

Work Programme of the WOAHA Governance Review Committee and Initial Adjustments to Support Revisions to the WOAHA Basic Texts

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) in Resolution No. 12 of 2024 recommended that WOAHA Members recognise the importance of a robust legal framework and the need to revise its Basic Texts to secure the organisation's ability to deliver its mandate efficiently, effectively, and sustainably into the future,
2. The Assembly in Resolution No. 12 of 2024 also decided that the Director General would establish a dedicated group on governance to carry out further work to revise the WOAHA Basic Texts,
3. The Director General, in collaboration with the Council, developed the Terms of Reference of the dedicated group of governance which provided, *inter alia*, that the group would operate under the title "Governance Review Committee" and would serve in an advisory, consensus-building capacity to make recommendations to the Assembly on revisions to the Basic Texts,
4. The Governance Review Committee was established by the Director General in collaboration with the Council, composed of sixteen (16) WOAHA Members inclusive of the WOAHA Membership as identified by the five (5) Regional Commissions,
5. Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Guatemala, Ireland, Kenya, Lebanon, Norway, People's Republic of China, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Tunisia were nominated to the Governance Review Committee,
6. The Assembly in Resolution No. 12 of 2024 further recognised the 'Report on the analysis and evaluation of the legal framework and the institutional, technical and financial governance of the World Organisation for Animal Health' including the recommendations as the basis for further work to revise the Basic Texts,
7. The Assembly in Resolution No. 12 of 2024 further decided that the Governance Review Committee would report to the 92nd General Session of the Assembly (2025) with the objective of providing a holistic work programme of multi-year activities and any initial recommendations (as appropriate) to support revisions to the Basic Texts, and
8. The work programme and initial recommendations on adjustments to WOAHA's governance of the Governance Review Committee were validated by the Council and presented to the Assembly in document 92GS Adm-06.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOGNISES

1. The importance of the work of the Governance Review Committee for the future of the Organisation and looks forward to the outcomes of the Governance Review Committee's work throughout its term.

TAKES NOTE

2. Of the Governance Review Committee's work programme, under which the Governance Review Committee will provide advice to the Assembly on potential governance reforms and revisions to the Basic Texts which strengthen the certainty, clarity, coherence, transparency and inclusiveness of WOA's legal and governance frameworks.
3. That the Governance Review Committee expects to submit its package of recommended changes to WOA's governance arrangements to the Assembly at the 93rd General Session (2026) and, based on the Assembly's decisions, submit a package of changes to WOA's Basic Texts and legal framework for the Assembly's consideration at the 94th General Session (2027).
4. Of the Governance Review Committee's initial proposed adjustments to WOA's governance arrangements that support future revisions to the Basic Texts, which will be implemented by the Secretariat, which are to:
 - Include estimated time commitments in all future calls for experts by WOA to improve the ability of WOA experts to contribute actively to the work of WOA in which they are engaged;
 - Publish a single repository of WOA experts to enhance recognition of WOA's expert base;
 - Introduce in the WOA Codes and Manuals hyperlinks to other WOA documents quoted or referenced therein, in accordance with the digitisation of the WOA Codes and Manuals to facilitate use of the WOA Codes and Manuals by their users;
 - Publish minutes and other relevant documentation related to future Council meetings on the WOA website to enhance the transparency of WOA's decision-making processes; and
 - Develop a policy or approach document on WOA's relationships with entities that are neither states, nor intergovernmental organisations, nor organisations that are part of WOA's expert base to support the transparency of WOA's operations and present it for the Assembly's consideration at the 93rd General Session (2026) or 94th General Session (2027).

AND DECIDES THAT

5. The Governance Review Committee review the process leading to the appointment of members of the Specialist Commissions and, subject to the Committee's conclusions including consultation with the Regional Commissions, present a proposal for the Assembly's consideration at the 93rd General Session (2026). Any updates to the appointment process for Specialist Commissions members approved by the Assembly at the 93rd General Session (2026) could apply to the appointment of Specialist Commissions' members by the Assembly starting in 2027.
6. The Governance Review Committee review how WOA's standard-setting process and other technical decision-making processes can be documented in a published procedure or legal instrument and, subject to the Committee's conclusions, aim to present a proposal for the Assembly's consideration at the 93rd General Session (2026).
7. Following consultation of the Regional Commissions, the Governance Review Committee present a proposal to increase the transparency of WOA Members' financial contributions and arrears for the Assembly's consideration at the 93rd General Session (2026).
