

92 GS/ Final Report

Original: English

Final Report
92nd General Session
Paris, 25–29 May 2025

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Introduction

1. The 92nd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates.¹ of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) was held from 25 to 29 May 2025 at the Maison de la Chimie, in Paris (France), and was chaired by Dr Susana Pombo (Portugal), President of the Assembly.
2. 132 Members participated in the General Session in person.
3. Observers from 4 non-member countries or territories and representatives of 38 international and regional organisations having an agreement with WOAH also attended the General Session in person.
4. The Director General of WOAH, Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.
5. The Presidents of the four WOAH Specialist Commissions and the Chairs of the Working Groups for Wildlife and for Antimicrobial Resistance and representatives of some *ad hoc* Groups also participated in the Plenary Sessions.
6. Dr Romano Marabelli, Honorary President of WOAH and Dr Bernard Vallat, Honorary Director General of WOAH, participated in the General Session.
7. 18 Guests of Honour (Ministers, Members of Government and senior representatives of multilateral institutions) also participated in the Opening Ceremony.

General Session Preparatory Activities

8. The Council was regularly consulted and informed of the progress of the preparations for the General Session, a notable instance being during its meeting in March 2025.
9. To maximise the time allocated for the General Session, “Pre-General Session Information Webinars” were held for WOAH Members in 2024 and 2025, and the meetings of the Regional Commissions were held online on 8, 13, 14 and 15 May 2025.

¹ Hereafter “the Assembly”

Sunday, 25 May 2025

Meetings of the Regional Commissions

10. Meetings of the Regional Commissions took place at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris on Sunday, 25 May 2025, starting at 10 am CEST. Participants included Members of each Regional Commission, as well as representatives of international and regional organisations and WOAAH staff from regional offices and the Headquarters. The agendas of the meetings included topics of regional interest such as the selection of technical items for the next Regional Conferences, updates on key regional activities and projects, coordination of common positions to be presented to the General Session, and updates from members of the Governance Review Committee on their last meeting, as well as the methodology and results of the workshops of the Regional Core Groups for the development of the Eighth Strategic Plan. The Regional Commissions for Africa and Europe also discussed candidates to be proposed to the World Assembly for the partial election of members of their respective Bureaus on Thursday, 29 May 2025. The Regional Commissions for Africa and Asia and the Pacific approved proposals for Collaborating Centres in Kenya, Singapore, and Thailand, respectively.

Opening Session

11. Dr Mariana Delgado, of WOAAH's Science Department, and Dr Daniel Donachie, of WOAAH's Preparedness and Resilience Department, served as Master of Ceremony for the Opening Ceremony.
12. The Master of Ceremony extended a warm welcome to all participants and expressed gratitude to the following persons for honouring the Assembly with their presence and representing Members from the five regions: Mr Edwin Dikoloti (Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Botswana), Mr Sidi Tiémoko Touré (Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources, Côte d'Ivoire), Mr Sydney Simelane (Principal Secretary, Eswatini), Ms Annie Genevard (Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, France), Mr David Songulashvili (Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia), Mr Berdalin Amangalyi Bisenbayevych (Vice Minister of Agriculture, Kazakhstan), Mr Mutahi Kagwe (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya), Mr Bakhyt Torobayev (Vice Prime Minister - Minister of Agriculture, Kyrgyzstan), Mr Linkham Douangsavanh (Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Laos), Mr Husain Alqatrani (Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Libya), Mr El Moctar Gaguih Ebeyite (Minister of Livestock, Mauritania), Mr Ahmed El Bouari (Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, and Water and Forests, Morocco), Mr Marcelo Gonzalez (Vice Minister of Livestock, Paraguay), Mr José Manuel Fernandes (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Portugal), Mr Jacek Czerniak, (Secretary of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland), Mr Luis Planas Puchades (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain), Mr Hassan Hussein Mohamed (Minister of Livestock Forestry and Range, Somalia), Mr Ali J. Mwadini (Ambassador of Tanzania to France), Mr Davis Marapira (Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, Zimbabwe), and Mr Thanawat Tiensin (Assistant Director-General, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division, and Chief Veterinarian at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO]).
13. The Master of Ceremony also thanked those persons who had sent a video recorded message in advance: Mr Danilo Palacios (Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Ecuador), Mr Roberto José Linares Tribaldo (Minister of Agriculture Development, Panama), Mr Moses Vilakati (African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment), Mr Olivér Várhelyi (European Union [EU] Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare), and Ms Inger Andersen (Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP]).

14. Following the opening video, the Master of Ceremony invited the President of the Assembly, Dr Pombo, to deliver her opening remarks.
15. The President of the Assembly extended a warm welcome to all participants, including Honourable Ministers, as well as Delegates, partners and esteemed guests. She underscored the significance of this session as her first in the role as President of the Assembly, expressing gratitude for the confidence placed in her and her commitment to uphold WOAHA's mission with dedication and diplomacy.
16. Reflecting on WOAHA's century-long legacy, Dr Pombo emphasised the Organisation's vital role in safeguarding animal health globally. She called upon all Delegates and partners to engage actively in the week's deliberations, highlighting that this General Session represented a key opportunity to reaffirm collective responsibility for animal health, which she pointed out was intrinsically linked to public health and livelihoods.
17. A focal point of Dr Pombo's address was the recent release of the first-ever State of the World's Animal Health Report. She commended the WOAHA Director General for this significant initiative, describing it as a landmark in transparency and collaboration within the animal health community. Built upon data from the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), the report provided a comprehensive global overview of animal health, highlighting both prevailing threats—such as avian influenza and African swine fever—and broader systemic issues requiring coordinated action.
18. Dr Pombo reaffirmed the critical role of timely and transparent reporting through WAHIS, stressing its importance in enabling early warning, evidence-based decision-making, and rapid response to emerging threats. She urged all Members to continue leveraging WAHIS and its dashboards as essential tools for disease monitoring and control.
19. The President reiterated that transboundary animal diseases remained a significant concern and that no country could tackle these challenges alone. Emphasising the need for global cooperation, she noted that solidarity and information-sharing enhanced the ability to detect and contain disease outbreaks and to mitigate their socio-economic impacts.
20. Turning to international standards, Dr Pombo highlighted WOAHA's science-based normative framework as a cornerstone of effective animal disease control and safe trade. She cautioned against fear-based or unjustified trade restrictions, reaffirming that all Members should adhere to the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code* to maintain science-driven, proportionate responses. In her words, science must guide policy.
21. Addressing institutional matters, Dr Pombo drew attention to the governance reform currently underway. She provided an update on the Governance Review Committee (GRC), established through Resolution No. 12 of 2024, tasked with reviewing WOAHA's Basic Texts. She explained that this multi-year initiative aimed to strengthen the Organisation's governance by enhancing clarity, inclusiveness and transparency, and by ensuring that its legal framework was fit for the evolving global context.
22. The President informed Delegates that initial recommendations from the GRC would be presented during the General Session and encouraged broad Member participation in the process. She noted that engagement would continue beyond the General Session, through regional consultations facilitated by the GRC.
23. Dr Pombo also addressed the development of WOAHA's Eighth Strategic Plan, which would guide the Organisation from 2026 to 2031. She underlined that the Strategic Plan and governance review were intrinsically linked: strong governance would underpin effective strategic delivery, and vice versa. Both initiatives aimed to make WOAHA more agile, responsive and inclusive, and thus better positioned to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

24. In closing, Dr Pombo called for renewed unity and collaboration among Members. She urged Delegates to share experiences and best practices throughout the General Session and to communicate outcomes broadly to other sectors and the public. She concluded with a message of optimism, expressing confidence in the Organisation's collective ability to strengthen animal health systems globally and affirming her commitment to working alongside all Members to ensure the success of the 92nd General Session.
25. The Master of Ceremony invited the WOAHA Director General, Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran, to deliver her opening remarks.
26. The Director General began by welcoming all participants, including Ministers, Delegates, Council members, partners, experts, and WOAHA staff. She extended particular thanks to Dr Pombo, President of the Assembly and Delegate of Portugal, as well as to the members of the Council and the Regional Bureaus.
27. Dr Soubeyran underscored the significance of the General Session as the annual forum where critical decisions, including the adoption of international standards, status recognition and key resolutions, were made. She noted that this gathering remained essential for shaping collective action and welcomed the opportunity for meaningful dialogue and experience-sharing throughout the week.
28. She expressed particular appreciation for the strong ministerial presence at this year's General Session, which she had acknowledged earlier during the Ministerial Meeting. The Director General emphasised that such political and financial support was critical to empowering WOAHA's national Delegates and enabling the Organisation to transform vision into action and strategies into tangible results. She reiterated that global and national advances in animal health and welfare were only possible with strong political engagement.
29. Dr Soubeyran highlighted two recent global achievements made possible through such engagement: the adoption of the Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance at the United Nations General Assembly and the conclusion of negotiations on the new Pandemic Agreement.
30. Both developments, she noted, reflected the increasing recognition of animal health as a core component of global health architecture and One Health approaches. She acknowledged these milestones as significant progress and took the opportunity to pay tribute to her predecessor, Dr Monique Eloit, for laying the foundation for this advancement.
31. The Director General posed a forward-looking question: how to build on this momentum and scale up impact in the animal health and welfare domain. She recalled that improved animal health contributed to food security, economic growth, safe and fair trade, public health, wildlife and biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.
32. She stressed that animal health must be understood not only as a technical issue but as a political priority. In this context, she referred to the launch of the State of the World's Animal Health as a key tool to further reinforce this message.
33. Dr Soubeyran reaffirmed WOAHA's commitment to advocating for stronger investment in Veterinary Services and underlined the cost-efficiency of prevention over crisis response. She reminded participants of WOAHA's guiding principle: "*The cost of inaction is much higher than the cost of prevention.*" She signalled to the Assembly that prevention would be a central theme of the week, including during the Forum on veterinary vaccines and vaccination, entitled "*From science to action – reflections for change.*" She stated that the Forum would explore strategic use of vaccination and the need to maximise benefits while mitigating risks.
34. The Director General reiterated her commitment made upon taking office: to support national authorities in strengthening Veterinary Services and to promote regional cooperation among Members. She emphasised that WOAHA worked *with* Members, not apart from them, and that robust Veterinary Services were essential not only for animal and public health, but also for enabling science-based trade and food security.

35. This collaborative spirit, she noted, would guide the development of the Organisation's Eighth Strategic Plan. She indicated that discussions on strategic priorities, initiated with regional core groups, would continue on Tuesday, and that further consultations were scheduled for 2025. She stated that the new plan was expected to be adopted at the next General Session. Importantly, it would be costed, and would serve both as a strategic roadmap and as a resource mobilisation tool.
36. Dr Soubeyran acknowledged the desire expressed by many Members to be more involved in the Organisation's governance. She confirmed that this feedback had been heard and was being integrated into the current review of WOA's institutional, technical and financial governance, which would be presented on Thursday.
37. In this context, she identified visibility and modernisation as two essential pillars for WOA's future. Enhancing visibility would help raise the profile of animal health, while innovation and digital transformation would improve the Organisation's agility and impact. She noted that these themes would be elaborated further during her 2024 report presentation on Tuesday.
38. Dr Soubeyran concluded by acknowledging the range of challenges confronting animal health today, including food security threats, disease emergence and re-emergence, antimicrobial resistance and pandemic risk; all of which were occurring within a shifting geopolitical and economic landscape. She emphasised that these challenges could only be tackled through collective action, grounded in mutual trust and shared confidence in WOA's mission.
39. She closed her address by thanking all participants for their continued commitment and expressed confidence in the results to be achieved together during the week and beyond.
40. Following the Director General's address, the Master of Ceremony invited the following guests of honour to give their speeches: Mr Edwin Dikoloti (Botswana), Ms Annie Genevard (France), Mr David Songulashvili (Georgia), Mr Bakhyt Torobayev (Kyrgyzstan), Mr Linkham Douangsavanh (Laos), Mr Ahmed El Bouari (Morocco), Mr José Manuel Fernandes (Portugal), Mr Jacek Czerniak, (Poland), and Mr Thanawat Tiensin (FAO). Video recorded messages were also displayed.

Presentation of the WOA's Honorary Awards

41. Dr Donachie reminded participants that, in accordance with the Basic Texts of WOA, honorary awards could be bestowed upon members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to WOA. He then invited the President of the Assembly, Dr Pombo, to introduce the recipients of the honorary awards.
42. Dr Pombo announced that the persons selected by the Council in 2025 to receive the awards were: Dr Monique Eloit (France) for the Gold Medal, while the Meritorious Awards were conferred upon Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil), Dr Ayayi Justin Ayih–Akakpo (Togo) and Dr Bakhromjon Norkobilov (Uzbekistan).
43. Dr Pombo commended the awardees and recalled their major accomplishments and outstanding services to WOA and the veterinary world. She presented them with their respective medals. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.
44. Following the ceremony, the 92nd General Session of the Assembly was declared open.

Monday, 26 May 2025

Technical Item
Animal Health Forum on Vaccines and Vaccination (92GS Tech-01)

45. Dr Montserrat Arroyo, WOAHA Deputy Director General “Standards Setting and Implementation”, introduced the Animal Health Forum on Vaccines and Vaccination. She noted that the event provided a platform for dialogue between WOAHA Delegates, subject matter experts and concerned stakeholders on the barriers currently impeding the development and use of vaccines in disease prevention and control strategies. The Forum featured two high-level panel discussions on Sunday, 25 May, and six technical sessions held on Monday, 26 May and Tuesday, 27 May.
46. The Technical Item “Veterinary vaccines and vaccination – from science to action: reflections for change” (Doc. 92 GS/Tech-01), presented by Dr Baptiste Dungu and Dr Meritxell Donadeu, provided an overview of the challenges and opportunities in improving animal vaccine use. It examined technical, regulatory and policy-related constraints and highlighted the need for integrated solutions to support sustainable animal health systems.
47. Dr Arroyo closed the Animal Health Forum by thanking the Rapporteurs of the Technical Item and all the expert panellists for their contributions. She noted the strong engagement from WOAHA Members and partners and reiterated the importance of moving from reflection to coordinated action to address the barriers identified. She informed the Assembly that a summary report of the Forum, including key messages from each session, is available [on the WOAHA website](#).
48. Dr Arroyo invited the Delegates of Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Chile, Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Cyprus, Denmark, France, Japan, Kenya, Paraguay, Singapore and the United Kingdom, as well as representatives from International Poultry Council and Health for Animals, to join the Rapporteurs and the Animal Health Forum Secretariat in developing a draft Resolution for consideration and adoption by the Assembly. Draft Resolution No. 29 was adopted by the Assembly on Thursday 29 May 2025 with no objections and one abstention (Colombia). The text appears as Resolution No. 29 at the end of this report.

Tuesday, 27 May 2025

First Plenary Session

Adoption of the Provisional Programme of the General Session ([92GS Adm-01](#))

49. The President asked whether the Members had any comments on the provisional programme.
50. Colombia, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, and referring to the discussion held during the Animal Health Forum on Vaccines and Vaccination, commended WOAHA for its efforts in analysing and exchanging information on high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) vaccination strategies. Noting the growing threat of HPAI, which posed threats to not only the poultry industry in South America but to the food security of over 650 million people, WOAHA's call to Members to evaluate the role of vaccination as a management tool was welcomed. It was also noted that this could be supported by the development of WOAHA guidelines for HPAI vaccination strategies that facilitate safe trade and assistance from WOAHA to Members to develop options to fund comprehensive responses.
51. The Assembly adopted the programme for the General Session.

Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda of the 92nd General Session

52. At the proposal of the President of the Assembly, the Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission for the Agenda for the 92nd General Session, namely Dr Mary Van Andel (Delegate of New Zealand), Member of the Council, and Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Delegate of Bahrain), Vice-President of the Council.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

53. Considering that some resolutions were proposed for adoption before the General Session, the Council had previously appointed Dr Masatsugu Okita (Delegate of Japan) and Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez (Delegate of Nicaragua), members of the Council, to prepare the list of Delegates accredited by their governments to participate in the debates and to vote during the elections, based on the WOAHA Members that were up to date with their contributions.
54. In accordance with the decisions of the Council, the Credentials Committee communicated to the President, the list of Delegates who, due to being in arrears of statutory contributions to WOAHA, were ineligible to take part in the elections as well as ineligible to receive the Delegates' per diem for their participation in the current General Session.

**Director General’s Report on 2024 WOAAH Activities
in light of the Seventh Strategic Plan and update on the development of the
Eighth Strategic Plan ([92GS Adm-02](#) and [92GS Adm-03](#))**

55. The Director General, Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran, began her presentation by stating that it would be two parts. The first part would be the activity report for 2024, with highlights presented through the lens of the Seventh Strategic Plan; the second is an introduction to the ongoing work on the development of the Eighth Strategic Plan, including a presentation of the proposed strategic directions that were developed as an outcome of the work done in previous months. She then thanked the Council, the Regional Commissions, the experts of the Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups, the Reference Centres, the financial partners, and WOAAH staff across offices at Headquarters and in the Regions.
56. In her introduction to the 2024 Activity Report, the Director General began by illustrating how 2024 had been a year of both transition and continuity. She emphasised that the celebration of WOAAH’s centenary had been a major milestone and had also been accompanied by a considerable growth in the Organisation’s visibility. In terms of transition, she highlighted changes in leadership – with the election of Dr Pombo as President, and her own election as Director General. She thanked Members for the trust they had placed in her. The year 2024 had also been marked by the launch of WOAAH’s institutional, technical and financial governance review and preparation for the development of the Eighth Strategic Plan for adoption in May 2026. She emphasised that both would continue to speak to each other through their roll-out.
57. The Director General then presented the new organisational chart (to take effect in the upcoming months), which had been revised to align with the priorities she had introduced during her campaign in 2024. She took the opportunity to introduce Ms Marie Alizon, the new Director of Administration, and Dr Baba Soumaré, the new Deputy Director General “Global Frameworks Coordination and Capacity Building”, a new Directorate at WOAAH. She also specified that the chart reflected her commitment to ensuring the full integration of all WOAAH regions.
58. In terms of continuity, the Director General stated that WOAAH remained fully committed to delivering on its core mandate, by strengthening transparency of the global animal health situation, working on official disease status, standards, dissemination of scientific knowledge and capacity-building activities.
59. The Director General moved on to presenting the achievements of 2024 through the lens of the Seventh Strategic Plan Strategic Objectives: scientific expertise, data governance, responding to Members’ needs, collaboration with partners, and efficiency and agility.
60. Under the heading of scientific expertise, the Director General indicated that in 2024, emphasis was on structuring, mobilising, and expanding access to the latest science to maximise credibility and the impact of WOAAH’s work – particularly important in a context of infodemics. She spoke of the formalisation of WOAAH’s science system and its link to the governance and Basic Texts review, the release of key documents (Global Burden of Animal Diseases, guidelines for diagnostic protocol for African swine fever, and guidelines for addressing disease risks in wildlife trade developed with CITES), and the successful completion of the EBO-SURSY project that lay the groundwork for ZOO-SURSY – a broader version. The Director General thanked the EU for funding these two projects. She also indicated that there were many other initiatives that could not all be presented on this day, but that WOAAH would continue to put effort into communicating on them. She referred to work being done on vaccines, recalling the Forum held the previous morning.
61. On the subject of data governance, the Director General reflected on the Organisation’s willingness to catalyse data intelligence and take the Organisation a step further to make data more actionable, building on its historical commitment to transparency. She referred to important foundations for integrated data management, with the launch of projects designed to ensure that different data systems speak to one another, at WOAAH and beyond, one of these being the disease master data, essential for interoperability ambitions. She also referred to improved access to WOAAH data through the PVS Information System (PVS IS), the standards navigation

tool, updates to World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and improved access by partners to WOAAH data. She noted that 16 PVS indicators were now included in the Pandemic Fund's result framework. The Director General acknowledged that more still needed to be done on data governance.

62. Under the topic of responding to Members' needs, the Director General highlighted that in 2024, the Organisation had strived to listen more closely to and support Members to better anticipate and address challenges, with the right tools, training and partnerships opportunities. This included supporting Members with increasing public–private partnerships, building capacity on antimicrobial resistance, and reinforcing One Health learning, in collaboration with FAO and WHO. In terms of tackling emergencies, she referred to the development of the WOAAH Incident Management System and guidelines developed with INTERPOL on combatting mis/disinformation.
63. In relation to collaborating with partners, the Director General gave examples that illustrated WOAAH's growing influence on the global stage and its continued dedication to building strong strategic partnerships that support Members and ensure that animal health remains a pillar of global health security. She pointed to engagement in major international fora (UNGA¹, G20, COP29²). Thanks to advocacy efforts, major achievements, such as the prominence of animal health in the Pandemic Agreement and the UN Political Declaration on AMR were made possible. She thanked countries for reporting on antimicrobial use, stating that the more countries report, the more WOAAH could advocate with the human health sector to report on what was happening in the veterinarian sector. The Director General recognised the work that WOAAH had done as Chair of the Quadripartite and in adopting a collaborative approach. She expressed confidence that FAO, as successor, would continue to take the work forward. Finally, she referred to the GF-TADs³ 20-year partnership review, pointing to the insights it would provide to modernise the mechanism and strengthen its relevance and funding in the years to come. She pointed to discussions with FAO on how to reinforce commitment on all sides.
64. Finally, the Director General focused on actions linked to efficiency and agility, that were laying the groundwork for a more responsive, transparent and modern Organisation. She noted that these included reinforcing the Organisation's performance management – which was not always visible to the outside – notably with the development of Organisational Key Accountability and Performance Indicators. She also listed the implementation of the Financial Policy Framework, the Procure-to-Pay (P2P) tool, new recruitment procedures, and the scale-up of internal control and risk monitoring systems. Finally, she referred to the establishment of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), composed of 16 selected WOAAH Members, to support an inclusive and structured review of how WOAAH is run.
65. Following the conclusion of the Activity Report, the President, Dr Pombo, opened the floor for questions and comments.
66. Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) thanked the Director General for honouring her commitment to diversify WOAAH leadership, with the nomination of Dr Soumaré. The Director General responded by reiterating her willingness to be more inclusive at leadership level, specifically at the WOAAH Directorate Committee (CODIR) and Executive Committee (COMEX) levels.
67. Bangladesh thanked WOAAH for developing global strategy documents, mentioned in the Director General's presentation, that were useful to address animal health issues in their country. The Director General responded that global strategic documents were useful, and that work done at regional and sub-regional level to implement global strategies was equally useful.

1 UNGA: United Nations General Assembly

2 COP29: 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

3 GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

68. Benin congratulated the Director General. He also insisted on the need to reinforce work on visibility, to ensure that Veterinary Services were not left behind, by becoming better at communicating achievements and impact. The Director General responded that more work needed to be done with communication Focal Points, and that visibility would be a major part of the Eighth Strategic Plan.
69. Paraguay thanked the Director General for honouring her commitment to have the next Regional Conference of the Americas in Paraguay. As a Member of the Council, he expressed his support for her mandate.
70. The Director General then moved on to the second part of her presentation: an update on the development of the Eighth Strategic Plan. She introduced this part by saying that development of the Eighth Strategic Plan was following a collaborative and phased approach and building on lessons learned from the Seventh Strategic Plan. The intent being to reflect Members' needs and priorities and to be as inclusive as possible, she strongly invited Members to contribute to the process in the coming weeks. She presented the three phases of the development. Phase 1 – focused on identifying the broad strategic directions of the Plan and now completed – mobilised Members of the Regional Core Groups and WOAHA management teams through workshops. In turn, Delegates, experts from Specialist Commissions and others would be invited to contribute to elaborate the content of these strategic directions during a second phase. She stated that the third and final phase would consist of drafting, reviewing and validating the Plan, for endorsement by the Council in March 2026.
71. The Director General noted that Phase 1 also relied on other sources of information, including an analysis of the context, benchmarking, incorporation of key findings from other internal initiatives and a survey of stakeholders. She stated that findings from the survey would be shared with Members after the General Session, and that they were encouraging.
72. This introduction was followed by an overview of the key recommendations from the Seventh Strategic Plan review. The Director General specified that the review had been carried out on the implementation, not the impact, of the Seventh Strategic Plan. The review highlighted areas of focus such as scaling up data management, having more sustainable ways of securing funding, and improving support and investment in people.
73. The Director General then moved on to presenting the outcome of the work done in previous months that had led to consolidated Strategic Orientations and Enablers. She explained that they represented the intersection between what WOAHA must do (core responsibilities), what WOAHA can do (what is realistic), and what WOAHA would like to do (ambitions). For clarity, she defined Strategic Orientations as the big picture goals that reflect the change we want to see, and Enablers as what would allow the Organisation to implement the Eighth Strategic Plan.
74. In short, the Director General introduced the three Strategic Orientations as focusing on standards, capacity building, and enhancing the global influence of the animal health sector. In turn, they would be supported by four Enablers: strong governance, better use of data, putting people at the centre, and enhanced performance monitoring.
75. The Director General presented the first strategic orientation “Develop global standards that are adaptable and applicable to all” as reflecting WOAHA’s core business and unique position. She stated that it had come out of the RCG workshops strongly. This Orientation reflected WOAHA’s willingness to leverage its strength, by relying on the scientific expertise shaped through WOAHA’s global networks and Members’ active engagement. The Director General clarified that the intent was not to develop regional standards but rather to have standards that could be adapted to different contexts, because standards only mattered if they were used. In addition to the standards themselves, tracking their implementation through the Observatory would remain a priority.

76. On the second Strategic Orientation, “Empowering Members towards robust animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare systems,” the Director General specified that the goal was to protect markets, improve livelihoods and safeguard global health. She explained that this would be done through capacity building and fostering regional and sub-regional cooperation, to build trust, and strengthen cooperation to better respond to global challenges. The Director General reiterated that the wording for the Orientations and Enablers was not final and could be reworked in coming phases of the development of the Eighth Strategic Plan.
77. The Director General stated that the third Strategic Orientation “Position animal health as central to tackling global challenges” aimed to leverage WOA’s voice to influence policy, raise awareness and attract resources, by demonstrating animal health’s interconnectedness with food systems, public health, trade, livelihoods and the environment. Overall, improved communication and advocacy would raise the profile of animal health to build a healthier, more sustainable future for all.
78. The Director General then moved on to Enablers. She stated that the first one, “Governance and partnerships for sustainability”, was to ensure that WOA had strong internal governance and external partnerships to maintain the quality of operations, while staying open to new collaborations and perspectives. Here too, the Director General linked to the GRC work. The second enabler, “Data leadership”, underpinned the ambition to ensure that decisions were based on robust evidence, through the provision of accurate, timely and useful data, for improved action and anticipation. The third enabler, “People at the heart of WOA”, was not raised in the RCG. Nevertheless, it aimed for WOA to attract and retain talent, by making sure that people felt valued, through modernised people management policies and a One WOA approach across Headquarters and the field. Finally, the fourth Enabler “Performance and Accountability” aimed to improve how WOA worked, through better tools, clearer processes, fewer silos and more consistency – for improved transparency, accountability and performance management to illustrate the value that WOA brought to global health.
79. The Director General concluded by highlighting next steps. She emphasised that what was presented on this day was the skeleton of the Strategic Plan and that the next step would be to develop what was to go under each Strategic Orientation and Enabler. She issued a reminder that they were being presented for information (not for adoption). She indicated that all Members would be invited to participate in workshops to provide them with an opportunity to share ideas and contribute to further shaping the Eighth Strategic Plan. The Director General added that, for the first time, the Eighth Strategic Plan would be accompanied by a costed roadmap and serve as a tool to orient donors by being transparent about what resources were needed. She concluded by stating that the ambition was clear: the Eighth Strategic Plan would be built and implemented together with Members to advance animal health and welfare worldwide.
80. Following the conclusion of the presentation on the Eighth Strategic Plan, the President, Dr Pombo, opened the floor for questions and comments.
81. Chile congratulated the Director General and her teams and expressed his appreciation for WOA, as an organisation ready to take on the challenges of the future.
82. Colombia concurred and expressed appreciation that animal welfare was prominent in the presentation, a positive signal that the topic is there to stay.
83. The Assembly noted the report of the Director General.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1
Director General's Report on 2024 WOAAH Activities

84. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 1 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 1 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 2
Director General's Report on 2024 WOAAH Management, Activities and Administrative Work

85. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 2 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 2 at the end of this report.

Animal Health Situation Worldwide (92GS Tech-02)

86. Dr Pombo introduced Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD), and Dr Gilles Guillot, Head of the Data Integration Department (DID).
87. The 'Animal Health Situation Worldwide' report, summarised by Dr Hutchison and Dr Guillot, focused on two main areas: animal disease reporting to WOAAH and the global situation in 2024 for important diseases. A summary of reporting by Members was provided. Dr Guillot provided an overview of the global situation in 2024, focusing on four topics: African swine fever (ASF), infection with HPAI, diseases in wildlife and diseases in aquatic animals. Key aspects of the epidemiological situation were highlighted, and recommendations were provided for each of the four topics. Dr Hutchison highlighted recent important exceptional disease events, including those relating to foot and mouth disease (FMD), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), New World screwworm, and HPAI in poultry. She outlined how improvements to the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) had greatly facilitated the reporting and consulting of official animal disease information. She celebrated the continuing progress on interconnection between the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) and WAHIS and thanked the European Commission (EC) for its continuing support. She outlined a variety of support mechanisms for reporting and consulting users. She specifically mentioned the recent publication of the State of the World's Animal Health (SOWAH) report which was appreciated by our Members. However, WOAAH apologised for some mistakes within the report and specifically those affecting Austria and Sweden. She gave an assurance that WOAAH would learn from these mistakes for future reports. Dr Guillot emphasised the challenges and opportunities in the data science landscape, creating the need for all professionals to become data scientists. He outlined the vision of WOAAH to integrate data science and artificial intelligence to enable accurate epidemic intelligence nowcasting and forecasting. Dr Hutchison and Dr Guillot thanked the Delegates, national Focal Points, experts and partner organisations for their continuing contributions to WOAAH.
88. Senegal commended WOAAH for the quality of the Technical Working Document 'Animal Health Situation Worldwide. Senegal further commended WOAAH for the improvements made to date in WAHIS and the upcoming training activities in 2025 for African countries. Senegal asked WOAAH about a potential interoperability between WAHIS and ARIS (Animal Resource Information System). Dr Hutchison thanked Senegal for the question and invited the Delegate to visit the WAHIS Kiosk to further discuss the topic.
89. Australia expressed its appreciation to WOAAH for the work carried out. It acknowledged that the WAHIS reporting system provided Members with easy access to information and facilitated the reporting process. Australia also thanked WAHIAD and its WAHIS support team for their continued assistance in both reporting and communication.

