alphabetical order by region and by surname.

Table 1. Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Surname	First name	Gender	Country	Region	Years in the Commission
Current members					
Christison	Kevin	male	South Africa	Africa	6
Gallardo	Alicia	female	Chile	Americas	12
Ernst	Ingo	male	Australia	Asia Pacific	12
Liu	Hong	female	P.R. China	Asia Pacific	6
Geoghegan	Fiona	female	Ireland	Europe	3
New applicants					
Giffin	Bernita	female	Canada	Americas	0
Marston	Alicia	female	United States of America	Americas	0
Tavompanich	Saraya	female	Norway	Europe	0

Table 2. Biological Standards Commission

Surname	First name	Gender	Country	Region	Years in the Commission
Current members					
Couacy-Hymann	Emmanuel	male	Cote d'Ivoire	Africa	9
Oura	Chris	male	Trinidad and Tobago	Americas	3
Kawaji	Satoko	female	Japan	Asia Pacific	3
O'Keefe	Joseph	male	New Zealand	Asia Pacific	6
Cullinane	Ann	female	Ireland	Europe	6
New applicants					
Ambagala	Aruna	male	Canada	Americas	0
King	Donald	male	United Kingdom	Europe	0

Table 3. Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Surname	First name	Gender	Country	Region	Years in the Commission
Current members					
Dungu	Baptiste Kimbenga	male	South Africa / DR Congo	Africa	9
Mulumba	Misheck	male	Zambia	Africa	6
Zepeda	Cristóbal	male	United States of America	America	6
Bellini	Silvia	female	Italy	Europe	9
New applicants					
Pereda	Ariel	male	Argentina	Americas	0
Cogger	Naomi	female	New Zealand	Asia Pacific	0
Tana	Toni	female	New Zealand	Asia Pacific	0
Roberts	Helen	female	United Kingdom	Europe	0
Stegeman	Jan Arend	male	Netherlands	Europe	0

Table 4. Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Surname	First name	Gender	Country	Region	Years in the Commission
Current members					
Hammami	Salah	male	Tunisia	Africa	15
Funes	Gaston	male	Argentina	Americas	9
Todeschini	Bernardo	male	Brazil	Americas	6
Murai	Kiyokazu	male	Japan	Asia Pacific	3
Bonbon	Etienne	male	France	Europe	15
New applicants					
Dubé	Caroline	female	Canada	Americas	0
Cobb	Stephen	male	New Zealand	Asia Pacific	0
Stratton	John	male	Australia	Asia Pacific	0
Romero González	Luis José	male	Spain	Europe	0