90. Comments were received from the 27 Member States of the EU. The EU thanked Dr Hutchison and Dr Guillot for the work done by their teams to ensure global transparency of the animal health situation. The EU emphasised the importance of a coordinated regional approach and joint efforts on vigilance, preparedness, timely reporting and transparency, noting that these were essential for early detection and prompt response, and to prevent further spread of lumpy skin disease (LSD). The EU acknowledged the benefits of mass vaccination in eradicating LSD. The EU endorsed the WOAAH warning statement on the risks involved in the use of substandard ASF vaccines. The EU provided an update in relation to the Technical Working Document 'Animal Health Situation Worldwide', highlighting Germany's success in achieving WOAAH official status as 'FMD free where vaccination is not practised' for the whole territory, adding that Hungary and Slovakia were also moving towards eradication. The EU thanked WOAAH for linking ADIS and WAHIS, thereby reducing the administrative burden and improving data consistency. WOAAH's openness during the challenging process was acknowledged. Currently, 32 of 40 ADIS countries were using it for both WOAAH and EU notifications. The EU noted that the process was ongoing and committed to further improving the system.
91. Finally, the EU condemned the "*unprovoked Russian aggression*" against Ukraine, which it considered irresponsible, as well as the increased animal health risks in Ukraine and beyond.
92. New Zealand, speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom, joined the EU in highlighting the risk to animal health because of global instability. New Zealand further stated that they were committed to strengthening the global rules-based order to support a peaceful and prosperous world.
93. Guyana, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), thanked WOAAH for the training course held in the Caribbean. The training had proved very valuable, and numerous countries, including non-members, had benefited from the sessions. There was an expressed hope to continue engaging with non-members and to support their eventual accession to WOAAH.
94. Dr Hutchison thanked the Members for their comments.

Activities of the Working Groups

Working Group on Wildlife ([92GS Tech-03](#))

95. Dr William Karesh, Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife, presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the previous General Session and the outcomes of its meetings held from 15 to 18 April 2024 and 12 to 15 November 2024.
96. Dr Karesh stated that the Working Group had recommended that WOAAH focus on top priority partnerships which best supported outputs and activities identified in the WOAAH Wildlife Health Framework. He mentioned that key partners included the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC). He noted that there were also opportunities and discussions to reinforce other partnerships in the near future, including with the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA). Dr Karesh highlighted several productive activities, including the joint development of general guidelines with IUCN for surveillance of diseases, pathogens and toxic agents in free-ranging wildlife and the organisation of a workshop to implement them in Liberia and Ghana. He also highlighted the work with CITES to expedite rapid shipment of diagnostic samples of wild animals for species listed by CITES. He reminded Delegates about the development of the WOAAH Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade with the support of several international partners, and he took the opportunity to inform Delegates that WOAAH had been selected as the new Secretariat of the International Alliance against Health Risk in Wildlife Trade.

97. Dr Karesh alerted the Delegates to the detrimental effects that the use of lead ammunition in hunting was having on the environment and on animal and human health. He mentioned that the Working Group supported the development of a statement on the benefits of banning the use of lead ammunition in hunting, as well as any additional efforts by WOAAH and its Members to reduce lead exposure for animals and their environment.
98. Dr Karesh stated that the Working Group had expressed its support for a next generation wildlife disease reporting system in WOAAH, and it encouraged WOAAH to prioritise this project. This would enable Members to begin evaluating WOAAH's ability to support their needs and activities. The Group had also suggested that WOAAH explore the possibility of developing the data collection system in partnership with an international organisation specialised in information technology and data management. Dr Karesh updated Delegates on the current information provided on WOAAH-listed diseases affecting wildlife and non-listed diseases of wild animals, including the compilation and release of periodic situation reports on wildlife health. He noted that few Members currently submitted reports, and he encouraged the Membership to submit relevant information.
99. Dr Karesh indicated that the Working Group had continued its fruitful collaboration with the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission). Together with the Code Commission, the Working Group had identified specific chapters in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* that were due to be updated and required input from wildlife experts, either because the epidemiology of a disease involved wildlife or because the chapter presented opportunities to integrate aspects relating to the improvement of wildlife health.
100. Throughout the year, the Working Group had worked closely with WOAAH Headquarters on the spread of HPAI H5N1 in wildlife. Dr Karesh highlighted the catastrophic impact that HPAI H5N1 was having on mammal and bird wildlife populations in South America, and he stated that the spread of HPAI in Antarctica was both a threat to the region's wildlife and a key risk factor in maintaining the disease and spreading it to other parts of the world. Dr Karesh reminded Delegates that the Working Group had developed specific guidance on HPAI in wildlife. He highlighted that there were still surveillance and reporting gaps around the world for avian influenza in wildlife and noted the challenges that needed to be addressed, which included physical factors and the lack of sustainable resources. He emphasised that surveillance accompanied by reporting and monitoring of genetic sequence data remained important for risk assessment and situational awareness, especially given the increasing geographic spread of the virus and the capacity of the virus to recombine and the implications this may have, including for vaccine formulation.
101. Dr Karesh noted that the use of diclofenac in veterinary practice (particularly in cattle) had led to a catastrophic decline of up to 99.7% in vulture populations across India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. He pointed out that the collapse of vulture populations resulted in increased rabies circulation and a severe impact on human health. He indicated that the Working Group encouraged Members to employ alternatives to diclofenac and to apply alternative management processes where relevant.
102. Dr Karesh stated that the Working Group, in its strategic advisory role, regularly reviewed progress with implementation of the WOAAH Wildlife Health Framework and advised on its future direction.
103. **Composition of the 2025 Working Group on Wildlife:**
- Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chair)
 - Dr Marcela Uhart (Argentina)
 - Dr Markus Hofmeyr (South Africa)
 - Prof. Dolores Gaviera-Widén (Sweden)
 - Dr Rupert Woods (Australia)
 - Dr Mwanza Songe (Zambia)
 - Dr Jonathan Sleeman (United States of America)
 - Dr Anna Wong (Singapore)

104. Dr Karesh thanked the members of the Working Group for their contributions.
105. The President of the Assembly congratulated Dr Karesh on his presentation and opened the floor for discussion.
106. Senegal congratulated Dr Karesh on his presentation and acknowledged that wild migratory birds contributed to the propagation of HPAI in poultry and wildlife. As part of concern for domestic biodiversity and poultry, the Delegate enquired whether oral vaccination of wildlife could be considered. Dr Karesh stated that while he was not immediately aware of any studies, it could be a potential opportunity. It would depend on the species, and for some species, such as ducks and other waterfowl, it could be interesting to explore given the tropism of the virus for the gastrointestinal tract in these species.
107. The Secretary-General of CITES highlighted the ongoing collaboration between CITES and WOAHA, formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in March 2024. She stated that this partnership aimed to ensure safe, legal and traceable international trade of wildlife and contributed to reducing the risk of zoonotic disease emergence and pathogen spillover. The Secretary-General also emphasised the importance of sustainable and legal trade in CITES-listed species, with strong cooperation among relevant authorities. Additionally, in her capacity as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), the Secretary-General of CITES reported on CPW's efforts to integrate sustainable wildlife management into the One Health agenda. This included assisting Parties in piloting WOAHA's guidelines to mitigate disease spillover risks at wildlife markets and along supply chains and developing a One Health information platform. She pointed out that the significance of these initiatives was underscored by past wildlife losses, such as the decline of vulture populations in India due to diclofenac poisoning.
108. Bangladesh congratulated Dr Karesh on his presentation. He mentioned that wildlife surveillance needed more focus in his region, especially considering the cases of infection with Nipah virus detected recently. He also mentioned that, despite the ban of diclofenac and ketoprofen 12 years ago, vulture populations in Bangladesh were still recovering and further studies were needed to understand the reason. Dr Karesh stated that it would be helpful to explore whether details of current mortalities and pathology could support analyses. He also reiterated that, given the long lifespan of vulture populations, the recovery of populations might be slow.
109. Dr Alicia Gallardo, the President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), acknowledged the significant impact of HPAI on wild marine mammals and birds in Chile and Peru recently, and thanked WOAHA for the timely production of guidelines and recommendations for the epidemic, which were being widely used. She commented on the importance of data integration to develop insights and suggested that artificial intelligence could be used to develop predictive models. In response, Dr Karesh stated that, as 75% of the surface of the planet consisted of open water, aquatic animals needed to be taken into account, and he added that efforts to improve data integration needed to be made.
110. Dr Karesh thanked the Delegates, the President of the Assembly and the WOAHA Director General.

Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (92GS Tech-04)

111. Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Chair of the Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMRWG), presented an overview of the AMRWG's activities since the 91st General Session, held in 2024. This included the outcomes of its biannual meetings (held on 29-31 October 2024 and 1-3 April 2025) and an update on the recruitment of two new AMRWG members.
112. Key activities of the AMRWG throughout this period included:
 - The recommendation to update Chapter 6.8 'Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes' of the *Terrestrial Code*, which was approved by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) in

September 2024. In February 2025, the Code Commission approved the Terms of Reference submitted by the AMRWG for the *ad hoc* group responsible for the revision of Chapter 6.8. Dr Arshnee Moodley and Dr Carolee Carson will be part of the *ad hoc* group, alongside experts from WOAH's Collaborating Centres. Appointment of the *ad hoc* group and revision of the Chapter were due to take place in June and July 2025, respectively. Regular progress reports will be provided to the AMRWG and the Code Commission during their biannual meetings.

- The recommendation to update Chapter 6.2 'Principles for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals' of the *Aquatic Code* in February 2024, which, was approved by the Aquatic Animals Commission in September 2024. In October 2024, the AMRWG provided advice on the gap analysis of Section 6 of the *Aquatic Code*, as requested by the Aquatic Animals Commission. In April 2025, the AMRWG agreed that Ms. Barbara Freischem will be part of the *ad hoc* group responsible for the updating of Chapter 6.2., alongside experts from WOAH's Collaborating Centres. The revision of the Chapter is due to start in June 2025.
- The endorsement of the Technical Reference Documents (TRDs) of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance for bovine animals and cats and dogs in the October 2024 AMRWG meeting. During the same meeting, the AMRWG also requested that WOAH increase the visibility of the WOAH List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance (the WOAH List) and TRDs. This led to the launch of the AMR package on WOAH's website in April 2025, which included the WOAH List and TRDs for poultry, aquatic species, swine, bovine animals and cats and dogs.
- Planning for the 2026 major revision of the WOAH List, which included a brainstorming activity during the October 2024 AMRWG meeting. An output of this was the creation of a global survey, which, in April 2025, the AMRWG agreed should assess the level of awareness and relevance of the WOAH List and the TRDs and gather feedback on two new categorisation criteria that will replace the existing criteria. The survey will be launched in June 2025.

113. **Composition of the 2025 Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance:**

- Dr Tomoko Ishibashi (Japan) (Chair)
- Dr Stephen Page (Australia)
- Dr Fajer Sabah Al Saloom (Bahrain)
- Ms Barbara Freischem (The Netherlands)
- Dr Jalusa Deon Kich (Brazil)
- Dr Carolee Carson (Canada)
- Dr Arshnee Moodley (Kenya)

114. Dr Tomoko Ishibashi (Japan) and Dr Stephen Page (Australia) are leaving the AMRWG in May 2025 and October 2025, respectively. To ensure a balanced geographical representation within the AMRWG, two new members, also from the Asia and Pacific region, were selected through an open recruitment call and were appointed by the Director General in April 2025. The two new members, who will join the AMRWG at its September 2025 meeting are:

- Dr Michiko Kawanishi (Japan)
- Prof. Yang Wang (China [People's Rep. of])

In addition to the recruitment of new members, the Director General appointed Dr Arshnee Moodley as chair of the AMRWG in April 2025.

115. The United Kingdom welcomed the progress made by the AMRWG to support the implementation of the 2024 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) [Political Declaration](#) on AMR and the [Jeddah declaration](#) from the 4th High Level Ministerial Conference on AMR. In particular, the United Kingdom recognised the important role played by the AMRWG in advancing technical tools that underpin these commitments, such as the development of the VetAWaRe List and efforts to update the WOAAH list of priority diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use ([WOAH List of priority diseases](#)). The United Kingdom further highlighted the leadership of WOAAH as part of the Quadripartite in the [consultation process](#) for the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR in 2025, as a critical step in supporting evidence based policy.
116. The President of the Aquatic Animals Commission commented on the importance of autogenous vaccines for aquatic animals, and shared the success story of their use in Colombia to manage outbreaks of *Streptococcus agalactiae* in tilapia as result of public–private partnerships and academia. It was also noted by the Aquatic Animals Commission that, due to climate change, there is re-emergence of endemic diseases and emerging diseases in aquatic species. The reflection paper on autogenous vaccines will consider the main gaps for authorisation and use of autogenous vaccines that will be important for aquatic animal health. The Aquatic Animals Commission welcomed the support of the AMRWG on the revision of [Chapter 6.2](#) of the *Aquatic Code*. Dr Ishibashi thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for its feedback and informed the Members that articles on alternatives to antimicrobials would also be published by WOAAH. Dr Ishibashi reminded WOAAH Members that there was already a [list of priority diseases](#) for aquatic animals, published in 2015, and suggested that an update could be considered in the future.
117. Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran thanked Dr Ishibashi for her commitment to both the AMRWG’s mission and WOAAH, upon her departure. Dr Ishibashi was acknowledged for her leadership as Chair and for her valuable contributions to the AMRWG over the past six years. Dr Soubeyran noted that Dr Ishibashi’s impact on AMR would be long lasting.

Regional Activities Highlights

118. The 2025 Regional Highlights session was on the theme of “Connecting Expertise, Building Networks and Fostering Collaboration to Strengthen Veterinary Services”. The session demonstrated how WOAAH’s regional offices contribute to the development of a robust and cooperative global veterinary system. A dynamic panel discussion was held, starting with an introduction by Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance. This was followed by contributions from the five WOAAH Regional Representations. The panellists shared regional experiences, demonstrating the impact of WOAAH’s expert networks, technical platforms and collaborative initiatives. The session highlighted success stories and best practices driven by WOAAH-facilitated networks. These ranged from supporting disease eradication in Africa and advancing wildlife health in Asia to valuing the global framework in dynamic regional scenarios such as the Americas, animal welfare initiatives in Europe and regional collaboration models in the Middle East. An interactive Q&A session encouraged constructive dialogue among all participants on ways to strengthen collaboration. The session reaffirmed WOAAH’s role as a trusted platform and scientific authority, emphasising its strategic value in terms of networking facilitation and coordination which is key to enhancing Veterinary Services. The key takeaways will inform the Organisation’s future support for Members and the development of the Eighth Strategic Plan.

Wednesday, 28 May 2025

Second Plenary Session

Activities of the Specialist Commissions

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission ([92GS Tech-05](#))

119. Dr Etienne Bonbon, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session.
120. Dr Bonbon stated that the Code Commission had met twice since the 2024 General Session. These meetings were held in Paris from 5 to 14 September 2024 and from 4 to 14 February 2025. He expressed his gratitude to the members of the Code Commission, Dr Gaston Funes (Vice-President), Dr Kiyokazu Murai (Vice-President), Prof. Salah Hammami (member), Dr John Stratton (member) and Dr Caroline Dubé (member), for their expert contributions and commitment to the work of the Commission, including inter-session work, as well as their participation in ad hoc Group meetings and representing the Commission at regional or international meetings.
121. On behalf of the Code Commission, Dr Bonbon commended Reference Centre experts, members of ad hoc Groups and subject matter experts for their contribution to the work of the Commission. He also expressed his appreciation to the members of the other Specialist Commissions for their advice and support and acknowledged the strengthened collaboration and coordination among the four Specialist Commissions. In this regard, Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Aquatic Animals Commission had met in September 2024, the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Biological Standards Commission had met in September 2024, and the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission had met in February 2025.
122. Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the working document distributed (92GS Tech-05) provided key background information for each of the new and revised texts of the *Terrestrial Code* to be presented for adoption. He reminded the Assembly that details of the Code Commission's activities since the previous General Session had been published in the Commission's September 2024 and February 2025 meeting reports and were available on both the Delegate's website and the WOAHP website.
123. Dr Bonbon expressed his appreciation for the considerable number of comments submitted, both by Members and by International Organisations having a cooperation agreement with WOAHP, on texts that had been circulated for comment. He highlighted the improving quality of these comments and stressed that the standard-setting process could only be effective with the engagement of Members and partner Organisations. Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the Code Commission reports now included the comments considered and the Commission's response to those comments. He encouraged the Assembly to refer to previous reports for more details about the revised texts being proposed for adoption.
124. Dr Bonbon also thanked the Director General and the Deputy Director General, International Standards and Science, and commended the Code Commission Secretariat for the tremendous support it provided to the work of the Code Commission, including relevant *ad hoc* Groups.
125. Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the new and revised chapters to be proposed for adoption in the *Terrestrial Code* were presented in Annexes 5–14 of 92GS Tech-05.

Terrestrial Animal Health Code

126. Texts proposed for adoption

Dr Bonbon indicated that the next section of his presentation would focus on presenting the new and revised texts of the *Terrestrial Code* that were to be proposed for adoption.

Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa Region, confirmed that the Africa Union and the WOAHA Africa Region supported the adoption of all the proposed *Terrestrial Code* annexes. Congo (Dem. Rep. of the) requested that the Code Commission to consider the written comments to be provided in its upcoming meeting.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comment from Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), thanked them for participating in the standards-setting process, and noted that the Code Commission will review the comments which will be provided from Members in the upcoming meeting.

127. User's Guide

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the User's Guide had been revised to provide a more detailed explanation about what is included in a disease-specific chapter, a new point D. - 'Name of animal species', including a table to explain the use of common terms (common names) based on scientific names of animal host species used in the *Terrestrial Code*, as well as some amendments to improve readability. He noted that the revised text had been circulated four times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Belgium, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for taking into account its comments and supported the adoption of the proposed texts. The EU requested that the Code Commission, at its September 2025 meeting, consider the EU's comments submitted in writing. The EU highlighted the importance of the User's Guide in providing clarity on case definitions and their interpretation, and requested that the Code Commission address these meaningfully in order to help clarify what constituted a confirmed case of any listed disease.

Dr Bonbon thanked the Members for their active participation. He highlighted that, as point 4 of 'A. Introduction' in the User's Guide described, the absence of chapters, articles or recommendations on the disease did not preclude the application of appropriate sanitary measures by the Veterinary Authorities.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comments from the EU, noted that the Code Commission had tried to elaborate 'B. *Terrestrial Code* Content' to provide more detailed explanation regarding the structure of the disease-specific chapters as the guidance for Members. He also noted that the update of the User's Guide was ongoing work to improve the contents, and indicated that the Code Commission would consider the written comments submitted by the EU at its September meeting.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

128. **Chapter 7.1. 'Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare'**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that Chapter 7.1. had been revised to include the 'five domains' model of animal welfare and to define the meaning of the terms 'animal-based measures', 'resource-based measures' and 'management-based measures'. He noted that the revised text had been circulated four times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Canada, speaking on behalf of the Quads Alliance (Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and New Zealand), thanked the Code Commission for its work on Chapter 7.1. Canada requested that point 6 of Article 7.1.5. be modified to include 'light' in the first sentence, after the word 'airflow', pointing out that this was in line with scientific evidence that light has a wide range of effects on animal health and welfare. The Quads Alliance urged WOAAH to replace 'makes a major contribution' with 'is interconnected' in point 5 of Article 7.1.2.

Estonia, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for its work on Chapter 7.1. and for considering most of the comments that the EU had submitted during the three rounds of consultation. The EU supported Canada's comment on point 6 of Article 7.1.5., to include 'light' after the word 'airflow'. The EU supported the revision of Chapter 7.1. and the inclusion of the 'five domains' model of animal welfare, in addition to the 'five freedoms' and the 'three Rs'.

Japan asked that any further revisions to additional welfare-related chapters should consider the maintenance of a stable food supply and the incorporation of a wide range of perspectives. Japan requested the Code Commission's continued dedication to this important work and noted that Japan remained committed to contributing to the standard-setting process.

Colombia, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAAH Americas Region, expressed the importance of implementing international animal welfare standards that recognise the specificities of WOAAH regions. Colombia requested that WOAAH consider scientific, social, productive and economic factors when reviewing the *Terrestrial Code* animal welfare standards. Colombia called for the progressive implementation of the standards and requested the promotion of a framework that included flexible assessment tools that validate continuous improvements, without excluding cooperation when developing research and infrastructure.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comments from Japan and Colombia, explained that the standards had been drafted in accordance with the scientific, factual and technical knowledge available, to provide good recommendations to Members. However, as with animal health recommendations, he noted that some countries were not currently able to apply all recommendations, but that all Members were trying to move in this direction. He explained that WOAAH's duty was to provide Members with recommendations for them to follow, but he agreed that economic and local considerations did need to be taken into consideration.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comment from Canada, on behalf of the Quads Alliance, agreed to add 'light' to point 6 of Article 7.1.5. as it often featured in other chapters on welfare.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comment from Canada on point 5 of Article 7.1.2., explained that the current text was a guiding principle and was not particularly technical. He acknowledged that humans depended on animals for reasons other than food; however, he suggested that 'interconnected' might be too technical and instead proposed the word 'associated' as a more suitable revision.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comment from the Quads Alliance, proposed to amend the text of point 5 of Article 7.1.5. to 'minimise the risk of injury, distress and chronic fear'. He explained that WOAAH used incentive language and pointed out that at times it may not be possible to avoid these welfare concerns but specific risks, for example pain, should nevertheless be minimised.

Dr Bonbon proposed that point 7 of Article 7.1.5. should be revised for greater clarity in English and proposed alternative wording that did not alter the meaning of the text.

The President presented the revised text, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

129. **Article 8.13.1bis. of Chapter 8.13. 'Infestation with *Cochliomyia hominivorax* (New World screwworm) and infestation with *Chrysomya bezziana* (Old World screwworm)'**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the title of this chapter had been amended to 'Infestation with *Cochliomyia hominivorax* (New World screwworm) and infestation with *Chrysomya bezziana* (Old World screwworm)' to align with the provisions of the new Article 8.13.1bis. He also noted that a new Article 8.13.1bis. 'General provisions' had been developed, including a definition of its occurrence and animal hosts, to provide Members with precise definitions to fulfil their notification obligations. Dr Bonbon explained that the new article had been developed by the Code Commission based on the case definition drafted by subject matter experts that had been reviewed by the Scientific Commission. He noted that the new article had been circulated twice.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Senegal supported the adoption of the proposed text.

Panama, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, congratulated the Code Commission on this work, stating that it was a critical topic for the region.

Poland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, congratulated the Code Commission on this work which was supported by the EU.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

130. **New Chapter 8.Y. 'Infection with Nipah virus'**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that a new Chapter 8.Y. that included a single Article 8.Y.1. 'General provisions' had been developed, including a definition of the occurrence and animal hosts of infection with Nipah virus, to provide Members with precise definitions to fulfil their notification obligations. He explained that the new chapter had been developed by the Code Commission based on the case definition drafted by subject matter experts that had been reviewed by the Scientific Commission. He noted that the new Chapter 8.Y. had been circulated four times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Paraguay, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, thanked the Commission for the work on the development of Chapter 8.Y. 'Infection with Nipah virus' and supported the adoption of the proposed texts. The Americas Region requested the Code Commission to review all uses of the term 'seroconversion' throughout the *Terrestrial Code* upon the adoption of this term which was circulated for comment in its February 2025 meeting report. The Americas Region also requested that the results of the analysis should be shared with Members, who would then have an opportunity to propose amendments to the *Terrestrial Code* in instances where the new term could not be applied accurately.

Canada, speaking on behalf of the Quads Alliance, supported the interventions by the Americas Region. The Quads Alliance supported that the usage of the term 'seroconversion' be evaluated to ensure alignment within the *Terrestrial Code* upon the adoption of this new term.

Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the interventions by Paraguay and Canada on the case definition proposed for Nipah virus. The EU requested the Code Commission to review the case definition once the definition of 'seroconversion' had been adopted. The EU supported the adoption of the proposed texts subject to the comments submitted by the EU being addressed.

Dr Bonbon highlighted that the first sentence of Article 8.Y.1. was described in the corresponding chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual*; however, it was necessary to distinguish between the susceptible animals which are described in the Manual and animal hosts for which positive cases are defined as notifiable in the Code.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comments regarding the case definition in terms of 'seroconversion', highlighted that seroconversion was one of the measures to identify infection with Nipah virus, which had been discussed by the experts. However, he noted that the Code Commission was continuing development of the new term 'seroconversion' and would consider the inclusion of work related to the development of 'seroconversion' into its work programme at the upcoming meeting.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

131. **Chapter 11.5. 'Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia)'**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that Chapter 11.5. had been revised to harmonise the provisions for official recognition and maintenance of free status and endorsement and maintenance of official control programmes, with other disease-specific chapters with official recognition of status. He explained that the chapter had also been revised to align text with the framework for disease-specific chapters. In addition, two new safe commodities were added to Article 11.5.2. as they had been assessed as meeting the criteria in Chapter 2.2. 'Criteria applied by WOAHP for assessing the safety of commodities'. Dr Bonbon explained that the revised text had been drafted by the Code Commission in collaboration with the Scientific Commission. He noted that the revised text had been circulated five times.

Dr Bonbon noted that point 4 of Article 11.5.3. had been updated to indicate that countries without official WOAHP recognised status can be evaluated using risk analysis in accordance with Chapter 2.1. Import Risk Analysis by trading partners to determine that they meet WOAHP criteria for free status before being permitted to trade. This criterion was also added to Chapter 12.1. 'Infection with African horse sickness virus', due to be discussed later.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The United Kingdom thanked the Code Commission for its work. The United Kingdom expressed concern about mixed signals in Article 11.5.3. that undermined the official recognition of free status. The United Kingdom stated that risk-based approaches must be complementary to the official status recognition and not replacing it and requested that an expert group be formed to systematically look at all of the disease-specific chapters where WOAHP grants official status to ensure consistency between the chapters.

Brazil, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHP Americas Region, thanked the Code Commission for its work and supported the adoption of this chapter. The Americas Region noted that additional work was needed to better understand the drivers for Members' decision to pursue, or not, WOAHP's official status recognition.

China (People's Rep. of) thanked the Code Commission for the response to its previous written comments on this chapter. China (People's Rep. of) expressed concerns about the fact that the pathogen can be detected in tissues such as embryos in the early stages of disease and that the use of T1/44 vaccine strain and other attenuated live vaccines may cause sub-clinical infections in animals. Therefore, China (People's Rep. of) proposed to delete the vaccination option in Article 11.5.12.

The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of this chapter, subject to the comments previously submitted in writing being fully considered. The EU suggested that Article 11.5.1. should include reference to suspected cases under points (b) and (c) to ensure that veterinary authorities are engaged in the decision-making process for reporting cases. The EU also welcomed the progress made in streamlining the procedure for maintenance of official animal health status. The EU encouraged further simplification and flexibility of the process according to the specific individual cases.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comments regarding the case definition, noted that experts had determined that it was not sufficient if a potential case was linked to a suspected case, and this criterion was therefore not included in the case definition. However, the Veterinary Authority could decide if it considered appropriate to notify a case to WOAHA based on a link to a suspected case. He further noted that definitions of some animal hosts such as 'bovines' are found in the User's Guide. In this chapter, however, there was a different definition of 'bovines' that only applied to this chapter.

Dr Bonbon added that experts had been consulted about risk mitigations for semen in this chapter and they had determined that the current risk mitigations were adequate to prevent transmission of disease. He requested that China (People's Rep. of) submit written comments about its concerns regarding disease transmission in embryos and semen, along with the appropriate scientific justification, and the Scientific Commission and experts would be asked to respond.

Dr Bonbon noted that the WOAHA Americas Region and the United Kingdom had submitted written comments about the use of risk analysis to evaluate countries that had not received WOAHA recognised disease free status. He stated that the intention was not for countries recognised free of disease to refuse to trade with countries that did not have WOAHA recognition. He pointed out that risk analysis could be performed on commodities from countries without recognised status to develop justified risk-based mitigation measures for import. He also noted that based on written editorial comments, some changes had been made to the text that did not change the meaning of the text.

The President presented the revised text, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted, with one objection (the United Kingdom) and one abstention (China [People's Rep. of]).

132. **New Chapter 11.X. 'Infection with bovine pestiviruses (Bovine viral diarrhoea)'**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that a new Chapter 11.X. that included a single Article 11.X.1. 'General provisions' had been developed, including a definition of the occurrence and animal hosts of infection with bovine pestiviruses, to provide Members with precise definitions to fulfil their notification obligations. He explained that the new chapter had been developed by the Code Commission based on a case definition drafted by subject matter experts that had been reviewed by the Scientific Commission, in collaboration with the Biological Standards Commission. He noted that the revised text had been circulated six times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Austria, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, could not support the adoption of the proposed chapter and requested the Code Commission to consider adding a new point 3 in Article 11.X.1, emphasising that a serologically positive animal should be considered a confirmed case when accompanied by clinical signs or an epidemiological link, therefore ensuring a scientifically sound and flexible approach by competent authorities.

Canada, speaking on behalf of the Quads Alliance, supported the intervention by the EU, and requested that the new chapter not be proposed for adoption at this time.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comments from the EU and the Quads Alliance, noted that the Code Commission already addressed this in its previous reports in agreement with the experts' opinions not to include the serology option in the case definition because only the presence of virus, antigen, or nucleic acid could confirm a case.

Dr Bonbon explained that this definition was intended for the purpose of notification to WOA, and he pointed out that Members could notify additional cases when they were confident of the diagnosis.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

Cyprus, speaking on behalf of the 20 Members of the WOA Middle East Region, expressed support for the intervention by the EU.

The revised text was not adopted due to significant objections.

Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission would discuss at its September 2025 meeting whether this chapter should remain in the work programme, or if another way should be found to guide Members regarding the case definition for notification purposes.

133. **Chapter 12.1. 'Infection with African horse sickness virus'**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that Chapter 12.1. had been revised to harmonise the provisions for official recognition and maintenance of free status, and endorsement and maintenance of official control programmes, with other disease-specific chapters with official recognition of status. He explained that the chapter had also been revised to align the text with the framework for disease-specific chapters. In addition, a new Article 12.1.1bis 'Safe commodities' had been added with seven safe commodities that were assessed as meeting the criteria in Chapter 2.2. 'Criteria applied by WOA for assessing the safety of commodities. He explained that the revised text had been drafted by the Code Commission in collaboration with the Scientific Commission. He noted that the revised text had been circulated five times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the revised text; however, the EU would particularly like the comments it submitted in writing to be considered as they relate to streamlining annual reconfirmations of WOA recognised status.

China (People's Rep. of) thanked the Code Commission for its work. They requested that the Code Commission carefully consider safe commodities as with regard to African horse sickness virus (AHSV). China (People's Rep. of) noted that AHSV could be found in skeletal muscle meat as well as internal organs and suggested that the reference to muscle meat in point 2 of Article 12.1.1bis be revised to refer to 'skeletal muscle meat and meat products. China (People's Rep. of) also noted that fresh hides and skins could carry arthropod vectors and therefore suggested changing point 3 of Article 12.1.1bis to 'treated hides and skins'.

New Zealand thanked the Code Commission for its work and noted that risk analysis complemented but did not replace free status recognised by WOA. New Zealand expressed concern that the changes to Article 12.1.3 undermined that principle.

The United Kingdom reiterated that WOA official recognition of free status was the gold standard and changes to the chapter undermined that concept. Risk analysis should complement WOA recognition but not replace it. The United Kingdom supported the creation of an expert group to propose consistent changes for official status disease chapters.

Dr Bonbon, in response to comments from New Zealand and the United Kingdom, explained that countries can meet WOA criteria of free status even if they did not apply to WOA for recognition. Therefore, an importing country, and particularly officially free countries, should perform a risk analysis to determine whether the country meets WOA criteria for disease freedom and adapt its sanitary measures to the result of this analysis. If done in accordance with Chapter 2.1. Import Risk Analysis, this would not jeopardise its status.

Dr Arroyo noted that the Secretariat can explore having another expert meeting to address the concerns about use of risk analysis to address risks of commodities from countries that have not achieved WOA official status recognition.

Dr Bonbon noted, in response to the comment from China (People's Rep. of), that a safe commodity could not transmit disease even though there was a possibility that it might contain virus. Dr Bonbon indicated that the Code Commission was still considering non-vector borne transmission of AHSV but had not yet compiled data. The Commission had noted that vectors can be moved by a variety of methods other than animals so this has not been addressed at this time.

South Africa commented that most of the African continent was affected with AHSV and there was a substantial trade of horses between Africa and the rest of the world. South Africa expressed the belief that the risk analysis option added value for safe trade.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted, with one objection (the United Kingdom) and one abstention (China [People's Rep. of]).

134. **Chapter 12.3. 'Infection with *Trypanosoma equiperdum* (Dourine)'**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that Chapter 12.3. had undergone a comprehensive revision. He explained that an *ad hoc* Group had been convened to review the current chapter to ensure it reflected the latest scientific evidence, including a definition of its occurrence, and relevant provisions. He explained that the Code Commission had considered the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group and made relevant amendments. Dr Bonbon noted that the revised text had been developed in collaboration with the Scientific Commission. He also noted that the revised text had been circulated three times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Japan thanked the Code Commission for its work. Japan noted that the chapter had been revised to remove the reference to a six-month incubation period due to a lack of scientific data. Japan requested clarity on why Article 12.3.10. included a requirement that horses had resided in an establishment with no cases of infection with *T. equiperdum* for the previous six months.

Canada, speaking on behalf of the Quads Alliance, supported the proposed text. Canada requested clarification of the first paragraph of Article 12.3.8., which contained the expression ‘for purposes other than breeding and rearing’, whereas point 2 a) of Article 12.3.8., contained the expression ‘are not used for breeding’. Canada suggested that these two statements should be consistent.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comment from Japan, noted that Article 12.3.10. required the establishment to be *T. equiperdum* free for six months to be consistent with the time frame required in Article 12.3.5., which required a six-month free period for recovery of free status.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comment from Canada, proposed to amend the first paragraph of Article 12.3.8. by deleting ‘for purposes other than breeding and rearing’. He also proposed to add ‘rearing and’ in front of breeding in point 2 a).

The President presented the revised text, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

135. **Chapter 12.4. ‘Infection with eastern equine encephalitis virus (Eastern equine encephalomyelitis) and Infection with western equine encephalitis virus (Western equine encephalomyelitis)’**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that Chapter 12.4. had undergone a comprehensive revision. He explained that an *ad hoc* Group had been convened to review the current chapter to ensure it reflected the latest scientific evidence, including a definition of its occurrence, and relevant provisions. He explained that the Code Commission had considered the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group and had made relevant amendments. Dr Bonbon noted that the revised text had been developed in collaboration with the Scientific Commission. He also noted that the revised text had been circulated twice.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Ecuador, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, thanked the Code Commission for its work on the Americas Region’s priority topic. However, the Americas Region did not support the adoption of the revised text. The Americas Region requested the Code Commission to provide two cycles for comments so that Members could consider the proposed text carefully. The Americas Region noted that there had been numerous comments for consideration based on changes made at the Code Commission’s February 2025 meeting, such as clarification of the appropriate use of ‘eastern equine encephalitis virus’ and ‘western equine encephalitis virus’ when referring to transmission, and using ‘mosquito’ or ‘mosquito vector’ throughout the text, as the vector of this disease is specific to mosquitoes.

The United Kingdom supported the intervention of Ecuador to postpone the adoption as the proposed text should be circulated for comment for at least two cycles. This would allow Members to have technical and practical discussions.

Colombia, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the Americas Region, highlighted the necessity to have two cycles for comment to allow Members to review the revised text. Colombia noted that, as described in the *Terrestrial Manual*, these viruses were present in the Americas Region and the disease was having an impact on both human and animal health. Colombia explained that surveillance of dead birds and mosquitoes was being used as an early warning system to support the indicators of public health risk and promotion of prevention measures. Considering this situation, the Americas Region requested that the text relating to the surveillance of birds and mosquitoes in Article 12.4.3. be reconsidered.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the interventions regarding the timeframe of revision, explained that considering the urgency of revisions requested by Members, the Code Commission had assigned high priority to this work as well as other chapters on equine encephalomyelitis. He noted that the revision of other relevant chapters was ongoing and the amendments applied to this chapter would support updates to related chapters.

In response to the comments from the Americas Region, in the first paragraph of Article 12.4.1., Dr Bonbon proposed to add a full stop after 'importance to public health' to split the sentence, and add 'Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) and western equine encephalitis virus (WEEV) are' before 'transmitted'. Dr Bonbon also proposed to add 'infection with' after 'the early detection of' and replaced 'EEE and WEE' with 'EEEV or WEEV' for clarity. As the virus names were already abbreviated in the first paragraph, Dr Bonbon proposed to abbreviate the virus names in the second paragraph.

Dr Bonbon proposed to add 'mosquito' before 'vector' for clarity in the fifth and the last paragraphs of Article 12.3.3.

Dr Bonbon proposed to remove the last sentence 'Although birds are susceptible to EEE and WEE, they often do not exhibit clinical signs and have low mortality rates, therefore surveillance of birds is not worthwhile' to address the actual situation in the Americas Region.

The United States of America appreciated the changes made to Articles 12.4.1. and 12.4.3. and supported the proposal. The United States of America requested the Code Commission to ensure adequate time for consideration of revisions by Members.

The President presented the revised text, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

136. **Chapter 1.3. 'Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOA'**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that some listed diseases and animal categories in Chapter 1.3. had been amended to align with the proposed amendments to relevant disease-specific chapters.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised chapter was adopted unanimously.

137. **Texts circulated for Member comments**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that 14 annexes proposing new or revised texts for the *Terrestrial Code* had been circulated for comment in the Code Commission's February 2025 report.

Dr Bonbon encouraged Members, as well as international organisations having a cooperation agreement with WOA, to participate in the WOA standard-setting process through the submission of written comments. He reminded the Assembly that the deadline for receiving comments to be considered by the Commission at its September 2025 meeting was 4 July 2025.

138. **Work programme**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that at each of the Code Commission meetings, the work programme was reviewed and updated, taking into account Member and partner comments, Headquarters' comments and completed work. Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the work programme provided Members with an overview of current and upcoming activities and encouraged Members to provide feedback on the work programme as well as new and revised texts circulated for comment.

Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for its continued efforts to prioritise its demanding work programme and coordination with other Specialist Commissions. The EU requested the Code Commission to review Article 10.4.1. of Chapter 10.4. 'Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses' to improve clarity and ensure accurate guidance to Members. The EU did not support the removal from the *Terrestrial Code* of chapters related to the application for official recognition by WOA of free status. The EU also requested the Code Commission to consider the inclusion of 'gelatine' and 'collagen' as safe commodities in all the relevant disease-specific chapters. In closing, the EU welcomed the work to streamline the chapter on disease notification.

Dr Bonbon acknowledged the comments from the EU for its further consideration.

The Director General congratulated the Commission for its work and highlighted the importance of relying on science when elaborating standards.

139. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases ([92GS Tech-06](#))

140. Dr Cristóbal Zepeda, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), thanked the other members of the Commission as well as members of the *ad hoc* Groups and expert panels for their valuable contributions to its work since the General Session in May 2024. Dr Zepeda also welcomed the two newly elected members in May 2024. He expressed his deep appreciation for the excellent support and professional expertise provided by the staff of the Science and Status Departments at WOA Headquarters.

141. Dr Zepeda summarised the activities of the Scientific Commission, including the outcomes of the regular Scientific Commission meetings held in person from 9 to 13 September 2024 and from 10 to 14 February 2025. He noted that the reports of the two regular meetings were available on the WOA website.

142. In response to some concerns raised by Members during the presentation on the Code Commission's activities, Dr Zepeda highlighted that Members having an official status importing from countries not officially recognised by WOA should conduct a risk assessment to demonstrate that the risk posed by these imports was equivalent to the risk posed by imports from zones or countries having an official disease-free status. Dr Zepeda confirmed that the aim of official status recognition was not to penalise trade but rather to incentivise Members having achieved official status recognition.

143. In response to concerns raised by Members on the removal of questionnaires for official recognition of animal health status from the *Terrestrial Code*, Dr Zepeda clarified that the questionnaires were not standards *per se* but rather reflected the provisions in the disease-specific chapters. Dr Zepeda further highlighted that removal of the questionnaires did not prevent this process from being transparent. Members could still comment in the event of any changes eventually being proposed to this process.

144. After a presentation on the report by the President of the Scientific Commission, the President of the Assembly indicated that the draft resolutions relating to animal health status recognition had been electronically voted for adoption, and that the results obtained through the electronic voting process would be presented during the Third Plenary Session. The President of the Assembly opened the floor for discussion.
145. Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, congratulated the Scientific Commission for its continuous and crucial work and raised three points in relation to the Commission's report. Hungary fully supported WOAAH's recent decision to consider the event of cows infected with an HPAI virus as meeting the *Terrestrial Code* definition of 'emerging disease'. However, Hungary noted inconsistencies in the case definition of 'HPAI in cattle' and invited WOAAH to revise it in consultation with the other Specialist Commissions so that the disease name, host and diagnostic criteria aligned with the current *Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual* and the epidemiology of the event. In addition, Hungary noted the assessment of the Scientific Commission that SARS-CoV-2 did not meet the WOAAH listing criteria due to the lack of countries with demonstrated freedom in animals and that animals were mostly dead-end hosts while human-to-human transmission remained the primary driver of transboundary spread. Hungary also acknowledged that SARS-CoV-2 had been removed from WOAAH's register of emerging diseases and welcomed the possibility for Members to continue to voluntarily provide information on SARS-CoV-2 in animals in accordance with Article 1.1.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*. Finally, Hungary welcomed the progress made in streamlining the procedure for status recognition and maintenance of official animal health status. Hungary encouraged further simplification and flexibility of the process according to the specific individual cases.
146. In response, Dr Zepeda clarified that the case definition for HPAI in bovines had been carefully developed after several rounds of consultation with a panel of WOAAH Reference Centre experts, including OFFLU experts, and had been validated by the WOAAH Deputy Director General. He noted that the case definition would be further reviewed by the Scientific Commission at its September 2025 meeting, based on challenges faced by Members with notification and any further development in the epidemiology of the disease. Dr Zepeda also noted the acknowledgement of removal of SARS-CoV-2 from the register of emerging diseases. Finally, Dr Zepeda acknowledged the administrative challenges that the annual reconfirmation procedure may pose to Members and reassured Delegates that WOAAH was committed to streamlining the procedure while maintaining the rigour and credibility of WOAAH's procedure for official animal health status recognition.
147. Bangladesh thanked Dr Zepeda for the presentation on the global disease control and eradication strategies. Bangladesh highlighted the importance of lumpy skin disease, especially in the South Asia region and requested that WOAAH give further attention to this disease. Bangladesh also requested support on strengthening the national laboratory's capacity for rabies, as Bangladesh had invested in dog rabies vaccinations. In addition, Bangladesh described its efforts to control peste des petits ruminants and noted its interest in pursuing the WOAAH recognition procedure.
148. New Zealand thanked Dr Zepeda for the clarification provided on the work related to streamlining and welcomed the focus on simplifying the process while maintaining its credibility.
149. Ecuador, speaking on behalf of the Andean Community, congratulated Bolivia and Brazil on their achievements for their entire territory to be recognised as FMD-free without vaccination, bearing in mind the strong regional efforts to eradicate the disease.
150. Brazil, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAAH Americas Region, proposed that additional work may be required to better understand the drivers for Members' decision on whether or not to pursue WOAAH's official animal health status recognition. Brazil suggested that WOAAH investigate the reasons why a country may choose to conduct a risk assessment to facilitate trade rather than rely on WOAAH's official disease status recognition. In this regard, Brazil requested that WOAAH convene an expert group or thematic study by the Observatory to examine the following topics:

- The driving forces behind Members not wishing to pursue official status.
 - How risk assessments conducted by importing countries to support trade with countries with no official status, might be used to voluntarily provide greater transparency, credibility and enhance the official status procedures and submissions for all Members.
 - Why countries do not automatically recognise WOA's official animal health status but instead feel the need to conduct their own risk assessment prior to trading.
151. Dr Zepeda thanked the Members for their comments.
152. The Director General acknowledged the comments made by Brazil and committed to consider it further. The Director General also congratulated the Commission for its work.
153. The Assembly noted the report of the Scientific Commission.

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission ([92GS Tech-07](#))

154. Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session.
155. Dr Gallardo Lagno provided an overview of global aquatic animal production and statistics on traded aquatic animals to provide context for the importance of the standards being proposed for adoption. She highlighted the breadth of aquaculture and the continued growth of aquatic animal production, its increasing importance for human nutrition, food security and economies, and the potential impacts of emerging diseases. She noted that the standards of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)* provided critical support to Members to control the transboundary spread of diseases.
156. Dr Gallardo Lagno highlighted the four objectives of the WOA's Aquatic Animal Health Strategy and the progress made on the activities related to Objective 1 'WOA Standards'. She emphasised that for Objective 1 all the activities proposed had either been carried out already or would be completed by the end of 2025 and highlighted that five new chapters along with 30 reviewed chapters would be proposed for adoption during this session. Furthermore, Dr Gallardo Lagno reported that a workshop had taken place in February 2025 to identify highest priority research areas as per Activity 4.5. of the Strategy.
157. Dr Gallardo Lagno stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had met twice in Paris since the 2024 General Session, from 18 to 25 September 2024 and from 12 to 19 February 2025. She expressed her gratitude to the members of the Commission, Dr Ingo Ernst (Vice-President), Dr Fiona Geoghegan (Vice-President), Dr Kevin William Christison (member), Dr Hong Liu (member) and Dr Saraya Tavoranpanich (member), for their expert contributions and commitment to the work of the Commission, including their participation in *ad hoc* Group meetings and representing the Commission at regional or international meetings.
158. Dr Gallardo Lagno commended the Reference Centre experts, the members of *ad hoc* Groups and subject matter experts for their contribution to the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission. She informed the Delegates that the Bureaus of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission had met in September 2024 to facilitate harmonisation of relevant chapters under review. She further reported that the Bureaus of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Biological Standards Commission had met in February 2025 to facilitate harmonisation between the two Commissions on relevant topics, such as Reference Centres. She also commended the Secretariat staff at WOA Headquarters for the tremendous support they provided to the work of the Commission and *ad hoc* Groups.

159. Dr Gallardo Lagno highlighted that the working document distributed for the current General Session (92GS Tech-07) provided key background information for each of the new and revised texts of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* to be presented for adoption. She reminded the Assembly that the details of the Aquatic Animals Commission's activities since the previous General Session had been published in the Commission's [September 2024](#) and [February 2025](#) meeting reports and were available on both the Delegate's website and the [WOAH website](#).
160. Dr Gallardo Lagno thanked Members that had submitted comments on texts to be proposed for adoption. She noted the importance of contributions by Members' experts in improving the quality of the standards, and encouraged all Members to contribute to this work. She reminded the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission reports included the comments considered and the Commission's response to those comments. She encouraged the Assembly to refer to previous reports for more details about the revised texts being proposed for adoption.
161. Dr Gallardo Lagno emphasised that, where relevant, all comments on a specific disease had been considered in their corresponding *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* chapters to ensure alignment.
162. Concluding her introductory remarks, Dr Gallardo Lagno reminded Delegates that the work programme of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the latest new and revised texts circulated for comment were available in the Commission's [February 2025](#) meeting report and that they were invited to submit comments to WOA Headquarters by 4 July 2025.
163. Dr Gallardo Lagno informed Delegates that the new and revised chapters to be proposed for adoption in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* were presented in Annexes 5 to 18 and 22 to 27 and Annexes 30 and 31, respectively, of 92GS Tech-07.

Aquatic Animal Health Code

164. Texts proposed for adoption

Dr Gallardo Lagno indicated that the next section of her presentation would focus on presenting the new and revised texts of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* that were being proposed for adoption. She explained that three of the new chapters proposed for adoption were mainly related to Section 4. 'Disease prevention and control'. She began with the texts to be proposed for the *Aquatic Code*.

165. New Chapter 4.X. 'Emergency disease preparedness'

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the new Chapter 4.X. 'Emergency disease preparedness' described the essential elements of an emergency disease preparedness framework to ensure that outbreaks of important aquatic animal diseases could be identified, managed and provide a suitable path to recovery (as per Annex 5 of 92GS Tech-07). She noted that Chapter 4.X. was closely connected with new Chapter 4.Y. 'Disease outbreak management' and that they had been developed in parallel. She also noted that all the new chapters being presented for adoption were work recommended by the Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health, held in Santiago (Chile) in 2019. She explained that the new chapters took into account FAO's emergency preparedness terminology and the disease of relevance concept.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the draft Chapter 4.X. had been circulated for comment three times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the new text to the Assembly.

Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, stated that the EU did not support the adoption of Chapter 4.X. unless the notion of 'compensation' was removed from Articles 4.X.5. and 4.X.11. The EU noted that compensation was added after the Aquatic Animals Commission's February 2025 meeting without any explanation in its report. Regarding Article 4.X.5., the EU stated that access to compensation was not a pre-requisite for an emergency disease preparedness framework and there were other alternatives to compensation that could be utilised. The EU added that compensation was only a small part of the socioeconomic impact within the recovery plan and noted that the text in Article 4.X.11. made it a focus.

India stated that effective emergency preparedness was crucial to minimise the impact of disease outbreaks on the aquaculture industry and aquatic biodiversity. India noted that Chapter 4.X. was important to help address the specific challenges faced by tropical aquaculture, including the rapid spread of pathogens in warm water and the impact of extreme weather events. India supported the adoption of this new chapter.

Korea (Rep. of), speaking on behalf of the 36 Members of the WOAHA Asia and the Pacific Region, supported the adoption of Chapter 4.X. The Asia and the Pacific Region stated that the recommendations in the new chapter would support Members to undertake simulation exercises and prepare for potential outbreaks of aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Gallardo Lagno thanked the Members for their comments.

Dr Gallardo Lagno agreed with the EU that the intention of Articles 4.X.5. and 4.X.11. was not to place an emphasis on compensation but to provide it is an option to be considered. She agreed to delete 'and compensation' from point 2 in Article 4.X.5. In Article 4.X.11., point 4, Dr Gallardo Lagno proposed to replace 'considering the availability of compensation' with 'which may consider the potential availability of relevant supports such as compensation'. Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that these changes would maintain compensation as a small part of the framework while not making it the main consideration in these articles.

The President presented the new text, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption.

The new text was adopted unanimously.

166. **New Chapter 4.Y. 'Disease outbreak management'**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the new Chapter 4.Y. 'Disease outbreak management' provided recommendations on the actions that should be taken to manage an emergency response to a suspicion or confirmation of the presence of an aquatic animal disease and activate a contingency plan (as per Annex 6 of 92GS Tech-07). She noted that Chapter 4.Y. was closely connected with new Chapter 4.X. 'Emergency disease preparedness' and that they had been developed in parallel.

She noted that the new Chapter 4.Y. had been circulated for comment three times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the new text to the Assembly. The President presented the new text to the Assembly for adoption.

The new text was adopted unanimously.

167. Deletion of Chapter 4.6. 'Contingency planning'

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that with the adoption of new Chapters 4.X. 'Emergency disease preparedness' and 4.Y. 'Disease outbreak management', Chapter 4.6. 'Contingency planning' was now obsolete. Dr Gallardo Lagno mentioned that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reported on the proposed deletion of Chapter 4.6. (as per Annex 30 of 92GS Tech-07) in the last two Commission reports.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the deletion of Chapter 4.6. to the Assembly.

The President presented the deletion of Chapter 4.6. to the Assembly for adoption.

The deletion of text was adopted unanimously.

168. New Chapter 4.Z. 'Control of pathogenic agents in traded gametes and fertilised eggs of fish'

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the new Chapter 4.Z. 'Control of pathogenic agents in traded gametes and fertilised eggs of fish' provides recommendations for safe trade in milt and fertilised eggs (as per Annex 7 of 92GS Tech-07). She explained that the new chapter had been developed in collaboration with industry and provided a mechanism for safe trade of genetic materials from areas not declared free from infection with a listed disease in accordance with Chapter 1.4. 'Aquatic animal disease surveillance'.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the new text had been circulated for comment three times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the new text to the Assembly.

Chile supported the adoption of Chapter 4.Z. as it would provide recommendations for the safe trade of gametes and fertilised eggs. Chile noted that the recommendations were largely aligned with their current national practices. Chile considered that the measures proposed in this chapter would support their trade and strengthen the ability to control the spread of pathogenic agents.

Korea (Rep. of) supported the adoption of Chapter 4.Z. and thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for accepting their comment that fertilised eggs infected with a pathogenic agent should be treated in a bio-secure manner. Korea (Rep. of) noted that Chapter 4.Z. would provide important guidance to reduce the risk of transmission of pathogenic agents through the trade of genetic materials.

Uganda, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHAfrica Region, supported the adoption of Chapter 4.Z. The Africa Region stated that the new chapter would provide risk management measures for trade in genetic materials from areas that were not free from disease. The Africa Region noted that the link to Model Articles 10.X.10. and 10.X.15., as well as to the new and revised Glossary terms, would support Members in operationalising the recommendations in Chapter 4.Z.

India noted the importance of safe trade in fisheries and aquaculture. India emphasised that the import of genetic materials played a significant role in enhancing fish breeding programmes, improving disease resistance, increasing productivity and preserving biodiversity. India further stated that the new chapter would support Members to better control transmission of pathogenic agents and biosecurity threats. India supported the adoption of Chapter 4.Z.

Dr Gallardo Lagno thanked Members for the comments and reiterated their comments that Chapter 4.Z. would support safe trade and contribute to genetic improvements providing disease resistance in aquatic animals.

The President presented the new text to the Assembly for adoption.

The new text was adopted unanimously.

169. **Model Articles 10.X.10. and 10.X.15. for Chapters 10.5., 10.6. and 10.10. and Articles 10.4.15. and 10.4.20. of Chapter 10.4. 'Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus'**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that revisions were being proposed to model Articles 10.X.10. 'Importation of aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infection with [Pathogen X]' and 10.X.15. 'Importation of disinfected eggs for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infection with [Pathogen X]' to reflect provisions in the new draft Chapter 4.Z. 'Control of pathogenic agents in traded gametes and fertilised eggs of fish'.

Dr Gallardo Lagno explained that the Commission had assessed the suitability of the provisions of new Chapter 4.Z. for listed diseases of fish. As a result of the assessment, the Commission agreed to only apply model Articles 10.X.10. and 10.X.15. to Chapters 10.5. 'Infection with salmonid alphavirus', 10.6. 'Infection with infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus' and 10.10. 'Infection with viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus' and to Articles 10.4.15. and 10.4.20. for Chapter 10.4. 'Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus' (as per Annexes 8 and 9 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised texts had been circulated for comment three times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

India supported the measures in Model Articles 10.X.10. and 10.X.15. and stated that these measures would enhance biosecurity in the trade of gametes and fertilised eggs of fish. India noted that some of the diseases for which the Model Articles were applied were more relevant to temperate regions than to tropical regions. India suggested that the revised articles should also be applied to diseases which were prevalent in tropical aquaculture environments, to support the affected Member's to control the spread of these disease.

Dr Gallardo Lagno thanked India for its comment and stated that the application of Model Articles 10.X.10. and 10.X.15. was based on the available scientific information and this information had a focus on salmonids. She expressed full support for the proposal to consider to expand the scope to include non-salmonid species. However, she indicated that this would depend on the availability of robust scientific evidence concerning these diseases. She noted that this could be discussed further at the Aquatic Animals Commission meeting in September 2025.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

170. **New Glossary definitions for 'collection and incubation centre' and 'ornamental aquatic animals' and revised Glossary definitions for 'fertilised eggs' and 'gametes'**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that revisions were being proposed to the definitions of 'gametes' and 'fertilised eggs', and a new definition for 'collection and incubation centre' for consistency of usage with the new Chapter 4.Z. 'Control of pathogenic agents in traded gametes and fertilised eggs' (as per Annex 10 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that a new Glossary definition for 'ornamental aquatic animals' was being proposed for consistency of usage in new Chapter 5.X. 'Movement of ornamental aquatic animals' (as per Annex 10 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised and new Glossary definitions had been circulated for comment three times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented these new and revised Glossary definitions to the Assembly.

Thailand stated that the new Chapter 5.X. would provide recommendations for managing the risk of movement of ornamental aquatic animals through each stage of its supply chain and would include those aquatic animals kept as pets. Thailand noted, however, that the current proposed definition for 'ornamental aquatic animal' did not account for ornamental aquatic animals to be kept as pets. Thailand proposed that the definition for 'ornamental aquatic animal' be amended to indicate aquatic animals intended 'for sale and use as a pet'.

Dr Gallardo Lagno agreed with Thailand's proposal to replace 'to be supplied for sale as a pet' with 'for sale or use as a pet'.

The President presented the new Glossary definitions for 'collection and incubation centre' and 'ornamental aquatic animal', with the aforementioned changes, and the revised Glossary definitions for 'fertilised eggs' and 'gametes' to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

171. **New Chapter 5.X. 'Movement of ornamental aquatic animals'**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the new Chapter 5.X. 'Movement of ornamental aquatic animals' provided recommendations for managing the disease risks associated with the movement of ornamental aquatic animals and complemented other provisions in the *Aquatic Code*, including those in disease-specific chapters (as per Annex 11 of 92GS Tech-07). She emphasised that the new chapter had been developed taking into account the importation flow of ornamental aquatic animals in association with the inputs from WOAHA Aquatic Animal Focal Point workshops where the proposed need, purpose and scope of the new chapter had been discussed, as well as Member comments.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the new Chapter 5.X. had been circulated for comment three times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the new text to the Assembly.

Chile expressed appreciation for the development of the new Chapter 5.X. which stemmed from a recommendation made during the 4th Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health Standards held in Chile in 2019. Chile noted that the new chapter would provide essential tools for promoting the safe trade of ornamental aquatic animals through effective risk analysis and the implementation of relevant mitigation measures by Members.

Eswatini, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa Region, congratulated the Aquatic Animals Commission for its dedication and commitment. The Africa Region supported the draft chapter as it would provide an important framework for the safe international trade of ornamental aquatic animals. The Africa Region noted that it was a major exporter of ornamental fish, which were often sourced from wild populations and thus posed a potential risk of spread of aquatic animal diseases. The Africa Region supported the adoption of this chapter which would help manage the disease risk and safeguard aquatic animal health.

Peru supported the adoption of the Chapter 5.X. Peru noted that, as an exporting country, it performed many risk analyses each year. Peru stated that Chapter 5.X. would strengthen its ability to complete these risk analyses and would provide greater assurance regarding a country's animal health status.

Canada noted that it could be difficult for Members to evaluate the impact of modifications made to texts when these changes occurred during the General Session without prior discussion. Canada requested clarification on how the modification to the definition of 'ornamental aquatic animal' presented in the previous item would impact the recommendations in Chapter 5.X.

Dr Gallardo Lagno thanked the Members for their comments. In response to the intervention by Canada, she stated that the change to the definition should not impact the recommendations of Chapter 5.x. She noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission would review the revised definition and any implications at its September 2025 meeting.

The President presented the new text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

172. Periods for basic biosecurity conditions and targeted surveillance in Articles X.X.5. to X.X.7. for disease-specific chapters

Dr Gallardo Lagno explained that following adoption of the revised Chapter 1.4. 'Aquatic animal disease surveillance' in 2022, the Commission had agreed to review the periods of basic biosecurity conditions (BBC) and targeted surveillance (TS) in relevant articles of disease-specific chapters. She explained that the Commission had undertaken disease-specific assessments consistent with recommendations in Chapter 1.4. for all WOAHA listed diseases, with the exception of 'infection with red sea bream iridovirus' as this was to be proposed for deletion.

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that revisions based on the assessments were being proposed for the BBC and TS in Articles X.X.5. 'Country free from infection with [Pathogen X]', X.X.6. 'Zone free from infection with [Pathogen X]' and X.X.7. 'Compartment free from infection with [Pathogen X]' in Section 8. 'Disease of Amphibians' in Chapters 8.1. to 8.3.; in Section 9. 'Diseases of Crustaceans' in Chapters 9.1. to 9.10.; in Section 10. 'Diseases of Fish' in Chapters 10.1. to 10.3., 10.5. to 10.7., 10.9. to 10.11. (and Articles 10.4.5. to 10.4.10. of Chapter 10.4. 'Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus'); and in Section 11. 'Diseases of Molluscs' in Chapters 11.1. to 11.7. (as per Annex 12 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno reminded the Assembly that the periods for BBC and TS in disease-specific chapters should be used in conjunction with relevant recommendations in Chapter 1.4. She also noted that, if any future revisions were to be made to these chapters that may impact the periods of BBC and TS, they would be reviewed at that time.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised texts had been circulated for comment two times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

Chile, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, thanked the Commission for its work to complete the assessment and application of periods of BBC and TS for all disease-specific chapters. The Americas Region noted that, in its February 2025 report the Aquatic Animals Commission had revised Articles 10.3.5. 'Country free from infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*' and 10.3.6. 'Zone free from infection with *G. salaris*' to state that pathway 2 (historical freedom) was not suitable for infection with *G. salaris*. The Americas Region did not support the adoption of these articles with the revised text and requested that the text be changed back to the text included in the Commission's September 2024 report. The Americas Region agreed that pathway 2 was not suitable for infections which only present as subclinical. However, the Americas Region noted that for infection with *G. salaris* at least one susceptible species would show clinical signs and that it should be possible to use pathway 2 with the appropriate surveillance and early warning system.

Uganda, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHAfrica Region, supported with the adoption of Annex 12. The Africa Region noted that the proposed revisions would be important to support status recognition and zoning recognition.

Canada, speaking on behalf of the Quads Alliance, expressed their support for the request by the 33 Members of the WOAHAmericas Region regarding infection with *G. salaris*. The Quads Alliance agreed that pathway 2 should be reinstated in Articles 10.3.5. and 10.3.6. The Aquatic Animals Commission's rationale for removing this historical freedom pathway was that clinical disease was not observed in all species susceptible to infection with *G. salaris*. The Quads Alliance noted that species susceptible to other WOAHAlisted diseases of aquatic animals might also not exhibit clinical signs under certain environmental or biological conditions. Therefore, the Quads Alliance observed that infection with *G. salaris* was not an exceptional example, and the inability to use pathway 2 to declare freedom at a country or zone level for infection with *G. salaris* might create inconsistency within the *Aquatic Code*. The Quads Alliance also noted that Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code* had the option to provide additional data from TS to strengthen historical freedom claims if some susceptible species did not show clinical signs. The Quads Alliance considered that these provisions in Chapter 1.4. already addressed the Commission's concerns regarding the use of pathway 2 for infection with *G. salaris*.

In addition, Canada, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHAmericas Region, expressed appreciation of WOAHAand the Aquatic Animals Commission for their efforts to complete this large piece of interconnected work, which had culminated in the review of disease-specific periods for BBC and TS for each disease-specific chapter. However, the Americas Region did not support the adoption of Annex 12 without a change to the period for TS for ISAV HPR0 from one year to two years in point 1 of Article 10.4.9. 'Compartment free from infection with ISAV'. The Americas Region noted that ISAV HPR0 was transiently detected in stable populations of Atlantic salmon and most readily detected during stress events such as spawning. Furthermore, the Americas Region stated there was limited knowledge of the epidemiology of ISAV HPR0 in land-based aquaculture establishments. It was stated that due to this uncertainty, Canada had required four surveys over two years to establish freedom within a compartment for ISAV HPR0. It was further explained that, with this testing regime, Canada has experienced a facility that had met the compartmentalisation biosecurity requirements and tested positive on the fourth survey in year two. The Americas Region noted that, under the period proposed for TS, the described facility would have become a compartment despite ISAV HPR0 being at a low prevalence. The Americas Region indicated that this example supported its position that one year of TS may be insufficient to detect ISAV HPR0 and support a freedom declaration in a compartment.

The United States of America, speaking on behalf of the Quads Alliance, did not support the adoption of Article 10.4.9. 'Compartment free from infection with ISAV'. The Members of the Quads Alliance noted that, due to transient detection of ISAV HPR0, one year was not a sufficient time period for targeted surveillance. The Members of the Quads Alliance requested that targeted surveillance be changed from one year to two years for a compartment free from infection with ISAV.

Dr Gallardo Lagno thanked Members for their comments. In response to the 33 Members of the Americas Region and the Members of the Quads Alliance, Dr Gallardo Lagno stated that Articles 10.3.5. and 10.3.6. for infection with *G. salaris* had been revised as being unsuitable for pathway 2 in response to Member comments received by the Aquatic Animals Commission. She noted that the Commission had sought the advice of Reference Laboratory experts and received information that of the six susceptible species only one susceptible species would exhibit clinical signs of infection. Dr Gallardo Lagno agreed that there needed to be consistency between the disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Code* and noted that the comments raised about infection with *G. salaris* were also related to Chapter 1.4., including Articles 1.4.8. 'Requirements for passive surveillance' and 1.4.12. 'Pathway 2 – Historical freedom'. In response to these concerns, Dr Gallardo Lagno proposed to place point 2 of Article 10.3.5. 'under study' and to place point 2 of Article 10.3.6. 'under study' to allow the Commission to further consider the suitability of pathway 2 for infection with *G. salaris* at its September 2025 meeting.

Dr Gallardo Lagno responded to the points raised by the 33 Members of the Americas Region and the Members of the Quads Alliance regarding Article 10.4.9., namely that more information was required on the epidemiology of HPR0 ISAV in land-based aquaculture establishments to be able to determine the appropriate period for TS. She proposed to place the TS in point 1 of Article 10.4.9. 'under study' and indicated that the Commission would further consider the period for TS at its September 2025 meeting.

The President presented the revised texts, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

173. **Article 9.9.2. of Chapter 9.9. 'Infection with white spot syndrome virus'**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the list of susceptible species in Article 9.9.2. of Chapter 9.9. 'Infection with white spot syndrome virus' had been revised in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Crustacean Species to WOAHA Listed Diseases (as per Annex 13 of 92GS Tech-07). Dr Gallardo Lagno reported that the Commission had applied Article 1.5.9. 'Listing susceptible species at a taxonomic ranking of Genus or Higher' to the list of susceptible species using considerations outlined in the Commission's September 2024 report. She informed the Assembly that it was proposed to list Penaeidae and Portunidae at the family level, and *Panulirus spp.* at the genus level as susceptible.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised text had been circulated for comment two times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Thailand questioned the appropriateness of listing some of the susceptible species at the family and/or genus level in both Chapter 9.9. 'Infection with WSSV' and 10.2. 'Infection with *Apahnomycetes invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)'. Thailand noted that, in the *ad hoc* Group report, the susceptible species were listed at the species level and requested that the list of susceptible species in the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual* be kept at the species level to ensure the list was based on the available scientific evidence.

Uganda, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa Region, expressed appreciation for the work on Article 9.9.2. The Africa Region appreciated that the proposed list of susceptible species was based on a taxonomic approach and had integrated feedback both from Members and from the *ad hoc* Group. The Africa Region supported the adoption of Article 9.9.2.

India appreciated the updated susceptible species information for infection with WSSV as it had a large shrimp industry. India supported the revisions, which were based on scientific evidence, and indicated that these revisions would support its ability to manage and control WSSV outbreaks.

In response to Thailand, Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that infection with WSSV was a complex disease with many susceptible species. She explained that the decision to list some susceptible species at a family and/or genus level was based on scientific evidence and the application of Article 1.5.9. 'Listing susceptible species at a taxonomic ranking of Genus or higher'. She noted Thailand's concerns and indicated they would be further discussed at the Aquatic Animals Commission's September 2025 meeting.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted with one abstention (Thailand).

174. **Articles 10.2.1. and 10.2.2. of Chapter 10.2. ‘Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)’**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that Article 10.2.1. of Chapter 10.2. ‘Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)’ had been revised to include genus and family level information for consistency with other disease-specific chapters. She also informed the Assembly that the list of susceptible species in Article 10.2.2. of Chapter 10.2. had been revised in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Fish Species to WOAHA Listed Diseases (as per Annex 14 of 92GS Tech-07). Dr Gallardo Lagno reported that the Commission had applied Article 1.5.9. ‘Listing susceptible species at a taxonomic ranking of Genus or Higher’ to the list of susceptible species using considerations outlined in the Commission’s September 2024 report. She informed the Assembly that it was proposed to list *Channa spp.* at the genus level as susceptible.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised texts had been circulated for comment one time.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted with one abstention (Thailand).

175. **Article 10.4.11. and Article 10.4.12. of Chapter 10.4. ‘Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus’**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that revisions were being proposed to Articles 10.4.11. and 10.4.12. of Chapter 10.4. ‘Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus’ to address inconsistencies between the English, Spanish and French versions. She proposed revisions to Articles 10.4.11. (French and Spanish only) and 10.4.12. (English, French and Spanish) of Chapter 10.4. to address these discrepancies (as per Annex 15 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno reported that the revised texts had been circulated for comment one time.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

176. **New Chapter 10.X. ‘Infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus1*’**

Dr Gallardo Lagno reminded the Assembly that ‘infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus1*’ had been added to the WOAHA list of aquatic animal diseases in place of ‘infection with red sea bream iridovirus’ at the 91st General Session in 2024. She reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had drafted the new Chapter 10.X. ‘Infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus1*’ to provide disease-specific information for this disease (as per Annex 16 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the list of susceptible species in Article 10.X.2. had been revised in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Fish Species to WOAHA Listed Diseases. She reported that the Commission had applied Article 1.5.9. ‘Listing susceptible species at a taxonomic ranking of Genus or Higher’ to the list of susceptible species using considerations outlined in the Commission’s September 2024 report. She informed the Assembly that it was proposed to list all species within the genera *Lethrinus*, *Poecilia*, *Seriola*, *Trachinotus*, *Pterophyllum*, *Opelgnathus*, *Trichopodus* and *Xiphophorus* as susceptible.

Dr Gallardo Lagno reported that the Commission had used recommendations from previously completed safe commodity assessments and the assessment of basic biosecurity conditions and targeted surveillance to develop relevant articles.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the new text had been circulated for comment one time.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the new text to the Assembly.

Thailand stated that the scope of Chapter 10.X. would include the three genogroups of *M. pagrus1* and that the *Aquatic Manual* chapter needed to be updated to include these genogroups and valid diagnostic methods to detect them. Thailand requested that adoption of Chapter 10.X. be postponed until the *Aquatic Manual* chapter was completed, as information in that chapter would be required to support the implementation of *Aquatic Code* Chapter 10.X.

Chile expressed its appreciation to the Commission and the *ad hoc* group for their work in developing Chapter 10.X., which would outline fundamental biosecurity measures applicable to importation and to the recognition of disease-free status. Chile valued this work as it supported the safeguarding of Members' aquatic animal health status while promoting safe international trade.

China (People's Rep. of) supported listing this important pathogenic agent which infected wild and farmed fish, as the listing would protect trade and prevent further spread of disease. China (People's Rep. of) noted it was looking forward to the *Aquatic Manual* chapter for infection with *M. pagrus1* as soon as it was available.

Australia commended the Aquatic Animals Commission for its work to improve the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual*. Australia supported the Commission's approach to completing a new chapter for infection with *M. pagrus1* within one year of adoption of the disease listing. Australia acknowledged the Commission's ongoing work in updating the diagnostic standards of the *Aquatic Manual*, including the preparatory work to develop a new chapter for 'infection with *M. pagrus1*'. Australia noted that this new chapter was being developed through international collaboration amongst diagnostic laboratory experts for *M. pagrus1* including Australia's national reference laboratory.

Uganda, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa Region, noted that this new disease-specific chapter would replace the current chapter on 'infection with red sea bream iridovirus disease' and would complement the future *Aquatic Manual* chapter. These two new chapters would facilitate disease detection and safe trade of fish.

Dr Gallardo Lagno thanked Members for their comments and reiterated that an electronic *ad hoc* Group was working on the *Aquatic Manual* chapter for 'infection with *M. pagrus1*', which would be circulated to Members when completed.

The President presented the new text to the Assembly for adoption.

The new text was adopted with one objection (Thailand).

177. **Deletion of Chapter 10.8. 'Infection with red sea bream iridovirus'**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the deletion of Chapter 10.8. 'Infection with red sea bream iridovirus' was being proposed because the chapter had become obsolete with the adoption of Chapter 10.X. 'Infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus1*' (as per Annex 31 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the proposed deletion had been mentioned two times in the Commission reports.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the proposed deletion to the Assembly.

The President presented the proposed deletion to the Assembly for adoption.

The proposed deletion was adopted unanimously.

178. Articles 11.6.1. and 11.6.2. of Chapter 11.6. 'Infection with *Perkinsus olsenii*'

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that Article 11.6.1. of Chapter 11.6. 'Infection with *Perkinsus olsenii*' had been revised to include genus and family level information for consistency with other disease-specific chapters. She also informed the Assembly that the list of susceptible species in Article 11.6.2. of Chapter 11.6. had been revised in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Mollusc Species to WOAHL Listed Diseases (as per Annex 17 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised texts had been circulated for comment two times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

179. Articles 11.7.1. and 11.7.2. of Chapter 11.7. 'Infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*'

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that Article 11.7.1. of Chapter 11.7. 'Infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*' had been revised to include genus and family level information for consistency with other disease-specific chapters. She also informed the Assembly that the list of susceptible species in Article 11.7.2. of Chapter 11.7. had been revised in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Mollusc Species to WOAHL Listed Diseases (as per Annex 18 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised texts had been circulated for comment one time.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

180. Text proposed for adoption

Dr Gallardo Lagno indicated that the next part of her presentation would focus on presenting the revised texts of the *Aquatic Manual* that were to be proposed for adoption.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that, in 2019, the Aquatic Animals Commission had commenced the process of progressively reformatting the disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Manual* into a new template. She noted that all fish and crustacean disease-specific chapters had been revised and adopted accordingly, and that the revision of the mollusc disease-specific chapters was underway.

181. Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.2.8. 'Infection with white spot syndrome virus'

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the list of susceptible species and species with incomplete evidence of susceptibility in Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.2.8. 'Infection with white spot syndrome virus' had been revised in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Crustacean Species to WOAHL Listed Diseases (as per Annex 22

of 92GS Tech-07). Dr Gallardo Lagno reported that the Commission had applied Article 1.5.9. 'Listing susceptible species at a taxonomic ranking of Genus or Higher' to the list of susceptible species, using considerations outlined in the Commission's September 2024 report. She noted that Penaeidae and Portunidae would be listed at the family level, and *Panulirus spp.* would be listed at the genus level.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised texts had been circulated for comment two times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted with one abstention (Thailand).

182. Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.3.1. 'Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)'

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the list of susceptible species and species with incomplete evidence of susceptibility in Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.3.1. 'Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)' had been revised in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Fish Species to WOAHL Listed Diseases (as per Annex 23 of 92GS Tech-07). Dr Gallardo Lagno reported that the Commission had applied Article 1.5.9. 'Listing susceptible species at a taxonomic ranking of Genus or Higher' to the list of susceptible species, using considerations outlined in the Commission's September 2024 report. She noted that *Channa spp.* would be listed at the genus level.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised texts had been circulated for comment one time.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted with one abstention (Thailand).

183. Chapter 2.4.2. 'Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*'

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that Chapter 2.4.2. 'Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*' had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and had been reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template (as per Annex 24 of 92GS Tech-07). She stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHL Reference Laboratory expert for Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised text had been circulated for comment two times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Regarding Chapter 2.4.2. 'Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*' and Chapter 2.4.3. 'Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*', Poland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, reported that the EU considered that the proposed definitions for a confirmed case for apparently healthy animals and clinically affected animals could potentially increase the number of false positives, as a positive result for just one specific PCR test could be considered as a positive case. Therefore, the EU requested that the Aquatic Animals Commission revise the case definitions at its September 2025 meeting, taking into account the written EU comments that had been submitted to WOAHL prior to this General Session.

Dr Gallardo Lagno emphasised that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked carefully on the case definitions in consultation with the Reference Laboratory expert. She stressed that none of the criteria proposed a single PCR assay for confirmation of a confirmed case. She assured the EU that the case definitions would be reconsidered at the next Commission meeting.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

184. **Chapter 2.4.3. 'Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*'**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that Chapter 2.4.3. 'Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*' had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and had been reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template (as per Annex 25 of 92GS Tech-07). She stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratory expert for Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*.

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised text had been circulated for comment two times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised text to the Assembly. An amendment needed to be made to Section 6.2.2. 'Definition of confirmed case in clinically affected animals', point i): the word 'or' after 'PCR' and before 'and' should be deleted. The criterion should read:

i) Positive result by real-time PCR ~~or and by~~ conventional PCR and sequencing ~~by species-specific *in-situ* hybridisation~~

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

185. **Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.6. 'Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*'**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the list of susceptible species and species with incomplete evidence of susceptibility in Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.6. 'Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*' had been revised in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Mollusc Species to WOAHP Listed Diseases (as per Annex 26 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the new chapter had been circulated for comment two times.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

The President presented the new chapter to the Assembly for adoption.

The new chapter was adopted unanimously.

186. **Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.7. 'Infection with *Xenohalotis californiensis*'**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the list of susceptible species and species with incomplete evidence of susceptibility in Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.7. 'Infection with *Xenohalotis californiensis*' had been revised in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Mollusc Species to WOAHP Listed Diseases (as per Annex 27 of 92GS Tech-07).

Dr Gallardo Lagno noted that the revised texts had been circulated for comment one time.

Dr Gallardo Lagno presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

187. **Reference Centres**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had approved the application from the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, China (People's Rep. of) as a new WOAHA Reference Laboratory for infection with decapod iridescent virus 1, and had approved the application from the ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, India, as a new WOAHA Reference Laboratory for infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome), both located in the Asia and the Pacific Region.

188. **Texts circulated for Member comments**

Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that six annexes had been circulated for comment in the Aquatic Animals Commission's February 2025 report for new or revised texts for the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual*.

Dr Gallardo Lagno encouraged Members, as well as international organisations having a cooperation agreement with WOAHA, to participate in the WOAHA standard-setting process through the submission of written comments. She reminded the Assembly that comments had to be received before the deadline of 4 July 2025 to be considered by the Commission at its September 2025 meeting.

189. **Work programme**

In her closing remarks, Dr Gallardo Lagno informed the Assembly that at each of its meetings the Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed and updated its work programme, taking into account Member and partner comments, Headquarters' comments and completed work. Dr Gallardo Lagno reminded the Assembly that the work programme provided Members with an overview of current and upcoming activities and she encouraged Members to provide feedback on the work plan.

Norway thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for its efforts to ensure the health and welfare of aquatic animal populations. Norway reaffirmed its continued support for the development of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*.

Peru, speaking on behalf of the Members of the Andean Community, requested that the Aquatic Animals Commission consider developing a new WOAHA strategy for aquatic animals. This new strategy should build upon the results and lessons learned from the 2021–2025 WOAHA Aquatic Strategy adopted during the 88th General Session in 2021. The aim would be to further strengthen the capacity of aquatic animal health services and raise awareness among decision-makers about the importance of aquatic animal health, especially in the context of emerging challenges such as climate change and antimicrobial resistance. Peru highlighted that this proposal would align with the strategic orientations presented by the Director General on the first day of this General Session and would be fully supported by aquatic animal experts from the Andean region.

Ecuador thanked the President of the Aquatic Animals Commission and took a moment to acknowledge the participation of the Director General and Dr Pombo in the recent Regional Conference for the Americas held in Ecuador. Ecuador noted it was historic for the Veterinary Services to engage directly with the private sector, which played a critical role in aquaculture. Ecuador emphasised the importance of further exploring the use of vaccines in aquaculture and other alternatives for disease prevention, particularly in crustacean species.

Chile expressed its appreciation to the Aquatic Animals Commission for its efforts in developing new standards to facilitate safe trade. Chile underlined the importance of aquatic animal health in ensuring food security and highlighted its role as a main producer of salmonids, as well as mussels and oysters. Chile stated that aquaculture generated substantial employment and that ensuring fish health, along with sound environmental management, was fundamental to sustaining future growth. Chile suggested providing more visibility for, and space to discuss, aquatic animal health issues within international forums such as the WOAAH General Session. Chile offered to contribute its technical expertise in areas such as aquatic animal welfare and biosecurity and advocated for increased opportunities to share best practices among Members.

China (People's Rep. of) congratulated WOAAH and the Aquatic Animals Commission on their achievements, particularly the development of new chapters related to biosecurity, disease prevention and control measures, and health certification. China (People's Rep. of) noted that these chapters enhanced scientific credibility and practical applicability, thus promoting safe international trade in aquatic animals. China (People's Rep. of) also proposed evaluating the impact of large-scale cage aquaculture systems which may pose risks to wild populations and ecosystems. Furthermore, China (People's Rep. of) encouraged WOAAH to strengthen collaboration among its network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and suggested the creation of a dedicated platform to facilitate communication between these institutions along with Members.

Finally, the Director General congratulated the Aquatic Animals Commission on the extensive work accomplished. She acknowledged the continued commitment of Members to the development of aquaculture and expressed her support for revising the global aquatic strategy. She also highlighted the importance of reinforcing collaboration between Reference Centres and Members, ensuring that aquaculture is fully integrated into WOAAH's strategic framework.

190. The Assembly noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Thursday, 29 May 2025

Third Plenary Session

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (cont.)

Biological Standards Commission ([92GS Tech-08](#))

191. Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann, President of the Biological Standards Commission, reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. The Commission had met twice: from 9 to 13 September 2024 and from 3 to 7 February 2025.
192. Prof. Couacy-Hymann thanked the other Members of the Commission. Appreciation was expressed for the contribution of the other regular participant, Dr John Pasick, Consultant Editor of the *Terrestrial Manual*, as well as specialist contributions by WOAAH experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and others. Lastly, Prof. Couacy-Hymann commended the staff of the Science Department for their support for the work of the Commission.
193. Prof. Couacy-Hymann reminded the Assembly that the second round of commenting had given Members the opportunity to review the version of the *Terrestrial Manual* chapters that would be proposed for adoption. He explained that while Members' approval was being sought, any comments should be either editorial, which would be taken into account as silent changes and not detailed in the resolution, or essential, fundamental corrections/amendments that absolutely needed to be made before the chapter could be adopted and published. Any other, non-essential comments would be kept on file and addressed when the chapter was next updated.

Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

194. Prof. Couacy-Hymann informed Delegates that, in March 2025, 28 chapters of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* that had been reviewed and approved by the Biological Standards Commission for circulation to Members had been made available as annexes to the February 2025 report, which could be found both on the Delegates' website and on the Commission's webpage of the WOAAH public website, for consultation. He also pointed out that the revised chapters to be proposed for adoption were also presented in Doc. 92 GS/Tech-08. All the chapters had been sent for two rounds of comment apart from the chapter on African swine fever, which had been sent for four rounds of comment.

195. Texts proposed for adoption

Prof. Couacy-Hymann indicated that the next part of his presentation would focus on presenting the revised texts of the *Terrestrial Manual* that were to be proposed for adoption.

Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, commended the Commission for its essential work and its continued efforts to update the *Terrestrial Manual*. Regarding the draft chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual* that are proposed for adoption this year, the EU thanked the Commission for having taken into account most of its previous comments. The EU in particular thanked the Commission for the hard work on the ASF chapter's vaccine section and for having considered the relevant comments submitted by the EU. The EU also thanked the Commission for the detailed responses provided to the comments and suggestions it had submitted. Finally, the EU fully supported the adoption of all the revised *Terrestrial Manual* chapters proposed for adoption.

196. Chapter 1.1.3. 'Transport of biological materials'

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 1.1.3. 'Transport of biological materials' had been minimally revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Diseases.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

197. Chapter 1.1.7. 'Standards for high throughput sequencing, bioinformatics and computational genomics'

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 1.1.7. 'Standards for high throughput sequencing, bioinformatics and computational genomics' had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

198. Chapter 1.1.9. 'Tests for sterility and freedom from contamination of biological materials intended for veterinary use'

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 1.1.9. 'Tests for sterility and freedom from contamination of biological materials intended for veterinary use' had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, Australia had proposed replacing “antibiotics” with “antimicrobials” four times in point 2 of Section D. ‘Living bacterial vaccines’.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to these amendments and presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

199. **Chapter 2.1.1. ‘Laboratory methodologies for bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 2.1.1. ‘Laboratory methodologies for bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing’ had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Collaborating Centres on antimicrobial resistance led by the Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Drug Regulatory Programmes.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, Australia had proposed adding “Variable levels of” before “resistance has been observed” and “despite that there is still a high level of susceptibility present” after “animals” in Section A. ‘Introduction’.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to these amendments and presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

200. **Chapter 2.2.1. ‘Development and optimisation of antibody detection assays’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 2.2.1. ‘Development and optimisation of antibody detection assays’ had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, Canada had made the following proposals:

- In Section A.1.b. ‘Purpose 1b: Contribute to the demonstration of freedom from infection in a defined population: re-establishment of freedom after outbreaks’ add “This shift in prevalence affects the positive predictive value (PPV) and negative predictive value (NPV) of a given test (Figure 1); therefore, test selection should be made accordingly.” after the first sentence.
- In Section A.2.1.3. ‘Positive and negative reference panel’ add “In cases where such population-specific samples are unavailable, such as during the validation of an assay intended for use in a disease-free population, sera from experimentally sensitised animals may be used as an alternative. However, test performance parameters must be interpreted with caution due to potential differences in antibody profiles elicited by natural infection versus sensitisation.” after the third sentence.
- In Section B.2.2.1. ‘Animals of known infection status’ move “Heuer & Stevenson (2021) describe procedures for diagnostic test validation studies when there is a perfect reference standard available for either positive or negative animals or both.” from point v) and add it to the end of point i).
- add the following reference to the list: “GARDNER I.A., STRYHN H., LIND P. & COLLINS M.T. (2000). Conditional dependence between tests affects the diagnosis and surveillance of animal diseases. *Prev. Vet. Med.*, 45, 107–122. doi: 10.1016/s0167-5877(00)00119-7.”

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to these amendments and presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

201. **Chapter 2.2.2. 'Development and optimisation of antigen detection assays'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 2.2.2. 'Development and optimisation of antigen detection assays' had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

202. **Chapter 2.2.3. 'Development and optimisation of nucleic acid detection assays'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 2.2.3. 'Development and optimisation of nucleic acid detection assays' had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

203. **Chapter 2.2.5. 'Statistical approaches to validation'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 2.2.5. 'Statistical approaches to validation' had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

204. **Chapter 2.2.8. 'Comparability of assays after minor changes in a validated test method'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 2.2.8. 'Comparability of assays after minor changes in a validated test method' had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

205. **Chapter 3.1.2. ‘Aujeszky’s disease (infection with *suid alphaherpesvirus 1 [SuAHV1]*)’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.2. ‘Aujeszky’s disease (infection with *suid alphaherpesvirus 1 [SuAHV1]*)’ had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Reference Laboratory for Aujeszky’s disease.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, Mexico had proposed to add “Generally, pigs are vaccinated at the beginning of the growing period, i.e. when they are between 9 and 12 weeks old. Some vaccines can also be used in pregnant sows to protect young piglets against central nervous disorders and mortality through passive immunity (follow the manufacturer’s recommendations).” after the first sentence of the summary section on ‘Requirements for vaccines’.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to this amendment and presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

206. **Chapter 3.1.8. ‘Foot and mouth disease (infection with foot and mouth disease virus)’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.8. ‘Foot and mouth disease (infection with foot and mouth disease virus)’ had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Validation, Quality Assessment and Quality Control of Diagnostic Assays and Vaccine for Vesicular Diseases in Europe and with experts from the WOAHA Reference Laboratories for foot and mouth disease.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, Australia had proposed to replace “reduce the number of animals being used” with “replace potency tests” in the Summary text on vaccine challenge tests. Australia also proposed to add “Sequencing 1D, the genomic region encoding” before “VP1” and delete “sequencing” after “VP1” in Section B.1.3.6. ‘Molecular epidemiology’.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to these amendments and presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

China (People’s Rep. of) appreciated WOAHA for proposing FMD detection technology, but had technical comments on the vaccine efficacy section of the chapter:

Prof. Couacy-Hymann He assured China (People’s Rep. of) that the comments would be considered by the Commission at the next meeting in September.

The revised text was adopted with one abstention (China [People’s Rep. of]).

207. **Chapter 3.1.9. ‘Heartwater’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.9. ‘Heartwater’ had been minimally revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the expert from the WOAHA Reference Laboratory for heartwater.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

208. **Chapter 3.1.21. ‘Rinderpest (infection with rinderpest virus)’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.21. ‘Rinderpest (infection with rinderpest virus)’ had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHP Reference Laboratories for rinderpest.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

209. **Chapter 3.2.4. ‘Infestation of honey bees with *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle)’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.2.4. ‘Infestation of honey bees with *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle)’ had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHP Reference Laboratories for infestation of honey bees with *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle).

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

210. **Chapter 3.2.5. ‘Infestation of honey bees with *Tropilaelaps* spp.’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.2.5. ‘Infestation of honey bees with *Tropilaelaps* spp.’ had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHP Reference Laboratory for infestation of honey bees with *Tropilaelaps* spp.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

211. **Chapter 3.3.1. ‘Avian chlamydiosis’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.3.1. ‘Avian chlamydiosis’ had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHP Reference Laboratories for avian chlamydiosis.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

212. **Chapter 3.3.2. ‘Avian infectious bronchitis’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.3.2. ‘Avian infectious bronchitis’ had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with subject-matter experts on avian infectious bronchitis.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

213. **Chapter 3.3.4. 'Avian influenza (including infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses)**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.3.4. 'Avian influenza (including infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses) had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Reference Laboratories for avian influenza.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, Australia had proposed adding reference to support the recommended virus haemagglutinin titre of >16 to be used for the intravenous pathogenicity index in Section B.1.4 'Assessment of pathogenicity'. The experts provided the following reference: Terregino C. & Capua I. (2009). Conventional Diagnosis of Avian Influenza. In: Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease, Capua I. & Alexander D.J., eds, Springer, Milano. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-88-470-0826-7_7.

In Section B.1.4 'Assessment of pathogenicity' after "At each" Australia proposed to replace "observation, each bird is" with "24-hour interval post-inoculation, birds are observed and".

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to these amendments and presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

214. **Chapter 3.4.9. 'Enzootic bovine leukosis'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.4.9. 'Enzootic bovine leukosis' had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Reference Laboratories for enzootic bovine leukosis.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

215. **Chapter 3.4.13. 'Theileriosis in cattle (infection with *Theileria annulata*, *T. orientalis* and *T. parva*)'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.4.13. 'Theileriosis in cattle (infection with *Theileria annulata*, *T. orientalis* and *T. parva*)' had been minimally revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with an expert from one of the WOAHA Reference Laboratories for theileriosis.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

216. **Chapter 3.4.14. 'Trichomonosis'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.4.14. 'Trichomonosis' had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Infectious Reproductive Diseases in Europe and other subject-matter experts on trichomonosis.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

217. **Chapter 3.6.1. 'African horse sickness (infection with African horse sickness virus)'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.6.1. 'African horse sickness (infection with African horse sickness virus)' had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Reference Laboratories for African horse sickness.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

218. **Chapter 3.6.5. 'Equine infectious anaemia (infection with equine infectious anaemia virus)'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.6.5. 'Equine infectious anaemia (infection with equine infectious anaemia virus)' had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Reference Laboratories for equine infectious anaemia.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

219. **Chapter 3.8.2. 'Caprine arthritis/encephalitis and maedi-visna (infection with small ruminant lentiviruses)'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.8.2. 'Caprine arthritis/encephalitis and maedi-visna (infection with small ruminant lentiviruses)' had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with a subject-matter expert on caprine arthritis/encephalitis and maedi-visna.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

220. **Chapter 3.8.5. 'Enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis) (infection with *Chlamydia abortus*)'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.8.5. 'Enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis) (infection with *Chlamydia abortus*)' had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Reference Laboratories for enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis).

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

221. **Chapter 3.9.2. 'Classical swine fever (infection with classical swine fever virus)'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.9.2. 'Classical swine fever (infection with classical swine fever virus)' had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Reference Laboratories for classical swine fever.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

222. Chapter 3.9.7. 'Swine vesicular disease (infection with swine vesicular disease virus)'

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.9.7. 'Swine vesicular disease' (infection with swine vesicular disease virus)' had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOA Reference Laboratories for swine vesicular disease.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

223. Chapter 3.9.1. African swine fever (infection with African swine fever virus)' (vaccine section only)

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.9.1. African swine fever (infection with African swine fever virus)' (vaccine section only) had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOA Reference Laboratory experts for African swine fever in consultation with vaccine developers, subject matter experts, and representatives from the scientific community and regulatory authorities.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, China (People's Rep. of) had proposed the following amendments:

- In Section C.1 'Background', first point on the characteristics of an optimal ASF modified live virus (MLV) first generation vaccine for the target host, to add "have no detected impact on the reproductive safety of pregnant sows" and "genetic stability" and to delete "genetic and" from the parentheses at the end of the point;
- In Section C.1. 'Background', to add a new paragraph after "(Diep et al., 2024).": "There is evidence that first generation MLV vaccines may revert to virulence and negatively affect the reproductive performance of pregnant sows (Nguyen et al., 2025; Van den Born et al., 2025). Additionally, as first generation MLV vaccines are unlikely to cause sterile immunity, immunised pigs are likely to shed the vaccine viruses, which may result in horizontal transmission of the vaccine viruses. This could affect reproductive performance of pregnant sows and may also increase the risk or recombination of the vaccine virus with circulating strains."

And add the following references to the list:

NGUYEN T.C., BUI N.T.T., NGUYEN L.T., NGO T.N.T., VAN NGUYEN C., NGUYEN L.M., NOUHIN J., KARLSSON E., PADUNGTOD P., PAMORNCHAINAVAKUL N., KESDANGSAKONWUT S., THANAWONGNUWECH R. & DO D.T. (2025). An African swine fever vaccine-like variant with multiple gene deletions caused reproductive failure in a Vietnamese breeding herd. *Sci. Rep.*, 15, 14919. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-95641-3>.

VAN DEN BORN E., OLASZ F., MÉSZÁROS I., GÖLTL E., OLÁH B., JOSHI J., VAN KILSDONK E., SEGERS R. & ZÁDORI Z. (2025). African swine fever virus vaccine strain Asfv-G-ΔI1771 reverts to virulence and negatively affects reproductive performance. *npj Vaccines*, 10, 46. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41541-025-01099-9>.

- In Section C.2.3.2. 'Safety requirements', iii) 'Horizontal transmission', to add "through a risk–benefit balance assessment" after "regulators may determine vaccine safety",

Japan had proposed the following amendments:

- In Section A. ‘Introduction’ to add “(Kitamura et al., 2025)” at the end of the sentence: “In addition, there is a risk that vaccine strains might be transmitted to non-vaccinates and/or revert to virulence and/or recombine with circulating strains”.

KITAMURA T., MASUJIN K., IKEZAWA M., AMBAGALA A. & KOKUHO T. (2025). Generation of Chimeric African Swine Fever Viruses Through In Vitro and In Vivo Intergenotypic Gene Complementation. *Vaccines*, 13(5), 462. doi: 10.3390/vaccines13050462.

- In Section C.1. ‘Background’, third last paragraph, to add “as suggested by a recent publication (Kitamura et al., 2025)” after “strains”;
- In Section C.2.3.2. ‘Safety requirements’, iii) ‘Horizontal transmission’, to delete “No or” before “A low percentage” and to add “or ideally no” before “naïve contact pigs”;
- In Section C.2.3.2. ‘Safety requirements’, iv) Reversion to virulence, to delete “No or” before “A low percentage” and to add “or ideally no” before “naïve contact pigs”;
- In Section C.2.3.3. ‘Efficacy requirements’, i) ‘Protective dose’ to add to the first point on vaccine compliancy: “It might also be acceptable that a low percentage of vaccinated challenged piglets die or reach the humane endpoint from causes attributable to ASF, depending on the purpose of vaccination, for instance, in cases where the aim is to control the disease rather than eradicate it.”.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to these amendments and presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption. Prof. Couacy-Hymann committed to keep the text in the Commission’s work programme and to amend the chapter as new scientific evidence became available.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

China (People’s Rep. of) reiterated the technical comments submitted in the second round before the General Session.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reminded China (People’s Rep. of) that this is a new section, so the Commission started the draft from zero because WOAHA needs to provide a framework for production of this vaccine. For other chapters from the *Terrestrial Manual*, there are two revision cycles, but for this chapter the Commission circulated it for four rounds of comment, which illustrates that the Commission is committed to improving the text. The Commission has taken China (People’s Rep. of)’s past comments into account and will review the latest comments during its September meeting.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

224. **Liaison with other Commissions**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann stated that the Biological Standards Commission had provided advice on a number of topics requested by the Code Commission. He also noted that the Commission had held a joint meeting with the Aquatic Animals Commission to share information and explore areas of common interest and ways of working together.

225. **WOAH Reference Centres**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann indicated that the draft Resolution relating to WOAHA Reference Laboratories had been presented for adoption by the Assembly following the adapted procedure before the General Session, with the results having been obtained through the electronic voting process. The Resolution on the newly designated Collaborating Centres would be presented during the Fourth Plenary Session.

During the year, a number of nominations for replacement experts had been evaluated by the Commission. Prof. Couacy-Hymann reminded the Delegates of the Commission's expectations regarding nominees: the designated expert, responsible to WOAHA and its Members with regard to the disease in question, should be a leading and active researcher helping the Reference Laboratory to provide scientific and technical assistance and expert advice on topics linked to diagnosis and control of the disease for which the Reference Laboratory is responsible.

226. The Assembly noted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission. The Director General congratulated the Commission.

Results of technical resolutions adopted electronically

227. Starting before the General Session, from 23 to 26 May, WOAHA Delegates were invited to adopt some administrative and technical resolutions. A remote voting system was deployed to allow Delegates to securely cast their votes electronically. The following resolutions were proposed for adoption during this period.
228. The President certified that, since 95 Delegates had voted during the online procedure, the quorum had been reached (93 required).
229. The President divulged the results of the voting on the technical resolutions that had been proposed for adoption before the General Session.

RESO	TITLE	YES	NO	ABS	RESULTS
No. 13	92 GS/Res-13: Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members	94	0	1	ADOPTED
No. 14	92 GS/Res-14: Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members	95	0	0	ADOPTED
No. 15	92 GS/Res-15: Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members	93	0	2	ADOPTED
No. 16	92 GS/Res-16: Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members	94	0	1	ADOPTED
No. 17	92 GS/Res-17: Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members	93	0	2	ADOPTED
No. 18	92 GS/Res-18: Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members	94	0	1	ADOPTED
No. 19	92 GS/Res-19: Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members	94	0	1	ADOPTED
No. 20	92 GS/Res-20: Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members	93	0	2	ADOPTED
No. 21	92 GS/Res-21: Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members	95	0	0	ADOPTED
No. 22	92 GS/Res-22: Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest	92	1	2	ADOPTED
No. 27	92 GS/Res-27: Designation of WOAHA Reference Laboratories for aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases	95	0	0	ADOPTED

Distribution of animal health status certificates

230. Dr Arroyo highlighted that WOAHA's official recognition of animal health status was not just a technical process but rather a strategic asset for Members, as it validated compliance with international standards, opened doors to regional and global markets and reinforced the credibility of the Veterinary Services. Dr Arroyo added that the endorsement of disease control programmes further strengthened this impact by drawing on international expertise, enhancing funding opportunities and driving regional collaboration. She stated that these recognitions served as a cornerstone of safe trade based on WOAHA standards and were a direct link between WOAHA and the global trading system through the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework.

231. Dr Arroyo expressed her appreciation to all WOAAH Members for recognising this procedure as a core activity of WOAAH, and noted the Organisation's commitment to continue working on strengthening it to better serve Members' needs. Dr Arroyo praised the efforts deployed by those Members referred to below in terms of disease control and eradication, and in compiling all necessary information so as to obtain an officially recognised animal health status or an endorsement of an official control programme. Dr Arroyo also noted the benefits of official animal health status recognition and disease control programme endorsement by WOAAH.
232. Eight Members hereafter listed were awarded a certificate from WOAAH for their newly recognised animal health status: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chinese Taipei, Korea (Rep. of), Russia, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom; Mongolia and Tanzania were awarded a certificate for WOAAH endorsement of their official control programmes for FMD and dog-mediated rabies, respectively.
233. The President and the Director General congratulated Members that had been granted a new status or had their official control programmes endorsed by the Assembly.

Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest

234. Dr Arroyo praised the efforts made by France and India in the sequestration and destruction of rinderpest virus containing materials, thereby contributing to the implementation of the provisions of the Biological Weapons Convention. Dr Arroyo noted that France had destroyed all rinderpest virus containing materials except vaccine seed for international use, and that India had received Rinderpest Holding Facility Category A designation and would engage in a pathway to progressively reduce its inventory of rinderpest virus containing materials.

First Administrative Session

Activities of the WOAAH Regional Commissions ([92GS Adm-04](#) and [92GS Adm-05](#))

235. The President reminded participants that the reports of the meetings of the Regional Commissions held in two sessions, a virtual session on 8 May 2025 (Africa), 13 May 2025 (Asia and the Pacific), 14 May 2025 (the Americas and the Middle East), and 15 May 2025 (Europe), and another session conducted in person simultaneously for each of the WOAAH Regional Commissions on Sunday 25 May 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CEST. The reports of these meetings had been made available on the General Session website on Wednesday 28 May 2025 (92GS Adm-05).
236. The President also reminded participants that the recommendations of the Conferences of the Regional Commissions that had been conducted in person since June 2024, namely the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 30 September to 4 October 2024, the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Quito, Ecuador, from 25 to 29 November 2024, and the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa, held in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia from 4 to 7 February 2025. These recommendations had been made available on the General Session website a few weeks before the General Session (92GS Adm-04).
237. The President then asked if there were any comments.
238. There were no comments from the participants. The President confirmed that the Assembly had noted the reports of the meetings of the Regional Commissions and had also endorsed the recommendations of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas and the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa.

239. The Director General thanked the Presidents of the Regional Commissions, the Regional Core Group members, and the Members of the Regional Commissions for their support on the Governance Review and the Eighth Strategic Plan development. She referred to the excellent and fruitful two Regional Conferences she had been able to attend (Regional Conferences for Europe and the Americas) and expressed her disappointment at not being able to attend the Africa conference due to health issues while highlighting the presence of the Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance who represented her at this key event for the region. She added that she was looking forward to attending the two forthcoming Regional Conferences, in Indonesia for the WOAHA Asia and the Pacific Region and in Cyprus for the WOAHA Middle East Region.

Partial Elections

Members of the Bureaus of Regional Commissions

Reserved for Delegates or accredited Delegates

240. The President of the Assembly drew attention to the need for partial elections to fill vacancies on some Regional Commissions.
241. Only Delegates of Members, as validated by the Credentials Committee, were eligible to adopt resolutions and vote in partial elections. The President of the Assembly also explained that an online voting platform would not be used, a decision taken by the Director General and agreed by the Council after technical testing of the online platform had raised concerns about its reliability. The elections would be conducted by show of hands in accordance with the WOAHA's legal texts.
242. The elections would be overseen by an independent legal expert, Mr Pierre Bodeau-Livinec, a professor of international law at Université Paris Nanterre, France.
243. Before the start of the session, the President confirmed that the quorum had been reached (93 required) and that the votes could take place.

Election of the Secretary General of the Regional Commission for Africa

244. The President informed the Assembly of the proposal of the Regional Commission for Africa to fill the vacant position of the Secretary General. As a result of the election, the Assembly noted the following change to the composition of the Regional Commission for Africa:

Secretary General: Dr Abdou Ceesay (Gambia)

Election of a Vice-President and the Secretary General of the Regional Commission for

245. The President informed the Assembly of the proposal of the Regional Commission for Europe to fill the vacant positions of Vice-President and the Secretary General. As a result of these elections, the Assembly noted the following changes to the composition of the Regional Commission for Europe:

Vice-President: Dr Galib Abdulaliyev (Azerbaijan)
Secretary General: Dr Keti Margariti (Albania)

246. As a result of these partial elections, the Assembly noted the new composition of the relevant Regional Commissions as follows:

Regional Commission for Africa

President:	Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela (Congo [Dem. Rep. of the])
Vice-President:	Dr Abderrahman El Abrak (Morocco)
Vice-President:	Dr Anne Rose Ademun Okurut (Uganda)
Secretary General:	Dr Abdou Ceesay (Gambia)

Regional Commission for Europe

President:	Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia)
Vice-President:	Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)
Vice-President:	Dr Galib Abdulaliyev (Azerbaijan)
Secretary General:	Dr Ketii Margariti (Albania)

247. The above elected positions were for a two-year period until the elections for the next three-year mandate of the Regional Commissions, to be held in May 2027.

Second Administrative Session

248. The President explained to the Assembly that the structure of the Second Administrative session had been organised into three blocks. The first block would focus on the report of the WOAHA Governance Review Committee, while the second block would focus on the 2024 Financial Report and on financial years 2025 and 2026, including activities and related budgets. Lastly, the third block would focus on the adoption of proposed agreements between WOAHA and two partners as well as the WOAHA Headquarters real estate study.

Report of the WOAHA Governance Review Committee ([92GS Adm-06](#))

249. Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, WOAHA Delegate of South Africa and Chairperson of the WOAHA Governance Review Committee, reported on the work of the Governance Review Committee. He explained that the Committee was composed of 16 WOAHA Members identified by the five Regional Commissions: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, China (People's Rep. of), Cyprus, Guatemala, Ireland, Kenya, Lebanon, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Tunisia. He informed the Assembly that the Governance Review Committee had convened three meetings, in January, February and March 2025, respectively, to develop its work programme and prepare recommendations to the Assembly on initial adjustments to WOAHA's governance to support revisions to the WOAHA Basic Texts (the International Agreement of 1924, the Organic Statutes, the Organic Rules and the General Rules).
250. The work programme of the Committee proposed two phases of work: the Committee would prepare advice on proposed changes to WOAHA's governance arrangements for the Assembly's consideration at the 93rd General Session in 2026 and, based on the Assembly's decisions at the 93rd General Session, the Committee would prepare revisions to WOAHA's legal texts for the Assembly's consideration at the 94th General Session in 2027. The objectives of the Committee's work would be to secure the Organisation's ability to efficiently, effectively and sustainably deliver its mandate by strengthening the certainty, clarity, coherence, transparency and inclusiveness of WOAHA's legal and governance frameworks.
251. Dr Modisane explained that the work programme of the Committee was designed to enable all WOAHA Members to provide input via their regional WOAHA Members on the Governance Review Committee. To support this, all official documentation of the Governance Review Committee would be available on the WOAHA Delegate Portal. He encouraged all WOAHA Members to contribute to the process, which presented the best opportunity to ensure the structure of the Organisation was fit for the present and the future.

252. Dr Modisane also explained that the Committee's initial recommendations to the Assembly in its report primarily focused on improving the transparency of WOAHA's activities. Some initial recommendations required further reflection by the Governance Review Committee, including further consultation with the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions, such as potential adjustments to the process leading to the appointment of Specialist Commission members. The Committee therefore sought the Assembly's approval to progress this work and submit proposals to the Assembly at the 93rd or subsequent General Sessions.
253. Dr Modisane thanked the representatives and advisers on the Governance Review Committee and Dr Christodoulos Pipis, WOAHA Delegate of Cyprus and Vice-Chairperson of the Governance Review Committee, for their valuable contributions to the work of the Committee.
254. The President recognised the importance of the Committee's work, and reminded the Assembly that in the previous year it had decided by consensus, in Resolution No. 12 of 2024, to establish the Committee and support it in its mandate.
255. The United States of America, speaking on behalf of the Quads Alliance, commended the Governance Review Committee's hard work and dedication to reviewing WOAHA's governance. The Committee's efforts to recommend improvements crucial for the Organisation's effectiveness and longevity and the ability of the work to unite the Membership in support of the timeless mission of ensuring animal health were emphasised. She recognised that members of the Committee had committed significant energy to engaging with the challenging details of WOAHA governance and thanked them for their work on the important task ahead. She encouraged the active participation of all Members in the process through their regional WOAHA Members on the Committee.
256. Austria, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Governance Review Committee for its detailed report and noted that a robust legal framework which allowed WOAHA to respond to current and future challenges and to the expectations of its Members was of key importance. He emphasised that WOAHA's core mandate as the reference organisation that sets international standards on animal health, thus assisting national Veterinary Services in ensuring the safe trade of animals and animal products, should not be forgotten. The Organisation's initiative to reflect on its future and to work to revise its Basic Texts and its governance with a view to increasing its strategic agility and readiness for future challenges was welcomed. He affirmed that the EU acknowledged and fully supported the important task of the Governance Review Committee and the adoption of Resolution No. 5. It was noted that the recommendations in the "Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of the World Organisation for Animal Health" were a good basis for the Committee's work, and that other elements stemming from the Committee's work or from WOAHA Members should also be taken into account. Close coordination and communication with Member Delegates and the Council, in a clear, inclusive, open and transparent way all along the process was of utmost importance for the success of its work.
257. Singapore, speaking on behalf of the 32 Members of the WOAHA Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, conveyed the Region's strong support for the work of the Governance Review Committee to enable WOAHA to operate as a modern and credible intergovernmental organisation. He highlighted that its regional members on the Committee – Australia, China (People's Rep. of) and Sri Lanka – represented the broader Asia and the Pacific Region's interests through ongoing consultation. The WOAHA Asia and the Pacific Region was optimistic that the Governance Review Committee's work would contribute to the effectiveness of the Region's efforts to improve animal health. The engagement of all WOAHA Members in the potentially transformative work of the Governance Review Committee was also encouraged.
258. Chile thanked the Chairperson of the WOAHA Governance Review Committee and the Secretariat for supporting high-quality debates which had already taken place within the Committee. He encouraged all Delegates to use the opportunity of the Governance Review Committee to set an effective basis for the Organisation in the coming years and remain engaged and supportive of the process.

259. Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance, highlighted the significant progress made by the Committee in the lead up to the 92nd General Session. He recognised that the work of the Committee including consulting regional WOAHA Members was significant, and the Secretariat would continue to explore how best to support consultation and engagement of the broader WOAHA Membership in the work. He highlighted that draft Resolution No. 5 followed the intent of Resolution No. 12 of 2024 and paved the way for the Committee to continue its work, and he encouraged all Delegates to identify and propose ideas for governance reform to the Committee over the coming year.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 5
Work Programme of the WOAHA Governance Review Committee and Initial Adjustments to Support
Revisions to the WOAHA Basic Texts**

260. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 5 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 5 at the end of this report.

Activities of the Council (92GS Adm-07)

261. The President reported on the activities of the Council between May 2024 and May 2025. Key activities included establishing the Governance Review Committee and endorsing its multi-year work programme in accordance with Resolution No. 12 of 2024. The Council also completed significant preparations for the 92nd General Session and reviewed performance tools tied to the Eighth Strategic Plan, encouraging a regionally grounded, indicator-based approach to planning. She also highlighted that the Council welcomed the new organisational chart for the WOAHA Secretariat which was designed to rebalance responsibilities between Directorates, including the establishment of a new directorate on global framework coordination and capacity-building, and increase visibility for Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. Finally, the Council's auditors worked with the Secretariat to ensure that financial oversight and transparency remained at the heart of the Organisation's work.
262. The President referred to the new leadership in both the Council and the Directorate General. She noted that Members of the Council had also been active in their respective regions, including their participation in three Regional Commission Conferences, in Africa, the Americas and Europe, and had brought back regional perspectives to inform the Council's work. The President concluded that the Council's activities in the past year had focused on laying strong foundations for reform, resilience and regional engagement, and she emphasised that the Council remained committed to listening, guiding and supporting the Organisation as it evolved.
263. The Director General thanked the Council for the dependable and engaging working relationship that she enjoyed with all Council members.
264. The Assembly adopted the report on the activities of the Council as presented.

2024 Financial Report (92GS Fin-01)

265. Mr Xavier Pairault, Director of Administration, reminded the Delegates that the financial reports had been made available on the WOAHA website 60 days before the General Session.
266. Mr Pairault presented an aggregated overview of financial performance for the 98th Financial Year (2024) for the Regular Budget, the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (World Fund) and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations pertaining to income and expenses. He placed emphasis on the types of activities funded by the World Fund compared to the Regular Budget, while underscoring the interdependency of the two budgets. He informed the Assembly that the 2024 Financial Report presented performance against key financial performance indicators alongside other key financial information, such as the annual financial statements and accounting information on the financial situation of the various accounts managed by WOAHA.

267. Taking into account the 2024 balance of the Regular Budget, he informed the Assembly that the Council had approved allocating €200,000 to the Reserve Fund.
268. He warmly thanked Members and resource partners for their continued support for and investment in the Organisation. Mr Pairault divulged the results of the voting on the resolution that had been proposed for adoption before the General Session. Ninety-five (95) Members had voted (93 being the minimum required).

RESO	TYPE	TITLE	YES	NO	ABS	RESULT
No. 6	FIN	92GS Res-06: Acknowledgement of the contributions of Members and Partners through voluntary funding, support for WOAHA meetings, and the provision of personnel	95	0	0	ADOPTED

269. The text appears under Resolution No. 6 at the end of this report.
270. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for spontaneous comments.
271. Congo (Rep. of) emphasised the persistent gap between the Organisation's financial requirements and the ability of some Members to meet their obligations. The Africa Region had engaged in an internal reflection on the root causes of non-payment of statutory contributions, and it was suggested that this would inform the work of the Governance Review Committee. He also called for stronger engagement with high-level national authorities to ensure contributions were paid, and proposed that WOAHA support Delegates in making rational, country-specific advocacy arguments.
272. The Director General acknowledged these challenges and underlined the Organisation's commitment to supporting Members. She noted the importance of engaging with ministers and other senior officials, sharing past experiences where such advocacy had led to positive outcomes. The Director General highlighted that WOAHA had developed tailored advocacy tools, including general arguments and country-specific materials aligned with national priorities, to support Delegates in securing payments of arrears or an increase in statutory contribution category.
273. Paraguay expressed strong support for the points raised by Congo (Rep. of) and the Director General and underlined the need for all Members to contribute if WOAHA is to meet current and future challenges as well as Members' expectations. He also called for the Governance Review Committee to explore reforms to make WOAHA's financial governance more sustainable in the long term.
274. Botswana echoed the call for increased advocacy and proposed exploring partnerships with private sector entities, particularly those involved in areas such as vaccine research and development.
275. The Director General reminded Members that WOAHA operated on a modest Regular Budget of € 21 million annually, which was extremely efficient relative to the € 350 billion global trade in animals and animal products that it supported (less than 0.05%). She signalled that WOAHA had engaged in creative thinking around new funding sources, including private sector engagement, while remaining vigilant about conflicts of interest.
276. The Director General also expressed her gratitude to all Members who had paid their statutory contributions, as well as to those providing voluntary contributions and secondments, and those hosting WOAHA's Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. She further thanked Members for their support in hosting WOAHA meetings, noting that all these forms of support were critical to the Organisation's functioning and impact.

Auditors of the Council Report (92GS Fin-02)

277. Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan), on behalf of the Auditors of the Council (also comprised of Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez [Nicaragua]), confirmed the proper management of the WOH accounts.
278. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors of the Council.

External Auditor Report (92GS Fin-03)

279. The Assembly noted the report of the External Auditor appointed by WOH, Mr Didier Selles, and his recommendations, presented by Mr Jean-Louis Lavigne on behalf of Mr Selles. The Assembly noted the report of the External Auditor and his recommendations.
280. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for spontaneous comments.
281. No spontaneous comments were received on 92GS Fin-03.
282. The President certified that the quorum had been reached, with 101 Delegates present in the room (93 being the minimum required) for the adoption of Draft Resolutions Nos 7 and 11.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 7 2024 Financial Report (1 January to 31 December 2024)

283. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 7 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 7 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 11 Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

284. The President proposed to the Assembly to renew for a period of one year (2025) the appointment of Mr Didier Selles of the Cour des Comptes (French Court of auditors) as External Auditor of WOH Accounts to audit the 2025 accounts.
285. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 11 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 11 at the end of this report.

Adjustments to the 2025 Budgeted Work Programme (92GS Fin-04)

286. Mr Pairault outlined the principal programmatic highlights resulting in adjustments to the 2025 Work Programme. He presented an aggregated overview of income and budgeted expenses for the Regular Budget, the World Fund and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representation budgets in 2025. He reminded the Assembly that only the Regular Budget was being submitted for adoption by Delegates.
287. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for spontaneous comments.
288. No spontaneous comments were received on 92GS Fin-04.
289. The President certified that the quorum had been reached, as 97 Delegates were present in the room (93 being the minimum required) for the adoption of Draft Resolution No. 8.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 8
Approval of the 2025 Adjusted Budget (1 January to 31 December 2025)

290. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 8 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted (96 votes in favour and 1 abstention). The text appears under Resolution No. 8 at the end of this report.

2026 Budgeted Work Programme, Income Estimates and Related Contribution Scale ([92GS Fin-05](#))

291. Mr Pairault presented an aggregated overview of income and budgeted expenses for the 2026 Budget, comprising the Regular Budget, the World Fund and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representation budgets. He informed the Members that this budget had been developed based on a structured budgetary dialogue and outlined the principal budgetary assumptions. He signalled to the Assembly that the 2026 Budgeted Work Programme included just under 60 output indicators per budgetary chapter to demonstrate to Members the tangible return on investment.

292. He reminded the Assembly that only the Regular Budget was being submitted for adoption by Delegates and provided them with the Regular Budget 2026 Budget Estimates.

293. He presented the Proposed 2026 Contributions Scale to the Assembly, corresponding to the OECD Total Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 5.3% in application of Resolution No. 15 of 24 May 2018.

294. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for spontaneous comments.

295. Spain raised concerns regarding the increase in Category 1 statutory contributions while noting that Category B contributions remained unchanged. He suggested that the extraordinary contribution categories should be reconsidered in a coherent manner. Spain reiterated its historical position of voting against contribution increases and called for a more structured and strategic debate on WOA's financial priorities and spending. While acknowledging that the current increase was linked to the CPI, Spain emphasised that repeated statutory contribution increases over the years warranted deeper reflection.

296. In response, the Director of Administration clarified that Category B represented voluntary additional contributions. While a minimum was identified, Members were encouraged to pay more. He furthermore signalled that no Members had contributed in Category B in 2024.

297. Botswana commended WOA's for presenting a balanced budget and requested clarification on the difference between amortisation and depreciation. He also inquired why only 1% of the Regular Budget had been allocated to capacity building in 2026.

298. The Director of Administration explained that amortisation and depreciation were related to long-term investments, particularly those with lifespans that exceeded a single budget year. These costs remained low due to the Organisation's limited investment but could evolve depending on future investments in real estate. Should such investments increase in the future, he forecast that these associated costs would increase proportionally.

299. Regarding the question pertaining to capacity building, Japan explained that these activities were primarily funded through the World Fund, as discussed during the most recent WOA's Council meeting.

300. The Director General reaffirmed that the current budgetary approach was in strict alignment with Resolution No. 15 of 24 May 2018 and thus took into account the OECD-Total CPI. She underscored the Organisation's commitment to transparency in financial matters, both with Members and with the Council. The Director General invited any Member needing further information to submit a request, and reiterated that WOA's managed its resources in a conscientious and reliable manner. She stressed the importance of aligning spending with clearly

defined priorities, which would be guided by a fully costed Eighth Strategic Plan. The Director General acknowledged the feedback on focusing on WOAAH's core mandate and expressed her openness to continued discussion on these important issues.

301. The President certified that the quorum had been reached, with 97 Delegates present in the room (93 being the minimum required) for the adoption of Draft Resolutions Nos 9 and 10.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 9
WOAH Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 100th Financial Year and associated Work Programme
(1 January to 31 December 2026)

302. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 9 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted (91 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 6 abstentions). The text appears under Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 10
Member statutory contributions to WOAAH for the 2026 Financial Year

303. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 10 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted (89 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 8 abstentions). The text appears under Resolution No. 10 at the end of this report.
304. The Director General expressed her appreciation to Members for their active engagement and constructive contributions throughout the General Session and thanked them for adopting the financial resolutions, critical for the Organisation.
305. She welcomed the adoption of Resolution No 5 on the Work Programme of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), describing it as a significant milestone in the Organisation's ongoing efforts to reinforce institutional, technical and financial governance. She emphasised that the GRC's mandate was both ambitious and comprehensive. She informed Members that the work on financial governance was scheduled to commence in the second half of 2025, and highlighted its importance in building the governance architecture required to sustain a robust and financially resilient Organisation. The Director General noted that initial reflections had already begun within the Secretariat and the GRC, including the exploration of pragmatic options that might minimise the need for extensive textual changes while improving the effectiveness and predictability of the Regular Budget, funded through statutory and extraordinary contributions.
306. Recognising the current global context, the Director General acknowledged the increasing fiscal constraints many Members were facing. She noted the challenges of advocating for continued investment in WOAAH at the national level. Nonetheless, she pointed to growing political support for One Health and Veterinary Services, referencing the recent World Health Assembly resolution, which called for sustainable financing for pandemic prevention and preparedness, including with regard to animal health. This broader recognition, she stressed, reinforced the Organisation's message: investment in veterinary infrastructure is essential for global health security and economic resilience.
307. The Director General reminded Members that WOAAH enabled safe, predictable trade in animals and animal products, supporting a global market worth over USD 439 billion annually. In contrast, the statutory contributions that funded this essential work remained relatively modest compared to other international organisations. She underlined WOAAH's strong track record of delivering impact with limited resources, describing the Organisation as lean, science-based, and service-oriented. In this context, she reiterated the importance of both financial and political engagement from Members to sustain WOAAH's legitimacy and effectiveness.
308. The Director General reaffirmed her commitment to supporting Members' advocacy efforts. She offered the Secretariat's assistance in preparing policy briefs, speaking points or engagement with national decision-makers, and committed to continuing to disseminate statements from high-level fora that highlighted the role of WOAAH and Veterinary Services in One Health.

309. The Director General presented a strong case for investment in WOAAH, citing the Organisation's € 21 million Regular Budget, which constituted less than 0.05% of the global trade it supported. She stressed that this predictable budget allowed the Organisation to plan and deliver essential programmes. She also noted the critical role of the World Fund, which supplemented the Regular Budget and more than doubled WOAAH's capacity. While impactful, the WOAAH World Fund remained transactional and dependent on voluntary contributions, making it less predictable than statutory contributions.
310. The Director General emphasised that WOAAH's work went beyond animal health: it safeguarded food systems, supported rural livelihoods, and contributed to public health and sustainable development. She reiterated that these efforts were only possible through sustained and collaborative engagement with Members.
311. She outlined the inclusive approach to developing the Eighth Strategic Plan, which would be shaped through consultations with Regional Core Groups. The Plan would be grounded in Members' priorities and global realities and was intended to be costed to underpin the Organisation's future resource mobilisation strategy. She stated her commitment to ensuring that WOAAH continued to be a relevant and responsive partner, supporting Veterinary Services with scientific standards, information systems and strong advocacy.
312. The Director General expressed gratitude for Members' contributions, both statutory and extraordinary, as well as voluntary contributions, expert secondments, and hosting of WOAAH events.
313. At the same time, she acknowledged the emerging financial pressures, particularly a decline in voluntary contributions, and warned that the cost of inaction was greater than the cost of sustaining WOAAH's core functions.
314. In closing, the Director General thanked Members for their continued generosity and appealed to those in a position to do so to consider increasing their contribution category or making an extraordinary contribution. She reiterated that every contribution helped ensure that WOAAH could continue to serve its Members effectively, and reaffirmed the Organisation's commitment to maximising impact, promoting efficiency and standing in solidarity with its Membership.

Memorandums of Understanding
(92GS Adm-08 and 92GS Adm-09)

315. As was the case for several technical resolutions, WOAAH Delegates were invited to adopt some administrative resolutions using a remote voting system.
316. Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance, provided some background information on the proposed agreements with the International Alliance for Biological Standardization (IABS), an existing partner, and the European Space Agency (ESA), a new partner, and divulged the results of the voting on the resolutions that had been proposed for adoption before the General Session. Ninety-five (95) Members voted (93 being the minimum required for purposes of the quorum).

RESO	TITLE	YES	NO	ABS	RESULTS
No. 3	92 GS/Res-03: Memorandum of Understanding between WOAAH and the International Alliance for Biological Standardization (IABS)	95	0	0	ADOPTED
No. 4	92 GS/Res-04: Memorandum of Intent between WOAAH and the European Space Agency (ESA)	92	2	1	ADOPTED

317. The text appears under Resolutions Nos 3 and 4 at the end of this report.

WOAH Headquarters Real Estate Study

318. Mr Xavier Pairault, Director of Administration, presented Draft Resolution No. 12.

Mr Pairault explained that since January 2024 WOAHA had been carrying out, with the support of real estate experts, a strategic review of its property holdings. He indicated that the primary objective was to evaluate four scenarios for modernising its facilities at Headquarters (Paris) and supporting the Organisation's growth: renovation of the current site; acquisition or rental of the rear courtyard building at 14 rue de Prony and renovation; rental or purchase of an external site dedicated to support services; full relocation, involving the sale or rental of the current site.

319. Mr Pairault mentioned that one of the main findings of the real estate study related to the courtyard building at 14 rue de Prony. While WOAHA currently owned and occupied the main building facing the street, the rear courtyard building was privately owned and currently leased to a third party.

320. The first recommendation arising from the study and shared with the Council in March 2025 was for WOAHA to acquire the courtyard building at 14 rue de Prony.

321. Mr Pairault indicated that acquiring the rear courtyard building could be beneficial whatever the scenario chosen, and explained that its acquisition would be aimed at securing several strategic and financial benefits, including:

- facilitation of a comprehensive restructuring and compliance initiative for the entire site at 12 and 14 rue de Prony;
- elimination of co-ownership charges currently impacting the Regular Budget (estimated at approximately €80,000 annually); and
- increase in the overall value of WOAHA's property holdings (estimated gain of approximately € 1 million).

322. Mr Pairault ended by indicating that in light of the recommendations of the real estate experts and the anticipated strategic benefits, draft Resolution No. 12 would be submitted to the Assembly for adoption in order to authorise the Director General to negotiate the acquisition of the rear courtyard building at 14 rue de Prony.

323. Sweden inquired about the financial implications and noted that Sweden could support the initiative if it remained within the established budgetary framework.

324. Mr Pairault responded that it was difficult at this stage to provide a precise figure, as the matter was likely to be discussed further in the future. The objective remained to ensure that the associated costs could be supported through the Regular Budget given the direct savings generated. The matter would be brought again to the Members' attention in due course.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 12

Mandate given to the Director General for the acquisition of a real estate property located at 14 rue de Prony

325. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 12 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 12 at the end of this report.

Fourth Plenary Session

Adoption of Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Amendments to the WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Code**

326. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 23 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 23 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24
Amendments to the WOAHA Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals**

327. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 24 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 24 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25:
Amendments to the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code**

328. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 25 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 25 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Amendments to the WOAHA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals**

329. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 26 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 26 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 28
Designation of WOAHA Collaborating Centres**

330. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 28 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 28 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 29
Veterinary Vaccines and Vaccination. From science to action – reflections for change**

331. Dr Pombo presented the Draft Resolution No. 29 for adoption and opened the floor for Members' comments.
332. Draft Resolution No. 29 was adopted by the Assembly with no objections and one abstention (Colombia). The text appears as Resolution No. 29 at the end of this report.

Dates of the 93rd General Session

333. The Assembly decided that the 93rd General Session of WOAHA would take place from Monday 18 May to Friday 22 May 2026.

Closing Session

334. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs and the other participants for the quality of the debates. He congratulated the Director General, the staff of the Headquarters and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, the translators and the technicians for the outstanding organisation of the General Session.
335. She invited the Delegates to attend the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

.../Resolutions/Regional Commission Reports

RESOLUTIONS

**adopted by the World Assembly of WOAHA Delegates
during their 92nd General Session**

List of Resolutions

Administrative Resolutions

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No. 2	Approval of the Director General's Report on 2024 WOAAH Management, Activities and Administrative Work
No. 3	Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Alliance for Biological Standardization (IABS)
No. 4	Memorandum of Intent between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and European Space Agency (ESA)
No. 5	Work Programme of the WOAAH Governance Review Committee and Initial Adjustments to Support Revisions to the WOAAH Basic Texts

Financial Resolutions

No. 6	Acknowledgement of the contributions of Members and Partners through voluntary funding, support for WOAAH meetings, and the provision of personnel
No. 7	Approval of the 2024 Financial Report (1 January - 31 December 2024)
No. 8	Approval of 2025 Adjusted Budget
No. 9	WOAH Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 100th Financial Year and associated Work Programme (1 January to 31 December 2026)
No. 10	Member statutory contributions to WOAAH for the 2026 Financial Year
No. 11	Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor
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No. 13	Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members
No. 14	Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members
No. 15	Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members
No. 16	Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members
No. 17	Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members
No. 18	Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members
No. 19	Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members
No. 20	Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members

No. 21	Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members
No. 22	Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest
No. 23	Amendments to the WOAHA <i>Aquatic Animal Health Code</i>
No. 24	Amendments to the WOAHA <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals</i>
No. 25	Amendments to the WOAHA <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>
No. 26	Amendments to the WOAHA <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals</i>
No. 27	Designation of WOAHA Reference Laboratories for aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases
No. 28	Designation of WOAHA Collaborating Centres
No. 29	Veterinary Vaccines and Vaccination. From science to action – reflections for change

RESOLUTION No. 1

Approval of the Director General's Report on 2024 WOAH Activities

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the Organisation,

CONSIDERING the importance of involving Members from the earliest stages of the development of the 8th Strategic Plan and the role that their involvement plays in ensuring the legitimacy and relevance of the strategic directions presented,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To approve the Director General's Report on 2024 WOAH Activities (92GS Adm-02).

NOTES

1. The Director General presented to the Assembly the proposed strategic directions for the 8th Strategic Plan, including the draft strategic axes and enablers for implementation, as the outcome of an initial collaborative work.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 2

**Approval of the Director General's Report on 2024 WOH Management,
Activities and Administrative Work**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the Organisation,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To approve the Director General's Report on 2024 WOH Management, Activities and Administrative Work (92 GS Adm-03).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 3

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Alliance for Biological Standardization (IABS)

CONSIDERING

The Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Alliance for Biological Standardization (IABS),

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that the scope and the modalities of cooperation be redefined between WOAH and IABS,

The Memorandum of Understanding between WOAH and IABS (92GS Adm-08) was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 15 April 2025,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of WOAH.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 4

Memorandum of Intent between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the European Space Agency (ESA)

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the European Space Agency (ESA),

The Memorandum of Intent between WOAH and ESA (92GS Adm-09) was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 15 April 2025,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Intent and its signature by the Director General on behalf of WOAH.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 5

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).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 6

**Acknowledgement of the contributions of Members and Partners
through voluntary funding, support for WOAAH meetings,
and the provision of personnel**

CONSIDERING

1. The importance of voluntary financial contributions from Members and Partners, notably through the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, in supporting the implementation of WOAAH's mandate, Strategic Plans and priority activities, in addition to the statutory contributions received through the Regular Budget,
2. The logistical, financial, and technical support provided by Members in the organisation and hosting of WOAAH meetings, conferences, and workshops,
3. The provision of personnel by Members through secondments, which reinforces WOAAH's technical capacity, fosters knowledge exchange, and contributes to the professional development of both WOAAH and the contributing institutions,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. The following Members and Partners for their voluntary contributions in 2024:

Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Mexico, the Netherlands (through the AMR MPTF), Panama, Russia, Spain, Sweden (through the AMR MPTF), Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources, the European Union, the World Bank, the Gates Foundation, the Donkey Sanctuary, the Dog Trust, Four Paws, International Coalition for Working Equids, the International Horse Sports Confederation, the Open Philanthropy, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;

2. All Members who provided support for the organisation of WOAAH meetings, conferences and workshops in 2024;

3. The following Members for seconding national experts to WOAAH in 2024:

Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Korea (Rep. of), Panama, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 7

Approval of the 2024 Financial Report
(1 January – 31 December 2024)

CONSIDERING

1. Article 15 of the Organic Statutes of WOAHA,
2. Article 6 of the Organic Rules of WOAHA,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To approve the 2024 Financial Report (98th Financial Year of WOAHA: 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024) (92GS/Fin-01).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

Approval of 2025 Adjusted Regular Budget

CONSIDERING

1. Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6.h of the Organic Rules of WOAH,
2. The variation in income and expenses for the 2025 Financial Year (99th Financial Year of WOAH: 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025),

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To amend Resolution No. 16 of 30 May 2024 and to substitute paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 thereof with the following paragraphs:

1.1. Income

Sections	Description	Amount €
Section 1	Members' contributions (Article 11 - Organic Statutes and Article 14 - Organic Rules)	15 863 300
	Extraordinary contributions	872 700
	Sub-total Section 1	16 736 000
Section 2	Registration fees (General Session, conferences)	20 000
	Publication sales	-
	Fees for evaluation of sanitary status applications	100 000
	World Fund overheads	1 800 000
	Internal contributions	962 000
	Other operating revenue	880 700
	Sub-total Section 2	3 762 700
Section 3	Investment income	170 000
	Extraordinary income	-
	Recovery of investment subsidies	32 500
	Reversal of provisions	470 000
	Sub-total Section 3	672 500
TOTAL		21 171 200

1.2. Expenses

Budgetary chapters	Amount €
1. Information Management	2 735 774
2. Standard Setting and Implementation	2 999 020
3. Capacity Building	154 400
4. Global Frameworks	914 680
5. International Collaboration	700
6. Institutional Governance	3 998 630
7. General Administration	6 923 856
8. Regional and sub-regional Representations	1 944 140
9. Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	1 500 000
TOTAL	21 171 200

2. The income and expenses of the Regular Budget for the year 2025 are hereby established at € 21 171 200.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 9

**WOAH Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 100th Financial Year
and associated Work Programme
(1 January to 31 December 2026)**

CONSIDERING

1. Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6.h of the Organic Rules of WOA, H,
2. The Seventh Strategic Plan of WOA H established for the 2021-2026 period,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To approve the Planned Work Programme for 2026 (92GS/Fin-05), subject to the Council's review and approval to ensure that expenses remain within the allocated budget;
2. That the budget of the Regular Budget for the 100th Financial Year, covering the period from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026, shall be set at € 21,870,100 for income and expenses is established as follows:

2.1. Income

Sections	Description	Amount €
Section 1	Member contributions (Article 11 - Organic Statutes and Article 14 - Organic Rules)	16 705 000
	Extraordinary contributions	535 800
	Sub-total Section 1	17 240 800
Section 2	Registration fees (General Session, conferences)	20 000
	Publication sales	-
	Fees for evaluating disease status dossiers	100 000
	World Fund overheads	1 800 000
	Internal contributions	990 800
	Other operating revenue	816 000
	Sub-total Section 2	3 726 800
Section 3	Investment income	170 000
	Extraordinary income	-
	Recovery of investment subsidies	32 500
	Reversal of provisions	700 000
	Sub-total Section 3	902 500
	TOTAL	21 870 100

2.2. Expenses

Budgetary Chapters	Amount €
1. Information Management	2 882 170
2. Standard Setting and Implementation	2 907 310
3. Capacity Building	195 750
4. Global Frameworks	1 092 500
5. International Collaboration	700
6. Institutional Governance	4 396 020
7. General Administration	6 815 150
8. Regional and Sub-Regional Representations	2 080 500
9. Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	1 500 000
TOTAL	21 870 100

RECOMMENDS THAT

- Members provide the necessary support for the implementation of the Planned Work Programme, through the timely payment of statutory contributions and, where possible, through extraordinary or voluntary contributions to the Regular Budget and/or to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, as well as through any other form of support to WOAH.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 10

Member statutory contributions to WOAAH for the 2026 Financial Year

CONSIDERING

1. Article 11 of the Organic Statutes and Article 14 of the Organic Rules of WOAAH,
2. Resolution No. 8 dated 1 June 2001 related to contributions by the Least Developed Countries (LDC),
3. Resolution No. 11 of 30 May 2014 creating two categories of extraordinary contributions,
4. Resolution No. 15 of 24 May 2018 related to taking an annual consumer price index (“OECD-Total” CPI) for the previous year into account when calculating the annual contributions of WOAAH Members for the following year,
5. The 2024 “OECD-Total” CPI, which stands at 5.3% shall be used to calculate the contributions for 2026,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. That the annual statutory contribution from WOAAH Members for the 2026 Financial Year are:

Category	Annual Contribution (€)
1	332 100
2	265 680
3	199 260
4	132 840
5	66 420
6	39 852

2. That, in accordance with the six-category scale, WOAAH will only call for 50% of the total contributions due from the Members classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
3. That Members, while retaining the choice of category in which they are registered, may contribute to one of the two extraordinary categories in 2026. In this case, the concerned Members shall be exempt from paying their statutory contribution for the year in question.
4. The two extraordinary categories of contribution to be paid as a lump sum are:

Category A: EUR 500 000 minimum

Category B: EUR 300 000 minimum

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025

in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025) RESOLUTION No. 11

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

CONSIDERING

1. Article 12.1. of the Financial Regulations concerning the appointment of the External Auditor and the renewal of their mandate,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To renew for one year period the appointment of Mr Didier Selles of the *Cour des comptes* (French Court of auditors) as External Auditor of WOH Accounts to audit the 2025 accounts.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 12

Mandate given to the Director General for the acquisition of a real estate property located at 14, rue de Prony

CONSIDERING

1. The International Arrangement for the creation, in Paris, of an *Office international des épizooties* (WOAH), of 25 January 1924, and the Organic Statutes,
2. The Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the *Office international des épizooties* concerning the Headquarters of the *Office international des épizooties* and its privileges and immunities on French territory, signed in Paris on 21 February 1977,
3. The Organic Rules and the General Rules of the Organisation,
4. The increase in staff at WOAH Headquarters due to the expansion of the Organisation's activities,
5. The ongoing study relating to the adequacy of the Organisation's real estate assets,
6. The additional costs arising from the co-ownership of 14, rue de Prony (rear courtyard), and
7. The added potential for enhancing the value of the existing assets.

THE ASSEMBLY, UPON PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL,

RESOLVES

1. To mandate the Director General to negotiate, at the best possible price and for an amount compatible with the resources of the Regular Budget of the Organisation, with a view to the acquisition by WOAH of all or part of the property located at 14, rue de Prony, rear courtyard; and
2. To obtain the Council's prior approval before proceeding with this acquisition.

REQUESTS

1. The Director General to report on the progress of the acquisition of this property to the World Assembly of Delegates during its 93rd General Session (2026).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 13

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 62nd General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Members and zones recognised as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including FMD,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of animal health status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAAH in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAAH Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
7. Information published by WOAAH is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAAH is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal animal health status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAAH Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as FMD-free where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania	Dominican Republic	Lesotho	Poland
Australia	El Salvador	Liechtenstein	Portugal ⁴
Austria	Estonia	Lithuania	Romania
Belarus	Finland ²	Luxembourg	San Marino
Belgium	France ³	Madagascar	Serbia ⁵
Belize	Germany	Malta	Singapore
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Mexico	Slovenia
Brunei	Guatemala	Montenegro	Spain ⁶
Bulgaria	Guyana	New Caledonia	Suriname
Canada	Haiti	New Zealand	Sweden
Chile	Honduras	Nicaragua	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Iceland	North Macedonia (Rep. of)	The Netherlands
Croatia	Ireland	Norway	Ukraine
Cuba	Italy	Panama	United Kingdom ⁷
Cyprus	Japan	Peru	United States of America ⁸
Czech Republic	Latvia	Philippines	Vanuatu
Denmark ¹			

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as FMD-free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Paraguay, Uruguay

3. The Director General publish the following List of Members having FMD-free zones⁹ where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: one zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

the summer pasture zone in the Province of San Juan as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in April 2011;

Patagonia Norte A as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in October 2013;

Bolivia: one zone consisting of the Department of Beni and the northern part of the Department of La Paz merged with the zone consisting of the Department of Pando (August 2018), as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2022;

¹¹ Including Faroe Islands and Greenland.

² Including Åland Islands.

³ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

⁴ Including Azores and Madeira.

⁵ Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

⁶ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁷ Including Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). (A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [see resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations]).

⁸ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

⁹ For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as free from FMD, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOA.

- one zone in the Macro-region of the Altiplano (November 2011) merged with the zone covering the Departments of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Tarija, and parts of La Paz, Oruro, and Potosí, as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2024;
- Botswana: four zones designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in August and November 2014 as follows:
- one zone consisting of Zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, 6a, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13;
 - one zone consisting of Zone 3c (Maitengwe);
 - one zone covering Zone 4a;
 - one zone covering Zone 6b;
- one zone covering Zone 3b designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2016;
- one zone covering Zone 7 designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2018;
- Brazil: State of Santa Catarina designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General in February 2007;
- three zones of Brazil as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2020 as follows:
- State of Paraná;
 - State of Rio Grande do Sul;
 - one zone (Block 1) including the States of Acre and Rondônia and 14 municipalities in the State of Amazonas and five municipalities in the State of Mato Grosso;
- one zone covering the States of Alagoas, Amapá, Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Roraima, São Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins and Distrito Federal, with the exclusion of the municipalities of the States of Amazonas and Mato Grosso that are part of the zone of Block 1, as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2024;
- Chinese Taipei: one zone covering Taiwan, Penghu and Matsu areas, as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2019;
- Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 1995 and in April 1996 (Area I - Northwest region of Chocó Department);
- one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andrés and Providencia);
- Ecuador: one zone consisting of the insular territory of the Galápagos, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2014;
- Malaysia: one zone covering the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak as designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in documents addressed to the Director General in December 2003;
- Moldova: one zone designated by the Delegate of Moldova in documents addressed to

- the Director General in July 2008;
- Namibia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in documents addressed to the Director General in February 1997;
- Russia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2015 and March 2016;
4. The Director General publish the following List of Members having FMD-free zones,¹ where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:
- Argentina: one zone, consisting of two merged zones: Centro Norte and Cordón Fronterizo, as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and October 2013, in August 2010 and February 2014, and in September 2024;
- Chinese Taipei: one zone consisting of Kinmen County as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2017;
- Colombia: three separate zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2019 as follows:
- Zone I (Northern border) consisting of Departments of La Guajira, Cesar and part of the Department of Norte de Santander;
 - Zone III (Trade) consisting of the Departments of Atlántico, Córdoba, Magdalena, Sucre and part of Antioquia, Bolívar and Chocó Departments;
 - Zone IV (Rest of the country), consisting of the Departments of Amazonas, Caldas, Caquetá, Cauca, Casanare, Cundinamarca, Guainía, Guaviare, Huila, Meta, Nariño, Quindío, Putumayo, Risaralda, Santander, Tolima, Valle del Cauca, Vaupés and part of Antioquia, Bolívar, Boyacá, and Chocó Departments;
- one zone consisting of two merged zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2019 and in August 2020, which includes Zone II (Eastern border) and the former high surveillance zone covering the Departments of Arauca and Vichada and the municipality of Cubará of the Department of Boyacá;
- one zone, namely Protection Zone I (PZ I) covering 29 municipalities of the Department of Norte de Santander, as designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2022;
- Ecuador: one zone consisting of the continental Ecuador, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2014;
- Kazakhstan: five separate zones designated by the Delegate of Kazakhstan in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2016 as follows:
- Zone 1 consisting of Almaty and Zhetisu regions;
 - Zone 2 consisting of Abay and East Kazakhstan regions;
 - Zone 3 including part of Kyzylorda region, northern part of South Kazakhstan region, northern and central parts of Zhambyl region;
 - Zone 4 including southern part of Kyzylorda region and south-western part of South Kazakhstan region;

¹ For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as free from FMD, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHA.

- Zone 5 including south-eastern part of South Kazakhstan region and southern part of Zhambyl region;
- Korea (Rep. of): one zone consisting of the island of Jeju, as designated by the Delegate of Korea (Rep. of) in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2024;
- Russia: two zones of Russia as designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2020 as follows:
- Zone-South including Southern and North Caucasian Federal Districts, consisting of 13 Subjects: Rostov Oblast, Stavropol Krai, Krasnodar Krai, Volgograd Oblast, Astrakhan Oblast, Republic of Kalmykia, Chechen Republic, Republic of Ingushetia, Republic of Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, Karachay-Cherkess Republic, Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, Republic of Adygea;
 - Zone-Sakhalin consisting of the Island of Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands;
 - one zone of Eastern Siberia consisting of two Subjects (Republic of Tuva and Republic of Buryatia) and one Raion of the Republic of Altai (Kosh-Agachsky Raion) designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2021;
- one zone, namely Zone V 'Far East' consisting of five Subjects: Amur Oblast, Jewish Autonomous Oblast, Primorsky Krai, Khabarovsk Krai, Zabaykalsky Krai, as designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2022;
- one zone consisting of ten Russian Subjects: Saratov, Samara, Orenburg, Chelyabinsk, Kurgan, Tyumen, Omsk, Novosibirsk Oblasts, Altai Krai and the Republic of Altai with the exception of the Kosh-Agachsky Raion as designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2024;
- Türkiye (Rep. of): one zone designated by the Delegate of Türkiye (Rep. of) in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2009.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the WOA Headquarters if FMD occurs in their countries or free zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 14

Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 79th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19 establishing a new step in the procedure for recognising the foot and mouth disease (FMD) status of a Member, namely the endorsement by WOAHA of an official control programme for FMD being in compliance with the provisions of the chapter on FMD in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for FMD,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for endorsement of their official control programme for FMD to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAHA in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAHA Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAHA website,
6. Information published by WOAHA is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAHA is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Members' official control programme for FMD based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to WOAHA Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for FMD, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Botswana	Morocco	Namibia
India	Mongolia	Thailand
Kyrgyzstan		
2. The Delegates of these Members shall notify WOAHA Headquarters of the occurrence of FMD, changes in the epidemiological situation and other significant events in their countries or territories in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025

in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 15

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Members and zones recognised as free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain diseases, including CBPP,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of animal health status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAAH in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAAH Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
7. Information published by WOAAH is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAAH is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal animal health status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAAH Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as CBPP-free according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Ecuador	Paraguay
Australia	Eswatini	Peru
Bolivia	France ¹	Portugal ²
Botswana	India	Russia
Brazil	Italy	Singapore
Canada	Mexico	South Africa
China (People's Rep. of)	Mongolia	Switzerland
Colombia	New Caledonia	United States of America
Czech Republic	Norway	Uruguay

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a CBPP-free zone³ according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia: one zone located south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in documents addressed to the Director General in October 2015;

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the WOAHA Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries or free zone within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

¹ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Réunion.

² Including Azores and Madeira.

³ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member recognised as free from CBPP, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHA.

RESOLUTION No. 16

**Endorsement of Official Control Programmes
for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 82nd General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 31 establishing the endorsement by WOAAH of an official control programme for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), in accordance with the relevant provisions of the chapter on CBPP in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAAH in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAAH Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
6. Information published by WOAAH is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAAH is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Members' official control programme for CBPP based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to WOAAH Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for CBPP, according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia

Zambia

2. The Delegates of these Members shall notify WOAAH Headquarters of the occurrence of CBPP, changes in the epidemiological situation and other significant events in their countries or territories in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 17

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 67th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Members and zones, categorised by their bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status of certain diseases, including BSE risk status,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of BSE risk status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAHP in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAHP Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAHP website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAHP website,
7. Information published by WOAHP is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAHP is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal risk status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAHP Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of the BSE risk status,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Denmark	Latvia	Portugal ²
Australia	Estonia	Liechtenstein	Romania
Austria	Finland ¹	Lithuania	Serbia ³
Belgium	France	Luxembourg	Singapore
Bolivia	Germany	Malta	Slovakia
Brazil	Hungary	Mexico	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Iceland	Namibia	Spain ⁴
Canada	India	New Zealand	Sweden
Chile	Ireland	Nicaragua	Switzerland
Colombia	Israel	Norway	The Netherlands
Costa Rica	Italy	Panama	United States of America
Croatia	Japan	Paraguay	Uruguay
Cyprus	Korea (Rep. of)	Peru	
Czech Republic		Poland	

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Chinese Taipei	Greece
Ecuador	Russia

3. The Director General publish the following List of Members with zones⁵ recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

China (People's Rep. of): a zone designated by the Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2013, consisting of the People's Republic of China, with the exclusion of Hong Kong and Macau;

United Kingdom: one zone consisting of Northern Ireland as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2016;

one zone consisting of Jersey as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2019;

one zone consisting of England and Wales as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General in September and October 2016, November 2021 and August 2024;

one zone consisting of Scotland as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General in September and October 2016 and in December 2018 and August 2024;

AND

4. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify WOAAH Headquarters if BSE occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

¹ Including Åland Islands.

² Including Azores and Madeira.

³ Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

⁴ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁵ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Members recognised as having a negligible or controlled BSE risk, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAAH.

RESOLUTION No. 18

Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 80th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*) on African horse sickness (AHS). These standards provide a pathway for Members or zones to be recognised by WOAAH as free from AHS,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including AHS,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of animal health status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAAH in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAAH Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
7. Information published by WOAAH is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAAH is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal animal health status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAAH Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from AHS,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as AHS-free according to the provisions of Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Algeria	Cyprus	Kuwait	Portugal. ⁴
Andorra	Czech Republic	Latvia	Qatar
Argentina	Denmark	Liechtenstein	Romania
Australia	Ecuador	Lithuania	Saudi Arabia
Austria	Egypt	Luxembourg	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Estonia	Malaysia	Slovakia
Bahrain	Finland. ²	Malta	Slovenia
Belgium	France. ³	Mexico	Spain. ⁵
Bolivia	Germany	Morocco	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	New Caledonia	Switzerland
Brazil	Hungary	New Zealand	Thailand
Bulgaria	Iceland	North Macedonia (Rep. of)	The Netherlands
Canada	India	Norway	Tunisia
Chile	Ireland	Oman	Türkiye (Rep. of)
China (People's Rep. of). ¹	Italy	Paraguay	United Arab Emirates
Chinese Taipei	Japan	Peru	United Kingdom. ⁶
Colombia	Kazakhstan	Philippines	United States of America. ⁷
Croatia	Korea (Rep. of)	Poland	Uruguay

AND

- The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify WOHAI Headquarters if AHS occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

¹ Including Hong Kong and Macau.

² Including Åland Islands.

³ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Saint-Pierre-and-Miquelon.

⁴ Including Azores and Madeira.

⁵ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁶ Including Cayman Islands, Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey, Saint Helena and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). (A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [see resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations]).

⁷ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

RESOLUTION No. 19

Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on peste des petits ruminants (PPR). These standards provide a pathway for Members or zones to be recognised by WOAHA as free from PPR,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including PPR,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of animal health status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAHA in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAHA Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAHA website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAHA website,
7. Information published by WOAHA is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAHA is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal animal health status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAHA Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from PPR,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as PPR-free according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Czech Republic	Liechtenstein	Poland
Australia	Denmark	Lithuania	Portugal ³
Austria	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Russia
Azerbaijan	Estonia	Madagascar	Singapore
Belgium	Eswatini	Malta	Slovakia
Bolivia	Finland ¹	Mauritius	Slovenia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	France ²	Mexico	South Africa
Botswana	Germany	New Caledonia	Spain ⁴
Brazil	Iceland	New Zealand	Sweden
Canada	Ireland	North Macedonia (Rep. of)	Switzerland
Chile	Italy	Norway	The Netherlands
Chinese Taipei	Korea (Rep. of)	Paraguay	United Kingdom ⁵
Colombia	Latvia	Peru	United States of America ⁶
Croatia	Lesotho	Philippines	Uruguay
Cyprus			

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a PPR-free zone⁷ according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia: one zone located south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2014;

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify WOAHA Headquarters if PPR occurs in their countries or free zone within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

¹ Including Åland Islands.

² Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

³ Including Azores and Madeira.

⁴ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁵ Including Cayman Islands, Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey, Saint Helena and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). (A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [see resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations]).

⁶ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

⁷ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member recognised as free from PPR, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHA.

RESOLUTION No. 20

Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on classical swine fever (CSF). These standards provide a pathway for Members or zones to be recognised by WOAHP as free from CSF,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including CSF,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of animal health status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAHP in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAHP Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAHP website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAHP website,
7. Information published by WOAHP is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAHP is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal animal health status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAHP Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CSF,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as CSF-free according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	France ²	Norway
Australia	Germany	Paraguay
Austria	Hungary	Poland
Belgium	Ireland	Portugal. ³
Bulgaria	Italy	Slovakia
Canada	Kazakhstan	Slovenia
Chile	Latvia	Spain. ⁴
Chinese Taipei	Liechtenstein	Sweden
Costa Rica	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Croatia	Malta	The Netherlands
Czech Republic	Mexico	United Kingdom. ⁵
Denmark	New Caledonia	United States of America. ⁶
Finland. ¹	New Zealand	Uruguay

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having CSF-free zones⁷ according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Brazil: one zone composed of the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2014;

one zone covering the States of Acre, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Rondônia, São Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins and Distrito Federal, and the municipalities of Guajará, Boca do Acre, South of the municipality of Canutama and Southwest of the municipality of Lábrea in the State of Amazonas as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2015 and in October 2020;

one zone consisting of the State of Paraná as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General in October 2020;

Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2015;

the central-eastern zone as designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in October 2020;

Ecuador: one zone consisting of the insular territory of the Galápagos as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in documents addressed to the Director General in October 2018;

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the WOAHA Headquarters if CSF occurs in their countries or free zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

¹ Including Åland Islands.

² Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte and Réunion.

³ Including Azores and Madeira.

⁴ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁵ Including Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man and Jersey.

⁶ Including Guam, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

⁷ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Members recognised as free from CSF, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHA.

RESOLUTION No. 21

Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 84th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 26, which confirmed Members' commitment towards the elimination of dog-mediated rabies by 2030,
2. During the 87th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 27 establishing the endorsement by WOAAH of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the chapter on infection with rabies virus in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified the procedure for Members to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for dog-mediated rabies,
4. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for endorsement of their official control programme for dog-mediated rabies to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAAH in the evaluation process,
5. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAAH Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
6. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
7. Information published by WOAAH is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAAH is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Members' official control programme for dog-mediated rabies based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to WOAAH Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for dog-mediated rabies,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.15. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia	Tanzania
Philippines	Zambia
2. The Delegates of these Members shall notify WOAAH Headquarters the occurrence of dog-mediated rabies, changes in the epidemiological situation and other significant events in their countries or territories in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 22

**Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to
Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest**

ACKNOWLEDGING the declaration of global freedom from rinderpest in May 2011 and the commitment made by Members to maintaining this status, reaffirmed through WOAHP Resolution No. 21 (2017),

REITERATING the importance of reducing the risk posed by rinderpest virus containing material through its safe destruction, including all the non-essential material held by designated facilities (hereinafter 'Rinderpest Holding Facilities'),

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Resolution No. 23 (2014) requested the Director General to put in place, jointly with FAO, a system to designate, inspect, monitor and evaluate Rinderpest Holding Facilities,
2. Resolution No. 24 (2019) extended the designation of the Rinderpest Holding Facilities first designated through Resolution No. 25 (2015) for a three-year period,
3. Resolution No. 23 (2019) designated two new Rinderpest Holding Facilities for a three-year period.
4. Resolution No. 27 (2022) extended the designation of all the previously designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities for a one-year period.
5. Resolution No. 27 (2023) extended the designation of all the previously designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities for a three-year period, based on four site inspections undertaken in 2022.
6. In October and December 2024, an independent team commissioned by WOAHP and FAO carried out re-inspections of the two Rinderpest Holding Facilities designated in 2019, and in March 2025, it carried out a site inspection of a candidate Rinderpest Holding Facility.
7. The Mandate for Rinderpest Holding Facilities from Resolution No. 27 (2023) has been updated to reflect that the definition of essential rinderpest virus containing material includes only vaccine strains listed in the WOAHP Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, manufactured vaccines, and materials for vaccine production (Appendix I).
8. Resolutions No. 27 (2022) and No. 27 (2023) mandated Rinderpest Holding Facilities to work towards an ever-reducing inventory.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Members, including those hosting designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities, destroy all non-essential rinderpest virus containing material. Field strains, plasmids, and other materials not mentioned in preambulatory clause no. 7 are considered non-essential.

RESOLVES

To designate the following facility as approved for holding rinderpest virus containing material (Category A) for the period of one year, on behalf of WOAHP, and subject to equivalent action by FAO.

A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks:

1. Indian Council of Agricultural Research – National Institute for High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal, India.

To conclude, with high praise, the designation the following facility as approved for holding rinderpest virus containing material (Category A), on behalf of WOAHP, and subject to equivalent action by FAO, given the destruction of all rinderpest virus containing material therein stored except for materials for vaccine production.

A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks:

1. Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, France.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

MANDATE FOR A FACILITY DESIGNATED TO HOLD RINDERPEST VIRUS CONTAINING MATERIAL

The facilities designated by FAO and WOAHA to hold rinderpest virus (RPV)-containing material.¹ (hereinafter 'Rinderpest Holding Facilities') have a mandate which justifies their function and ensures safe storage of this material.

The Rinderpest Holding Facility has a separate mandate and approval mechanism to that of a WOAHA Reference Laboratory for rinderpest and a FAO Reference Centre for morbillivirus.

Although the decision to designate a Rinderpest Holding Facility lies with the WOAHA World Assembly of Delegates, the Member's WOAHA Delegate must support the application and be fully aware of the Mandate, and the country hosting the Rinderpest Holding Facility should have an up-to-date contingency plan for rinderpest.

The following text describes the Mandates of the two categories of Rinderpest Holding Facility:

- A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks.
- B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production.

A) Rinderpest virus holding facilities for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks:

1. To retain an up-to-date inventory of RPV-containing material and sequence data (including recording entry and exit of this material into and out of the facility), and to share this information with FAO and WOAHA through the designated web-based system.
2. To send an annual report to FAO and WOAHA through the designated web-based system.
3. To safely hold RPV-containing material at an appropriate level of biocontainment and ensure appropriate measures are taken to prevent its accidental or deliberate release.
4. To accept RPV-containing material from FAO and WOAHA Members for safe storage and/or for destruction.
5. To notify FAO and WOAHA before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure chain of custody.
6. To provide RPV-containing material to other institutes for the research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and WOAHA.
7. To contribute, when requested by FAO and WOAHA, to the Global Rinderpest Action Plan and the global rinderpest vaccine reserve.

¹ *RPV-containing material* means field and laboratory strains of RPV; vaccine strains of RPV including valid and expired vaccine stocks; tissues, sera and other material from animals known or suspected to be infected; laboratory-generated diagnostic material containing live virus, recombinant morbilliviruses (segmented or nonsegmented) containing unique RPV nucleic acid or amino acid sequences, and full length genomic material including virus RNA and its cDNA copies. Subgenomic fragments of RPV genome (either as plasmid or incorporated into recombinant viruses) that cannot be incorporated into a replicating morbillivirus or morbillivirus-like virus are not considered to be RPV-containing material, neither are sera that have been either heat-treated to at least 56°C for at least two hours, or shown to be free from RPV genome sequences by a validated RT-PCR assay.

8. To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity, and to notify FAO and WOA, should a breach of biocontainment happen, with or without release of RPV-containing material.
9. To notify immediately FAO and WOA of any release or contamination of RPV-containing material in other virus stock or material stored at the facility.
10. To seek approval from FAO and WOA before manipulating RPV-containing materials for the purposes of research or any other purposes, including in private sector institutions, or before shipping RPV-containing materials to other institutes.
11. To work towards an ever-reducing inventory of RPV-containing material from the time of adoption of the resolution, aiming to keep only essential material.² to safeguard the global freedom.
12. To participate in scientific meetings in its capacity as FAO-WOA Rinderpest Holding Facility and using that title.
13. To undergo regular inspections and inventory audits by FAO and WOA, at the institute's expense, to ensure that storage is secure and that safe operating conditions are met.
14. To fully cooperate by providing all the relevant reports and information when FAO and WOA carry out a site inspection.
15. To provide technical advice or training to personnel from other FAO and WOA Member Countries on the destruction, safe shipment of RPV-containing material, and/or decontamination of facilities.
16. To establish and maintain a network with other Rinderpest Holding Facilities.

B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production:

1. To retain an up-to-date inventory of vaccine stocks including current and expired vaccines and any materials solely for vaccine production and to share such information with FAO and WOA through the designated web-based system.
2. To send an annual report to FAO and WOA through the designated web-based system.
3. To validate or destroy stocks of expired vaccines and to share such information with FAO and WOA through the designated web-based system.
4. To accept vaccine virus seeds or stocks from FAO and WOA Member Countries for safe storage and/or for destruction.
5. To notify FAO and WOA before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure the chain of custody.
6. To provide vaccine virus seeds or vaccines to other institutes (public or private sector) for research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and WOA.
7. To contribute, when requested by FAO and WOA, to the global rinderpest vaccine reserve and the Global Rinderpest Action Plan, including through the emergency

² Essential rinderpest virus containing material means only vaccine strains listed in the WOA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, manufactured vaccine and materials for vaccine production. Field strains, plasmids, and other materials are deemed "non-essential" and should be destroyed.

manufacture and preparation of vaccines in accordance with WOAHA standards and the FAO-WOAH Criteria for Rinderpest Vaccine Manufacturers.

8. To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity, and to notify FAO and WOAHA, should a breach of biocontainment happen, with or without release of RPV-containing material.
9. To notify immediately FAO and WOAHA of any release or contamination of RPV-containing material in other virus stock or material stored at the facility.
10. To seek approval from FAO and WOAHA before manipulating RPV-containing materials for the purposes of vaccine production or any other purposes, or before shipping RPV-containing materials to other institutes.
11. To regularly test the quality of the vaccines in accordance with the WOAHA guidelines.
12. To maintain and follow procedures approved by FAO and WOAHA for managing vaccine stocks (storing packaged and manufactured vaccine).
13. To work towards an ever-reducing inventory of RPV-containing material from the time of adoption of the resolution, aiming to keep only essential material (vaccine seed and manufactured vaccines listed in the WOAHA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines) to safeguard the global freedom.
14. To undergo regular inspections and inventory audits by FAO and WOAHA, at the institute's expense, to ensure that storage is secure and that safe operating conditions are met.
15. To fully cooperate by providing all the relevant reports and information when FAO and WOAHA carry out a site inspection.
16. To establish and maintain a network with other Rinderpest Holding Facilities.

RESOLUTION No. 23

Amendments to the WOAAH *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The content of the WOAAH *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous WOAAH General Sessions;
2. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with amendments proposed by the WOAAH Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 30 and 31 of Document 92 GS/Tech-07), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 30 and 31 of Document 92 GS/Tech-07 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic;
2. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 5, 10 and 12 of Document 92 GS/Tech-07 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. In Annex 5 (Chapter 4.X.)
 - a) In Article 4.X.5., point 2,
remove 'and compensation'.
 - b) In Article 4.X.11., point 4,
replace 'considering the availability of compensation' with 'which may consider the potential availability of relevant supports such as compensation'.
 - 2.2. In Annex 10 (Glossary)
 - a) In the definition of 'ornamental aquatic animal'
replace 'to be supplied for sale as a pet' with 'for sale and use as a pet'.
 - 2.3. Annex 12 (periods of basic biosecurity conditions and targeted surveillance in Articles X.X.5. – X.X.7. for disease-specific chapters)
 - a) In Article 10.3.5., point 2,
replace 'not suitable for infection with *G. salaris*' with '[under study]'.

- b) In Article 10.3.6., point 2,
replace 'not suitable for infection with *G. salaris*' with '[under study]'.
 - c) In Article 10.4.9., point 1,
for the period of targeted surveillance replace 'one' with '[under study]'
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 24

Amendments to the WOAH *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The content of the WOAH *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (the *Aquatic Manual*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous WOAH General Sessions,
2. Members were asked for the comments of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Aquatic Manual* before it was finalised by the Aquatic Standards Commission,
3. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Manual* in accordance with amendments proposed by the WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of Document 92 GS/Tech-07).

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the following updates to the *Aquatic Manual* chapters proposed in the Annexes of Document 92 GS/Tech-07 in English, the text being authentic:
Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.2.9. 'Infection with white spot syndrome virus' (Annex 22)
Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.3.1. 'Infection with *A. invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)' (Annex 23)
Chapter 2.4.2. 'Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*' (Annex 24)
Chapter 2.4.3. 'Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*' (Annex 25)
With the amendments approved by the Assembly:
In Section 6.2.2. 'Definition of confirmed case in clinically affected animals', point i), to delete "or" after "PCR" and before "and"
Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.6. 'Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*' (Annex 26)
Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.7. 'Infection with *Xenohalotis californiensis*' (Annex 27)
2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted text in a revised edition in the on-line version of the *Aquatic Manual*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2025)

Amendments to the WOAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The content of the WOAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates at previous WOAH General Sessions;
2. It is necessary to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with amendments proposed by the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Document 92GS/Tech-05), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 5, 6, 8, 9 and 12 of Document 92GS/Tech-05 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic;
2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 7, 10, 13 and 14 of Document 92GS/Tech-05 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. In Annex 7 (Chapter 7.1.)
 - a) In Article 7.1.2., in point 5,
replace 'makes a major contribution to' with 'is associated with'.
 - b) In Article 7.1.5., in point 5,
add 'risk of' after 'minimise'.
 - c) In Article 7.1.5., in point 6,
add 'light,' after 'air flow,'.
 - d) In Article 7.1.5., in point 7,
replace 'to prevent severe or prolonged hunger and thirst, malnutrition and dehydration.' with 'to prevent malnutrition, dehydration, and severe or prolonged hunger and thirst.'
 - 2.2. In Annex 10 (Chapter 11.5.)
 - a) In Article 11.5.6., in the last paragraph,
replace 'periods do' with 'period does'
 - b) In the English version only, in Article 11.5.10., in point 1 a),
add 'at least' after 'or for'.

- c) In the English version only, in Article 11.5.12., in point 1 a),
add 'at least' after 'or for'.
 - d) In the English version only, in Article 11.5.13., in point 4, in the fifth paragraph,
replace comma after 'systems' with 'and'.
- 2.3. In Annex 13 (Chapter 12.3.)
- a) In Article 12.3.8., in the first paragraph,
remove 'for purposes other than breeding and rearing,' after 'Article 12.3.7.,'
 - b) In Article 12.3.8., in point 2 a),
add 'rearing and' after 'used for'.
- 2.4. In Annex 14 (Chapter 12.4.)
- a) In Article 12.4.1., in the first paragraph,
add a period after 'importance to public health';

add 'Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) and western equine encephalitis virus (WEEV) are' before 'transmitted';

add 'infection with' after 'the early detection of';

replace 'EEE or WEE' with 'EEEV or WEEV'.
 - b) In Article 12.4.1., in the second paragraph,
replace 'eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV)' with 'EEEV';

replace 'western equine encephalitis virus (WEEV)' with 'WEEV'.
 - c) In Article 12.4.3., in the fifth paragraph,
add 'mosquito' after 'monitoring of';

remove the last sentence 'Although birds are susceptible to EEE and WEE, they often do not exhibit clinical signs and have low mortality rates, therefore surveillance of birds is not worthwhile'.
 - d) In Article 12.4.3., in the last paragraph,
add 'mosquito' after the following terms:

'indicative of';

'WEEV than';

'Findings of EEEV or WEEV in'.
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

Amendments to the WOAH *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, like the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to terrestrial animals and animal products,
2. Members were asked for the comments of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it was finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the following texts for the *Terrestrial Manual*:

1.1.3. 'Transport of biological materials'

1.1.7. 'Standards for high throughput sequencing, bioinformatics and computational genomics'

1.1.9. 'Tests for sterility and freedom from contamination of biological materials intended for veterinary use'

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In Section D. 'Living bacterial vaccines' replace "antibiotics" with "antimicrobials" four times in point 2

2.1.1. 'Laboratory methodologies for bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing'

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In Section A. 'Introduction', add "Variable levels of" before "resistance has been observed" and "despite that there is still a high level of susceptibility present" after "animals"

2.2.1. 'Development and optimisation of antibody detection assays'

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In Section A.1.b. 'Purpose 1b: Contribute to the demonstration of freedom from infection in a defined population: re-establishment of freedom after outbreaks' add "This shift in prevalence affects the positive predictive value (PPV) and negative predictive value (NPV) of a given test (Figure 1); therefore, test selection should be made accordingly." after the first sentence

In Section A.2.1.3. 'Positive and negative reference panel' add "In cases where such population-specific samples are unavailable, such as during the validation of an assay intended for use in a disease-free population, sera from experimentally sensitised animals may be used as an alternative. However, test performance parameters must be

interpreted with caution due to potential differences in antibody profiles elicited by natural infection versus sensitisation.” after the third sentence

In Section B.2.2.1. ‘Animals of known infection status’ move “Heuer & Stevenson (2021) describe procedures for diagnostic test validation studies when there is a perfect reference standard available for either positive or negative animals or both.” from point v) and add it to the end of point i)

Add the following reference to the list: “GARDNER I.A., STRYHN H., LIND P. & COLLINS M.T. (2000). Conditional dependence between tests affects the diagnosis and surveillance of animal diseases. *Prev. Vet. Med.*, **45**, 107–122. doi: 10.1016/s0167-5877(00)00119-7.”

- 2.2.2. ‘Development and optimisation of antigen detection assays’
- 2.2.3. ‘Development and optimisation of nucleic acid detection assays’
- 2.2.5. ‘Statistical approaches to validation’
- 2.2.8. ‘Comparability of assays after minor changes in a validated test method’
- 3.1.2. ‘Aujeszky’s disease (infection with suid alphaherpesvirus 1 [SuAHV1])’

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In the Summary section on ‘Requirements for vaccines’ to add “Generally, pigs are vaccinated at the beginning of the growing period, i.e. when they are between 9 and 12 weeks old. Some vaccines can also be used in pregnant sows to protect young piglets against central nervous disorders and mortality through passive immunity (follow the manufacturer’s recommendations).” after the first sentence

- 3.1.8. ‘Foot and mouth disease (infection with foot and mouth disease virus)’

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In the Summary text on vaccine challenge tests, to replace “reduce the number of animals being used” with “replace potency tests”

In Section B.1.3.6. ‘Molecular epidemiology’ add “Sequencing 1D, the genomic region encoding” before “VP1” and delete “sequencing” after “VP1”

- 3.1.9. ‘Heartwater’
- 3.1.21. ‘Rinderpest (infection with rinderpest virus)’
- 3.2.4. ‘Infestation of honey bees with *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle)’
- 3.2.5. ‘Infestation of honey bees with *Tropilaelaps* spp’
- 3.3.1. ‘Avian chlamydiosis’
- 3.3.2. ‘Avian infectious bronchitis’
- 3.3.4. ‘Avian influenza (including infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses)’

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In Section B.1.4 ‘Assessment of pathogenicity’ to add the following reference to support the recommended virus haemagglutinin titre of >16 to be used for the intravenous

pathogenicity index: Terregino C. & Capua I. (2009). Conventional Diagnosis of Avian Influenza. *In: Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease*, Capua I. & Alexander D.J., eds, Springer, Milano. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-88-470-0826-7_7.

In Section B.1.4 'Assessment of pathogenicity' after "At each" replace "observation, each bird is" with "24-hour interval post-inoculation, birds are observed and"

- 3.4.9. 'Enzootic bovine leukosis'
- 3.4.13. 'Theileriosis in cattle (infection with *Theileria annulata*, *T. orientalis* and *T. parva*)'
- 3.4.14. 'Trichomonosis'
- 3.6.1. 'African horse sickness (infection with African horse sickness virus)'
- 3.6.5. 'Equine infectious anaemia (infection with equine infectious anaemia virus)'
- 3.8.2. 'Caprine arthritis/encephalitis & maedi-visna (infection with small ruminant lentiviruses)'
- 3.8.5. 'Enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis) (infection with *Chlamydia abortus*)'
- 3.9.2. 'Classical swine fever (infection with classical swine fever virus)'
- 3.9.7. 'Swine vesicular disease (infection with swine vesicular disease virus)'
- 3.9.1. 'African swine fever (infection with African swine fever virus)' (vaccine section only)

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In Section A. 'Introduction' to add "(Kitamura *et al.*, 2025)" at the end of the sentence: "In addition, there is a risk that vaccine strains might be transmitted to non-vaccinates and/or revert to virulence and/or recombine with circulating strains"

KITAMURA T., MASUJIN K., IKEZAWA M., AMBAGALA A. & KOKUHO T. (2025). Generation of Chimeric African Swine Fever Viruses Through *In Vitro* and *In Vivo* Intergenotypic Gene Complementation. *Vaccines*, **13**(5), 462. doi: 10.3390/vaccines13050462.

In Section C.1 'Background', first point on the characteristics of an optimal ASF modified live virus (MLV) first generation vaccine for the target host add "have no detected impact on the reproductive safety of pregnant sows" and "genetic stability" and delete "genetic and" from the text in the brackets at the end of the point

In Section C.1. 'Background', add a new paragraph after "(Diep *et al.*, 2024).": "There is evidence that first generation MLV vaccines may revert to virulence and negatively affect the reproductive performance of pregnant sows (Nguyen *et al.*, 2025; Van den Born *et al.*, 2025). Additionally, as first generation MLV vaccines are unlikely to cause sterile immunity, immunised pigs are likely to shed the vaccine viruses, which may result in horizontal transmission of the vaccine viruses. This could affect reproductive performance of pregnant sows and may also increase the risk of recombination of the vaccine virus with circulating strains." And add the following references to the list:

NGUYEN T.C., BUI N.T.T., NGUYEN L.T., NGO T.N.T., VAN NGUYEN C., NGUYEN L.M., NOUHIN J., KARLSSON E., PADUNGTOD P., PAMORNCHAINAVAKUL N., KESDANGSAKONWUT S., THANAWONGNUWECH R. & DO D.T. (2025). An African swine fever vaccine-like variant with multiple gene deletions caused reproductive failure in a Vietnamese breeding herd. *Sci. Rep.*, **15**, 14919. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-95641-3>.

VAN DEN BORN E., OLASZ F., MÉSZÁROS I., GÖLTL E., OLÁH B., JOSHI J., VAN KILSDONK E., SEGERS R. & ZÁDORI Z. (2025). African swine fever virus vaccine strain Asfv-G-Δ11771 reverts to virulence and negatively affects reproductive performance. *npj Vaccines*, **10**, 46. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41541-025-01099-9>.

In Section C.1. 'Background', third last paragraph, add "as suggested by a recent publication (Kitamura *et al.*, 2025)" after "strains"

In Section C.2.3.2. 'Safety requirements', iii) 'Horizontal transmission', add "through a risk–benefit balance assessment" after "regulators may determine vaccine safety", delete "No or" before "A low percentage" and add "or ideally no" before "naïve contact pigs"

In Section C.2.3.2. 'Safety requirements', iv) Reversion to virulence, delete "No or" before "A low percentage" and add "or ideally no" before "naïve contact pigs"

In Section C.2.3.3. 'Efficacy requirements', i) 'Protective dose' add to the first point on vaccine compliancy: "It might also be acceptable that a low percentage of vaccinated challenged piglets die or reach the humane endpoint from causes attributable to ASF, depending on the purpose of vaccination, for instance, in cases where the aim is to control the disease rather than eradicate it;"

2. To remove the following chapter from the *Terrestrial Manual*:
 - 2.3.2. 'The role of official bodies in the international regulation of veterinary biologicals'
3. To request the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition in the on-line version of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

RESOLUTION No. 27

Designation of WOAHA Reference Laboratories for aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The WOAHA's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for WOAHA Reference Laboratories,
2. The Terms of Reference of the WOAHA Biological Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission include the responsibility to examine applications from Members relating to the creation of new WOAHA Reference Laboratories with activities corresponding to the Commission's scientific mandate and report its findings to the Director General,
3. All WOAHA Reference Laboratory applications are assessed using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; the technical relevance of the institution and its activities to WOAHA's programme priorities,
4. Details of the applicant laboratories that have been assessed by the WOAHA Biological Standards Commission or the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission are published in the reports of the meetings of the Commissions,
5. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the WOAHA Council,
6. Proposals for a major change in a WOAHA Reference Laboratory follow the same procedure,
7. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for WOAHA Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new WOAHA Reference Laboratories for aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases and add them to the list of WOAHA Reference Laboratories (available on the WOAHA web site):

WOAHA Reference Laboratory for infection with decapod iridescent virus 1

Division of Maricultural Organism Disease Control and Molecular Pathology, Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute (YSFRI), Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF)

WOAHA Reference Laboratory for equine piroplasmiasis

Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRCE), Haryana, INDIA

WOAHA Reference Laboratory for infection with Aphanomyces invadans (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)

Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory, Exotic & Aquatic Animal Health Division, ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow, INDIA

WOAH *Reference Laboratory for equine rhinopneumonitis*
Equine Research Institute, Japan Racing Association, Tochigi, JAPAN

WOAH *Reference Laboratory for African swine fever*
Centro de Investigación en Sanidad Animal (CISA), Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA) del Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Madrid, SPAIN

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

Designation of WOAHA Collaborating Centres

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The WOAHA's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for WOAHA Collaborating Centres,
2. The Terms of Reference of each of the four elected WOAHA Specialist Commissions include the responsibility to examine applications from Members relating to the designation of new WOAHA Collaborating Centres with activities corresponding to the Commission's area of expertise,
3. All WOAHA Collaborating Centre applications are assessed by the appropriate WOAHA Specialist Commission using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; and the technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to WOAHA's programme priorities,
4. Details of the applicant institutions that have been assessed by a Specialist Commission are published in the reports of the meetings of the Commission,
5. All Collaborating Centre applications are assessed by the corresponding Regional Commission and endorsed by the WOAHA Council,
6. Proposals for a major change in a WOAHA Collaborating Centre follow the same procedure,
7. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for WOAHA Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new WOAHA Collaborating Centres and add them to the list of WOAHA Collaborating Centres (available on the WOAHA web site):

WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Advanced Training in Livestock Health
World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health (WVEPAH), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Université de Montréal, Québec, CANADA

WOAHA Collaborating Centre for One Health
International Livestock Research Institution (ILRI), Nairobi, KENYA

WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Trade and Wildlife Health
Centre for Wildlife Forensics, National Parks Board, Animal & Plant Health Centre, SINGAPORE

WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health Surveillance and Epidemiology
Thailand National Wildlife Health Center (Thailand-NWHC), and the Monitoring and Surveillance Center for Zoonotic Diseases in Wildlife and Exotic Animals (MoZWE), Faculty of Veterinary Science, Mahidol University, THAILAND

WOAH Collaborating Centre for Research, Diagnosis and Surveillance of Wildlife Pathogens

A consortium formed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, New York, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the current WOAHA Collaborating Centre consortium hosted by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, Department of Veterinary Pathology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, CANADA and the National Wildlife Health Center, US Geological Survey, US Department of Interior, Madison, Wisconsin, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on Thursday 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on Thursday 30 May 2025)

Veterinary Vaccines and Vaccination. From science to action – reflections for change

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The control of terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases faces growing and intersecting challenges due to increased risks from antimicrobial resistance, climate change, food security pressures, societal concerns regarding animal welfare and sustainable animal production, as well as endemic, emerging and transboundary infectious diseases including zoonoses;
2. Effective disease control requires a combination of measures, including biosecurity, movement control, zoning and compartmentalisation, surveillance, and effective communication strategies. Within these, vaccination can serve as valuable complementary tool;
3. Vaccines, where available, are one of the most cost-effective and impactful tools for the prevention, control, elimination and eradication of animal diseases, with demonstrated contributions to animal health, animal welfare, public health, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable food systems, within a One Health framework;
4. For certain diseases, vaccines, along with other measures, are an important risk mitigation tool for the safe trade of animals and animal products;
5. Limited availability and access of quality vaccines, and use of substandard and falsified vaccines pose a significant risk to Members in achieving the intended outcomes of vaccination programmes;
6. Veterinary vaccines, along with other preventive measures, can significantly reduce the need for antimicrobials in animals, thereby playing a critical role in the containment of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as committed by Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, when adopting the [79th United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\) political declaration on AMR](#);
7. Despite their benefits, veterinary vaccines remain underutilised due to challenges in their development, production, registration, procurement, logistics for storage, transport and handling, accessibility, implementation and monitoring, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs);
8. Vaccine adoption is significantly influenced by prevailing socio-economic and political factors, including community trust and buy-in, effective communication, equitable access and recognition as a public good, trade considerations, and the level of public-private partnerships;
9. Adoption of vaccination sometimes leads to unjustified trade restrictions, which can be addressed through transparent communication as well as implementation and recognition of international standards;
10. WOAHP provides international standards and guidelines on vaccine quality, vaccination and surveillance strategies, vaccine banks and strategic reserves, safe international trade of vaccinated animals and their products, and plays a key role in fostering collaboration among Members, stakeholders, and scientific partners;
11. The 2025 Animal Health Forum, based on the Technical Item, and under the theme “Veterinary Vaccines and Vaccination. From science to action – reflections for change” has provided new insights and priorities for action to better integrate vaccination into animal health systems.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. WOAH promotes international collaboration on vaccine research and development, including through public private partnerships, as well as mutual recognition agreements including the registration of novel vaccine platforms and biotechnology (such as mRNA and viral vector systems);
2. WOAH develops and updates international standards for the vaccine safety, efficacy, integration of new technologies and, when applicable, safe trade of vaccinated animals and their products, ensuring global recognition and trust. WOAH Members implement these standards to promote acquisition and maintenance of free disease status, and avoid unjustified trade restrictions, promoting transparency, consistency, and mutual recognition of veterinary certifications to facilitate safe international trade;
3. WOAH works to develop Target Product Profiles (TPPs) for vaccines against priority animal diseases, including those where vaccination could reduce the need for antimicrobials. Their development should be by consensus and involve all relevant public and private stakeholders to ensure TPPs are reasonable, effective, and support WOAH standards and equitable vaccine access;
4. WOAH, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, assesses the inclusion of provisions for aquatic animal vaccines in the Aquatic Animal Health Code and Manual, ensuring that aquatic animal vaccination is recognised, standardised, and harmonised;
5. WOAH and its Members promote the appropriate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, including through the development of technical guidance, pathogen emergency access protocols, and national legislation that supports disease surveillance, control and vaccine innovation;
6. WOAH completes the deployment of the global alert system on substandard and falsified veterinary products to strengthen vaccine quality oversight and support the removal of these vaccines from circulation, and WOAH Members to actively report to WOAH incidents of substandard and falsified vaccines encountered in their territories;
7. WOAH and its Members improve vaccine forecasting needs and national procurement processes, in coordination with vaccine manufacturers, including reviewing national and regional frameworks to enable provisions for limited use and access during emergency situations, facilitate the access to the existing WOAH vaccine banks and evaluate the need to expand or create regional vaccine banks or strategic reserves to meet future needs;
8. WOAH and its Members continue to consider and advocate, when appropriate and based on a risk analysis, for the strategic use of vaccination as a complementary tool to contribute towards sustainable disease control. As a complement to its standards, and to support their proper implementation by its Members, WOAH develops technical guidance on vaccination strategies and programmes, that considers risk assessment and incorporates socio-economic and One Health considerations. This guidance is tailored for the relevant region including the need for capacity building and tailored communication strategies. WOAH also provides guidance on vaccination monitoring and vaccinovigilance, to evaluate safety, efficiency, field-level effectiveness, and programme impact;
9. WOAH Reference Centres support Members by providing expertise to assess the quality of vaccines, define effective vaccination strategies aligned with WOAH standards, and implement effective monitoring systems to promote sustainable disease control strategies, including at regional level.

10. WOHAI updates the list of priority diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use, and support Members to achieve their commitment to ensure that animal vaccination strategies are defined with an implementation plan by 2030, in alignment with the political declaration on AMR, adopted during the 79th United Nations General Assembly;
11. WOHAI and its Members convene regular dialogue between public and private sectors to support progress towards these recommendations and consider actions necessary for advancement.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2025
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2025)

REPORTS
of WOAHA Regional Commissions meetings
held during the 92nd General Session

Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa Session 1 (virtual)

The Regional Commission for Africa met by videoconference on 8 May 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 80 participants, including Delegates and/or Alternate Delegates from 38 Members of the Commission and representatives from 6 international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroun, Cape Verde, Central African (Rep.), Chad, Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

International/regional organisations: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) / IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) Centre, Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

The Meeting was chaired by Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, accompanied by Dr Karim Tounkara, Regional Representative for Africa.

1 Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

2 Outcomes of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 7 February 2025

Dr Abderrahman El Abrak, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Morocco, summarised the main conclusions from the topics presented and discussed during the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa. The Conference was attended by 120 participants, including WOAHA Delegates, representatives of 37 Members of the Region, and senior officers from 12 regional and international organisations and institutions.

Dr El Abrak highlighted the following key points that the conference emphasised: 1) the need for Members to better coordinate among themselves, foster partnerships and engage with stakeholders to prevent, control and eradicate diseases; and 2) the importance of advocacy, visibility, and establishing clear frameworks and policies to improve animal health and welfare, ensure food safety, and secure trade.

Finally, he reminded the Delegates that two recommendations had been adopted by the Regional Commission regarding the two technical items of the Conference (Technical Item I: Control and eradication of CBPP in Africa: Challenges and Strategies for a CBPP Free Africa, and the Technical Item II: Veterinary Services and food safety: challenges and perspectives for policy development in the context of market unification on a continental scale). Both recommendations will be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for endorsement.

3 **Confirmation of the date and venue of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2027**

Dr Rose Ademun, Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Uganda, asked the Regional Commission Delegates if any Members were interested in hosting the next Regional Conference.

Chad, Liberia, and Zimbabwe expressed an interest in hosting the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa in February 2027. Dr Ademun also said that her country would be interested in hosting the Conference.

The Regional and Sub Regional Representatives were requested to share detailed information on the financial responsibilities of the host country with the interested Members, so they could discuss the matter at national level and make a final decision before the next Regional Commission meeting.

The host country will be confirmed during the Regional Commission Meeting for Africa, which will be held in person during the General Session on Sunday, 25 May 2025.

4 **Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa**

Following a Zoom poll consultation, the Regional Commission selected the following technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission:

Impact of climate change on the emergence of vector-borne diseases:
Challenges and prospects for control

5 **Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHA through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)**

Following a Zoom poll, the Regional Commission agreed to select a unique strategic topic of global interest to be addressed by the WOAHA through various means:

Current global situation of AMR in terrestrial and aquatic animals:
challenges, perspectives and implications for Veterinary Services

6 **Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results**

Ms Stéphanie Frehel, Head of the Performance Management and Internal Control Unit, presented the key findings of the workshops held with the Regional Core Group (RCG) members during the first phase of the 8th WOAHA Strategic Plan development. She reported that the process had been designed to be inclusive and collaborative, with the aim of defining shared priorities for the next five years through strategic pillars and measurable outcomes. The workshops highlighted the key regional priorities expressed by RCG members from the five regions. For Africa, these included capacity building, prevention and control of animal diseases from a regional perspective, reform of veterinary training, Intra-African trade, climate change and AMR (emphasis on regional and interdisciplinary cooperation).

Ms Frehel explained that the following common strategic topics had been identified across the regions during the workshops: standard setting and safe trade; animal health and welfare services and systems; and the need for WOAHA to affirm its leadership on animal health. Enablers had also been identified, including collaboration partnerships, sustainability (in terms of resources and governance), and data and technology.

Ms Frehel provided details of the next steps and concluded by informing participants that the findings of the first phase will inform the development of the strategic axes and enablers of the 8th Strategic Plan to be presented by the Director General during the General Session. The findings will also inform the next phase of the plan's development. This phase will focus on the content of the axes and involve a larger number of Members through regional workshops conducted between 30 June and 2 July.

7 Outcomes of the 12th GF-TAD Regional Steering Committee for Africa

Dr Roland Dlamini, member of the Council and Delegate of Eswatini, presented the outcomes of the 12th GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Africa, which took place in Mbabane, Eswatini, from 11 to 13 March 2025.

Dr Dlamini stated that the main objective of the meeting was to review the implementation of the Regional Strategy and gather updates on priority transboundary animal diseases. He noted that the meeting featured lively discussions on emerging issues, such as High Pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), regional networks and activities, and the critical importance of strengthening Veterinary Services.

He concluded by presenting a summary of the key recommendations from the meeting.

8 Outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of Standing Group of Experts (SGE) for African Swine Fever

Dr Viola Chemis, WOAHA Programme Officer, updated the Regional Commission on the outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts (SGE) for African swine fever (ASF), held from 15 to 17 October 2024. The meeting focused on outbreak management, with the aim of understanding national capabilities and capacities for responding to ASF outbreaks.

Dr Chemis mentioned that ASF remains widely present in Africa, wherever pig production is practiced, and that cross-border trade plays an important role in virus transmission. The meeting emphasised that the common practice of total (classic) stamping out has had an adverse effect on human livelihoods, pig welfare, and the environment.

She concluded by reporting that the meeting group recommended adopting alternative culling approaches, such as partial and or selective culling. Other key recommendations included promoting market related incentives to enhance compliance during outbreak management, and intensifying biosecurity, compartmentalisation, stakeholder engagement, risk communication, and behaviour change initiatives.

9 Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at 92 General Session and consultation on technical governance

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and Chair of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), presented an update outlining the Committee's ongoing work and initial recommendations.

He reported that the Committee had held three meetings to develop its work programme and formulate initial recommendations in response to Resolution No. 12 of 2024, which called for potential amendments to the WOAHA Basic Texts. It had been noted that the GRC would take into account the findings of the external analysis of WOAHA's institutional, technical, and financial governance (document 91GS/Adm-13), as well as other reform proposals identified by WOAHA Secretariat or by the Committee itself.

Dr Modisane also announced that the GRC's report to the 92nd General Session (92GS/Adm-06) sets out a two-phase work programme. Phase 1 involves assessing possible changes to WOAHA's governance structure and presenting recommendations to the Assembly in 2027. Phase 2 focuses on drafting the necessary legal texts to implement the Assembly's decisions. The programme also includes indicative timelines for consulting Delegates throughout the process. The report includes eight recommendations for governance reforms that can be implemented from May 2025 onwards

without requiring amendments to the Basic Texts. Three of these require additional work and consultation, particularly with Regional and Specialist Commissions, before formal proposals can be submitted in 2027. These include potential changes to the appointment process for Specialist Commissions as well as enhancing transparency around Members' financial contributions and arrears. The remaining recommendations, which can be implemented by the Secretariat, aim to improve transparency, for example, creating a central repository of WOAAH experts and publishing Council meeting minutes.

Regarding Draft Resolution No. 5 for the 92nd General Session, he noted that it accurately reflects the conclusions of the GRC report and had been reviewed by GRC members. The resolution proposes that the Assembly take note of the GRC's work programme and the initial reforms to be implemented by the Secretariat, and approve that the GRC beginning to work on initial governance reforms, with a view to submitting a proposal to the Assembly at the 2027 General Session.

Dr Modisane finally informed participants that the GRC would begin examining potential improvements to WOAAH's technical governance at its upcoming meeting, scheduled for 23 - 24 May 2025. He reminded participants that background information papers had been made available on the WOAAH Delegate Portal, allowing Delegates to review the materials and share their feedback with their respective regional GRC members. The consultation will mainly focus on two key areas: first, whether to revise the appointment process for members of the Specialist Commissions, including the possible introduction of term limits and gender balance considerations; and second, whether to reorganise WOAAH's technical bodies structure by consolidating its working groups and ad hoc groups into a single type of technical body, governed by a unified process for establishment and members' appointment.

Dr Modisane concluded by reminding Delegates that they could provide input either during the meeting or via alternative channels agreed upon with their regional GRC representatives, such as email.

10 **Benefits of WOAAH Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes**

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Coordination Manager, gave a brief explanation of the outcomes of the independent analysis of the benefits of WOAAH Membership. This project was launched to support Members' engagement and advocacy efforts, particularly at high political levels. She announced that the ten-month project, which ran from May 2023 to March 2024, was funded by the Australian government and conducted by an external consultancy firm selected through a consultation of suppliers' process. The initiative aimed to clarify the value of WOAAH Membership for both current and prospective Members, to inform advocacy activities. She noted that all deliverables had been completed on time, including a proposed advocacy framework designed to improve communication, clarify WOAAH's mandate, and support Delegates in promoting the organisation's benefits. Implementing this framework is expected to strengthen institutional identity and help national decision-makers better understand the return on investment of WOAAH Membership.

Ms Monsalve commented that the analysis, based on internal and external consultations, had identified key challenges, such as the difficulty of justifying Membership costs for less-resourced Members and the absence of communication tools tailored to policymakers. The findings also emphasised the importance for clearer communication about WOAAH's unique value compared to other international organisations.

She then summarised the project's recommendations, highlighting that the analysis had proposed several actions to enhance the visibility, understanding, and impact of WOAAH's value, mandate, and engagement. These included, among others, creating a dedicated Membership page, consolidating benefit listings (especially for less-resourced or non-trade-focused Members) and establishing systems that allow better follow-up of activities in order to measure impact more effectively. The project also emphasised the importance of clearly communicating WOAAH's role in co-funded initiatives. Clarifying WOAAH's mandate and addressing overlaps with other international organisations had also been recommended. Tailored engagement strategies, improved accessibility of capacity-building programmes, and a transparent, equitable financial

contribution system had been identified as priorities for engaging Members more effectively. In terms of advocacy, the analysis called for a formal strategy targeting high-level decision-makers, supported by tailored tools and regular advocacy training for Delegates (the main WOAAH contact at national level) and WOAAH staff (WOAH ambassadors). It also recommended stronger collaboration between HQ and regional offices to incorporate regional visions and expectations into the global strategies. Deliverable 3 proposed a medium- to long-term advocacy framework to empower Delegates, engage all WOAAH staff, shift communication to a Member-centric perspective, communicate WOAAH's value in a way that is tailored to each Member's unique context, and use a language and a content that is tailored to political and financial decision-makers.

Ms Nathaly Monsalve emphasised that the purpose of this presentation was to provide preliminary feedback on the project results, primarily to keep Members informed of progress. She took the opportunity to express her appreciation for the valuable input received from all Members and non-Members that had been consulted for this project. She noted that the initial findings were consistent with the ongoing revision of the Basic Texts, particularly the recommendation to define WOAAH's mandate more clearly, and that they aligned closely with one of the Director General's key priorities: enhancing the Organisation's visibility.

Ms Monsalve concluded that the project has produced substantial material to support the implementation of the Director General's vision and meaningfully contribute to the development of the 8th Strategic Plan. The results will be presented to the Council during its September meeting along with more precise proposal for the next steps, which will be discussed and defined further.

11 General Session kiosks and side events

Ms Nathaly Monsalve provided information on the scheduled kiosks and side events during the General Session including WOAAH Regions kiosk: Connecting expertise, building networks and fostering collaboration to strengthen Veterinary Services. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

12 Organisation of the One Health Conference for the MENA zone, 14 and 15 June 2025, Tunisia

Dr Wahib Mehri, Delegate of Tunisia, informed the Regional Commission about the One Health Conference for the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa), which the Tunisian government is organising, on 14 and 15 June 2025, with the financial support of the World Bank and the technical support of the Quadripartite.

He urged all North African Delegates to liaise with their respective Ministers of Agriculture to encourage participation and ensure the representation of national Veterinary Services at the event.

13 Closing

The meeting officially ended at 4: p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face to face)

The Regional Commission for Africa met face to face on 25 May 2025, at 10: 00 a.m. CEST at the *Maison de la Chimie* in Paris. The meeting was attended by 31 Members of the Commission.

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Chad, Congo (Rep. of) ,Congo (Dem. Rep. of) , Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

International and regional partners were also present, including ENSV (Lyon), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), among others.

The Meeting was chaired by Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, accompanied by Dr Karim Tounkara, Regional Representative for Africa.

1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Chair invited the Commission Members to adopt the agenda with a modification in the order of the first two presentations.

The revised [agenda](#) was unanimously adopted.

2 **Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May)**

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and member of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), provided an update on the GRC meeting held on 23 and 24 May 2025. The meeting focused on technical governance. He commented that the meeting had emphasised the importance of maintaining robust and transparent Specialist Commissions that report directly to the Assembly, paying particular attention to scientific expertise, regional representation, and gender balance. The GRC discussed widely on the process for the appointment of Specialist Commission's members and measures to improve transparency and participation, including developing a repository of external experts, and clarifying expert workload expectations.

Finally, Dr Modisane urged the region to gather feedback from all Members on the different documents, so that comments could be submitted on the region's behalf.

3 **Activities of the Regional Quadripartite Secretariat**

Dr Lillian Wambua gave an overview of the governance structures of the regional secretariat and the Africa Regional Coordination Group. She emphasised the critical importance of collaboration at national, regional and global levels. She also discussed regional Quadripartite activities. She emphasised the regional secretariat's role in providing technical support to the regional executive and coordinating the regional implementation of the One Health approach. The secretariat also supports the adaptation of the One Health global framework at regional and country levels in collaboration with the global secretariat.

4 **Application from Kenya for WOAHA to designate the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi as a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for One Health**

Dr Allan Azegele, Delegate of Kenya, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the designation of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi as a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for One Health.

He emphasised ILRI's expertise and its capacity to fulfil the centre's responsibilities, confirming that all relevant information had been provided to the Delegates in advance.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

5 **Outcomes of the Continental Conference "Towards a More Resilient Workforce for Africa 2024"**

Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department, reported on the Africa Continental Conference on Veterinary Workforce Development : Spotlight on partnerships, youth and gender engagement, held in Nairobi in November 2024, noting the gender imbalance among the 187 participants, and relayed key recommendations from Members:

- Strengthening the legal framework, investing in education, promoting gender balance, improving collaboration among veterinary professionals, supporting youth and technology development.

She highlighted that WOAHA continues to support Members through PVS missions to build more resilient and responsive Veterinary Services. Ms Alessandrini called for continued commitment to sustainable development, engagement, and forward-looking action.

6 **Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting**

Dr Rose Ademun, Vice- President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Uganda, shared a summary of the online meeting held on 8 May 2025, which was attended by 38 Members of the region and during which key topics were discussed such as :

- The Technical Item I (with questionnaire), which will be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission under the title: " Impact of climate change on the emergence of vector-borne diseases: Challenges and prospects for control".
- Outcomes of the 12th GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee (RSC) held in Eswatini in March 2025.
- Outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of SGE for African Swine Fever (ASF) held online in October 2024.
- Update on work programme and initial recommendations of the Governance Review Committee for adoption at the 92nd General Session.
- Benefits of WOAHA Membership - independent analysis, preliminary results of the project.

During the virtual meeting, Members from four countries interested in hosting the next Regional Conference agreed to consult and make a final decision during the face-to-face meeting.

The Regional Commission finally confirmed that the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa will be held in Uganda in February 2027.

7 **Partial elections: selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission as Secretary General**

Dr N'lemba Mabela, chaired the discussion regarding the proposal of candidates for the position of Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa, who will be put forward for election at the World Assembly.

Dr N'lemba Mabela explained that the position was vacant because the Delegate from Nigeria have withdrawn.

Delegates of the Region agreed to propose Dr Abdou Ceesay (Gambia) for the position of Secretary General of the Regional Commission.

8 Reflection of Statutory Contributions – Experience sharing

During the session, several Members shared a variety of national experiences and strategies for paying contributions to WOAAH. The discussion allowed some key insights:

Firstly, Delegates emphasised the importance of proactive advocacy in order to highlight the value of WOAAH membership. Engaging with relevant ministries through diplomatic channels was also identified as essential. One Member shared a compelling advocacy approach involving posing the question, 'What would we lose if WOAAH didn't exist?', which is a powerful way to communicate the organisation's relevance to policymakers.

In some cases, managing the contribution budget directly through Veterinary Services can enhance institutional independence and decision-making capacity. Members noted that presenting economic arguments can effectively demonstrate the return on investment from WOAAH's support for national animal health systems.

However, contributions remain a sensitive issue for some Members. Efforts are being made to ensure that ministries are fully informed about the scope of WOAAH's mandate, which includes disseminating animal health information, evaluation of the performance of the Veterinary Services (PVS Pathway), building the capacity of national Focal Points, holding Regional Conferences, donating vaccines, supporting disease control and granting official disease status. It was suggested that inviting ministers to attend the General Session would foster understanding and support.

Members were encouraged to find practical solutions for settling outstanding contributions. It was noted with concern that unpaid contributions could result in the loss of voting rights, which would limit regional representation in the decision of the Assembly. To ensure the region's voice is effectively heard in global decision-making processes, it was emphasised that broad participation is crucial.

Delegates were urged to strengthen their engagement with WOAAH, both financially and through active participation in the organisation's activities.

The relevance of external funding opportunities, such as the Pandemic Fund, was also highlighted. A proposal was put forward to hold a dedicated meeting with ministers responsible for livestock and animal health. The aim would be to advocate the importance of paying WOAAH's contributions and to develop a targeted communication strategy for decision-makers. Dr Karim Tounkara emphasised that the overarching goal is to improve contribution levels across the continent. To this end, the Regional Commission will engage with each Member to assess their specific situation and explore solutions based on solidarity.

9 Closing

The meeting officially ended at 12:30 p.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE
WOAH REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**
Session 1 (virtual)
8 May 2025
(1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CEST)

Agenda

12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Zoom check-in and connecting
1:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
1:05 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Outcomes of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 7 February 2025 (Dr Abderrahman El Abrak, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Morocco)
1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Confirmation of the date and venue of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2027 (Dr Rose Ademun, Vice- President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Uganda)
1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela)
1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHP through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Mbargou Lo, Council member and Delegate of Senegal)
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results (Ms Stéphanie Frehel/Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management and Internal Control Unit)
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Outcomes of the 12 th GF-TAD Regional Steering Committee for Africa (Dr Roland Dlamini, Council member and Delegate of Eswatini)
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of SGE for African Swine Fever (Dr Viola Chemis, Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa)
2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at 92 General Session and consultation on technical governance (Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of South Africa)
3:30 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Benefits of WOAHP Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes (Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Department)
3:50 p.m.	Organisation of the One Health Conference for the MENA zone, 14 and 15 June 2025, Tunisia (Dr Wahib Mehri, Delegate of Tunisia)
3:55 p.m.	Closing (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela)
4:00 p.m.	End of the meeting

Session 2 (Presential)
25 May 2025
(10:00 to 12:30 pm Paris time)

Draft Agenda

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
10:05 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May) (Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of South Africa)
10:20 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	Activities of the Regional Quadripartite Secretariat (Dr Lillian Wambua, Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa)
10:35 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Application from Kenya for WOAHA to designate the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi as a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for One Health (Dr Allan Azegele, Delegate of Kenya)
11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Outcomes of the Continental Conference “Towards a More Resilient Workforce for Africa 2024” (Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department)
11:20 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr Rose Ademun, Vice- President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Uganda)
11:35 a.m. – 11.50 am	Partial elections: selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission as Secretary General (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela)
11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Reflection of Statutory Contributions – Experience sharing. Introduction by Dr N'lemba Mabela (Delegates of Senegal, Cameroon, Uganda, Morocco and South Africa)
12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	General discussions
12:30 p.m.	Closing (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela)

Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for the Americas

Session 1 (virtual)

The Regional Commission for the Americas met by videoconference on 14 May 2025, at 4:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 61 participants, including Delegates and observers from 23 Members of the Commission and representatives from 7 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United States of America, and Uruguay.

International/Regional Organisations: Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), Four Paws International, Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SG-CAN), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Small Animal Health Veterinary Association (WSVA).

The meeting was chaired by Dr Rosemary Sifford, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America, accompanied by Dr Francisco D'Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas.

1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

2 **Outcomes of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission, held in Quito, Ecuador, from 25 to 29 November 2024**

Eng. Christian Zambrano, on behalf of Eng. Wilson Patricio Almeida Granja, Delegate of Ecuador, summarised the key outcomes of the Regional Conference held in his country from 11 to 15 November 2024.

He highlighted the active involvement of Delegates and organizations in the discussions, the engagement with local authorities and representatives, and the relevance of the two main Technical Items and the rest of topics discussed. He considered that the Conference effectively responded to the region's needs and contributed to enhancing the visibility, sustainability, and improvement of the Organisation and its Members.

He reminded the Delegates that two recommendations had been adopted by the Regional Commission regarding the two technical items of the Conference: Technical Item I: Current scenario of critical veterinary products and the Technical Item II: New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and its economic impact on the affected countries.

He concluded that the final report of the conference, together with the recommendations adopted by the Regional Commission, which will be submitted to the World Assembly for adoption, were available online on the WOA regional website.

3 **Follow-up activities after the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission**

Dr Francisco D'Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas, and Dr Martin Minassian, Technical Assistant to the Regional Representation, presented the main activities in follow-up to the report of the last Regional Conference.

The initiatives for the implementation of the Technical Items were presented, as well as the support to Members to improve their submission of dossiers for the official recognition of the animal health status, the participation in the PVS Pathway Information System (PVS IS), the coordination in wildlife and animal welfare, the link with the Reference Centres, and the involvement in the implementation of the 'One Health' concept.

The methodology for following up on all commitments made with the Regional Commission and regional organisations was discussed, and a report will be presented at the next Regional Conference. Members emphasised the importance of the PVS Pathway in the region, both for their own countries and as a means of raising the profile of WOAAH. They requested the reinforcement and promotion of PVS-related activities, emphasising the role that the Regional Representation could play in this respect. Several Members also emphasised the need for activities to support the preparation of dossiers and the reconfirmation of official status recognition.

4 **Confirmation of the date and venue of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in 2026**

Dr Hugo Idoyaga, Delegate of Paraguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, confirmed his country's proposal to host the next Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas.

He proposed holding the conference in the week beginning 13 July 2026. He stressed that this differed from the traditional calendar and noted that it would coincide with the International Fair of Livestock, Industry, Agriculture, Trade and Services. This would give the event, and thus WOAAH, greater visibility in his country and in the region.

The Regional Commission approved the proposed date and venue, confirming that the conference will be held from 13 to 17 July 2026 in Asunción.

5 **Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas:

'Use of mathematical models to evaluate outbreak control strategies for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD): tools to support decision-making in animal health emergencies.'

6 **Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAAH through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)**

The Regional Commission selected the following strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAAH through various means:

- 1 The need for the continuous and systematic training of Veterinary Services to support the prevention and control of animal diseases at a national and regional level, including an analysis of the associated challenges, gaps, needs and opportunities.
- 2 Surveillance systems for avian influenza in species important for animal health.
- 3 Regional cooperation on surveillance and response systems for animal health emergencies.
- 4 The role of private veterinarians in Official Veterinary Service programmes: mechanisms of interaction and coordination; accreditation and authorisation; supervision; sanctions; and quality control in a globalised world.

7 **Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results**

Ms Stéphanie Frehel, Head of the Performance Management and Internal Control Unit, presented the key findings of the workshops held with the Regional Core Group (RCG) members during the first phase of the 8th WOAHA Strategic Plan development. She reported that the process had been designed to be inclusive and collaborative, with the aim of defining shared priorities for the next five years through strategic pillars and measurable outcomes. The workshops highlighted the key regional priorities expressed by RCG members from the five regions. For the Americas, these included strengthening Veterinary Services, standards for safe and fair trade, operational One Health approach, visibility and political reach of WOAHA, collaboration and mutual learning, modernisation and digitalisation, and plan focused on regional needs.

Ms Frehel explained that the following common strategic topics had been identified across the regions during the workshops: standard setting and safe trade; animal health and welfare services and systems; and the need for WOAHA to affirm its leadership on animal health. Enablers had also been identified, including collaboration partnerships, sustainability (in terms of resources and governance), and data and technology.

Ms Frehel provided details of the next steps and concluded by informing participants that the findings of the first phase will inform the development of the strategic axes and enablers of the 8th Strategic Plan to be presented by the Director General during the General Session. The findings will also inform the next phase of the plan's development. This phase will focus on the content of the axes and involve a larger number of Members through regional workshops conducted between 30 June and 2 July.

8 **Applications for WOAHA Collaborating Centres**

Application from Canada for WOAHA to designate the World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health (WVEPAH), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Montreal in Quebec as a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Advanced Training in Livestock Health

Dr Mary Jane Ireland, Delegate of Canada, presented an application to the Regional Commission for it to consider the World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health (WVEPAH), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Montreal in Quebec, as a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Advanced Training in Livestock Health.

She invited Dr Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt from WVEPAH to make a brief presentation of the proposal and recalled that all details had been sent to Delegates in advance.

The Regional Commission approved the proposal unanimously, emphasising the importance of coordinating the activities of these centres with ongoing initiatives.

Application from USA for WOAHA to consider the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) joining the existing WOAHA Collaborating Centre consortium on Research, Diagnosis and Surveillance of Wildlife Pathogens hosted by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and the National Wildlife Health Center, US Geological Surveillance, USA

Dr Conrad Estrada, on behalf of the Delegate of the United States of America, presented an application to the Regional Commission for it to consider the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) joining the existing WOAHA Collaborating Centre consortium on Research, Diagnosis and Surveillance of Wildlife Pathogens hosted by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and the National Wildlife Health Center, US Geological Surveillance, USA.

He gave a brief presentation of the proposal and recalled that all the details had been sent to Delegates in advance.

The Regional Commission approved the proposal unanimously.

9 **Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at the 92 General Session and consultation on technical governance**

Dr Mary Jane Ireland, Delegate of Canada and member of the Governance Review Committee (GRC) presented an update outlining the Committee's ongoing work and initial recommendations.

She reported that the Committee had held three meetings to develop its work programme and formulate initial recommendations in response to Resolution No. 12 of 2024, which called for potential amendments to the WOAHA Basic Texts. It had been noted that the GRC would take into account the findings of the external analysis of WOAHA's institutional, technical, and financial governance (document 91GS/Adm-13), as well as other reform proposals identified by WOAHA Secretariat or by the Committee itself.

Dr Ireland also announced that the GRC's report to the 92nd General Session (92GS/Adm-06) sets out a two-phase work programme. Phase 1 involves assessing possible changes to WOAHA's governance structure and presenting recommendations to the Assembly in 2027. Phase 2 focuses on drafting the necessary legal texts to implement the Assembly's decisions. The programme also includes indicative timelines for consulting Delegates throughout the process. The report includes eight recommendations for governance reforms that can be implemented from May 2025 onwards without requiring amendments to the Basic Texts. Three of these require additional work and consultation, particularly with Regional and Specialist Commissions, before formal proposals can be submitted in 2027. These include potential changes to the appointment process for Specialist Commissions as well as enhancing transparency around Members' financial contributions and arrears. The remaining recommendations, which can be implemented by the Secretariat, aim to improve transparency, for example, creating a central repository of WOAHA experts and publishing Council meeting minutes.

Regarding Draft Resolution No. 5 for the 92nd General Session, she noted that it accurately reflects the conclusions of the GRC report and had been reviewed by GRC members. The resolution proposes that the Assembly take note of the GRC's work programme and the initial reforms to be implemented by the Secretariat, and approve that the GRC beginning to work on initial governance reforms, with a view to submitting a proposal to the Assembly at the 2027 General Session.

Dr Ireland finally informed participants that the GRC would begin examining potential improvements to WOAHA's technical governance at its upcoming meeting, scheduled for 23 - 24 May 2025. She reminded participants that background information papers had been made available on the WOAHA Delegate Portal, allowing Delegates to review the materials and share their feedback with their respective regional GRC members. The consultation will mainly focus on two key areas: first, whether to revise the appointment process for members of the Specialist Commissions, including the possible introduction of term limits and gender balance considerations; and second, whether to reorganise WOAHA's technical bodies structure by consolidating its working groups and ad hoc groups into a single type of technical body, governed by a unified process for establishment and members' appointment.

Dr Ireland concluded by reminding Delegates that they could provide input either during the meeting or via alternative channels agreed upon with their regional GRC representatives, such as email.

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General, and responsible for the GRC Secretariat at WOAHA HQ level, concluded the presentation by emphasising the importance of Members' active involvement in the GRC's work. This includes reviewing the reports and recommending improvements to the governance. He encouraged Delegates to review the relevant documents and provide input on the GRC's initiatives to their regional GRC members.

10 **Benefits of WOAHA Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes**

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Coordination Manager, gave a brief explanation of the outcomes of the independent analysis of the benefits of WOAHA Membership. This project was launched to support Members' engagement and advocacy efforts, particularly at high political

levels. She announced that the ten-month project, which ran from May 2023 to March 2024, was funded by the Australian government and conducted by an external consultancy firm selected through a consultation of suppliers' process. The initiative aimed to clarify the value of WOAHA Membership for both current and prospective Members, in order to inform advocacy activities. She noted that all deliverables had been completed on time, including a proposed advocacy framework designed to improve communication, clarify WOAHA's mandate, and support Delegates in promoting the organisation's benefits. Implementing this framework is expected to strengthen institutional identity and help national decision-makers better understand the return on investment of WOAHA Membership.

Ms Monsalve commented that the analysis, based on internal and external consultations, had identified key challenges, such as the difficulty of justifying Membership costs for less-resourced Members and the absence of communication tools tailored to policymakers. The findings also emphasised the importance for clearer communication about WOAHA's unique value compared to other international organisations.

She then summarised the project's recommendations, highlighting that the analysis had proposed several actions to enhance the visibility, understanding, and impact of WOAHA's value, mandate, and engagement. These included, among others, creating a dedicated Membership page, consolidating benefit listings (especially for less-resourced or non-trade-focused Members) and establishing systems that allow better follow-up of activities to measure impact more effectively. The project also emphasised the importance of clearly communicating WOAHA's role in co-funded initiatives. Clarifying WOAHA's mandate and addressing overlaps with other international organisations had also been recommended. Tailored engagement strategies, improved accessibility of capacity-building programmes, and a transparent, equitable financial contribution system had been identified as priorities for engaging Members more effectively. In terms of advocacy, the analysis called for a formal strategy targeting high-level decision-makers, supported by tailored tools and regular advocacy training for Delegates (the main WOAHA contact at national level) and WOAHA staff (WOAHA ambassadors). It also recommended stronger collaboration between HQ and regional offices to incorporate regional visions and expectations into the global strategies. Deliverable 3 proposed a medium- to long-term advocacy framework to empower Delegates, engage all WOAHA staff, shift communication to a Member-centric perspective, communicate WOAHA's value in a way that is tailored to each Member's unique context, and use a language and a content that is tailored to political and financial decision-makers.

Ms Nathaly Monsalve emphasised that the purpose of this presentation was to provide preliminary feedback on the project results, primarily to keep Members informed of progress. She took the opportunity to express her appreciation for the valuable input received from all Members and non-Members that had been consulted for this project. She noted that the initial findings were consistent with the ongoing revision of the Basic Texts, particularly the recommendation to define WOAHA's mandate more clearly, and that they aligned closely with one of the Director General's key priorities: enhancing the Organisation's visibility.

Ms Monsalve concluded that the project has produced substantial material to support the implementation of the Director General's vision and meaningfully contribute to the development of the 8th Strategic Plan. The results will be presented to the Council during its September meeting along with more precise proposal for the next steps, which will be discussed and defined further.

In response to a question from a Member of the Mexican delegation about WOAHA's plans for more active political intervention, Dr François Caya noted that WOAHA had been working for some time to establish a presence in the global political arena, for example by participating in high-level events such as the G20 and G7. The relevance of the project was also highlighted, as was the opportunity presented by the new strategic plan and the review of the Organisation's governance to implement its recommendations.

11 **General Session kiosks and side events**

Ms Nathaly Monsalve provided information on the scheduled kiosks and side events during the General Session including WOAHA Regions kiosk: Connecting expertise, building networks and fostering collaboration to strengthen Veterinary Services. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

12 **Closing**

The meeting officially ended at 7:05 p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face to face)

The Regional Commission for the Americas met face to face on 25 May 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CEST, at the *Maison de la Chimie* in Paris. The meeting was attended by 19 Members of the Commission:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Curacao, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, United States of America, and Uruguay.

The Meeting was chaired by Dr Rosemary Sifford, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America, accompanied by Dr Francisco D'Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas.

1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

2 **Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting**

The President of the Regional Commission summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 14 May 2025 at 4:00 p.m. CEST. This allowed the Regional Commission to confirm the main agreed points, namely the technical item proposed for the forthcoming Regional Conference and the strategic topics that WOAHA will address through various means. The date and place of the next Regional Conference were also confirmed. She also provided an informative summary of the other topics discussed during the meeting.

3 **Proposal for the coordination of activities in Animal Welfare and Wildlife in the Americas**

Dr Francisco D'Alessio presented the lines of action alongside background information on animal welfare and wildlife health activities in the region.

To this end, he proposed forming coordination groups to support the identification of needs, as well as the prioritisation and implementation of regional activities. He shared this proposal with Delegates. These groups will comprise representatives from the public and private sectors, as well as experts, civil society and financial partners, and will report to the Regional Commission. The Regional Representation will develop operating procedures for these groups.

Finally, Dr D'Alessio proposed a similar initiative for regional work on aquatic animal health.

The Regional Commission unanimously supported this initiative.

4 **Project on High health, high performance (HHP) horses in the Americas: Outcomes and future actions**

Dr Mauro Meske, Status Department, summarised the actions and achievements of the project that has recently ended. This project was funded by the IHSC (International Equestrian Sports Confederation) and involved members from Mercosur, the Andean Community and Chile.

He explained that, in the first phase of the project, a harmonised protocol for the temporary movement of HHP horses had been developed in collaboration with the Veterinary Services and other stakeholders. This protocol was accompanied by a model health certificate and a guide for its implementation. He then announced that the second phase had been initiated, which would involve testing the protocol's effectiveness at an equestrian event organised by the *Fédération Equestre Internationale* (FEI).

5 **One Health: Update on the Pandemic Agreement and the Quadripartite activities**

Dr Chadia Wannous, One Health Senior Specialist and Global Coordinator, provided an introduction to the One Health context and approach. She emphasised the importance of coordinated action and preventive measures.

She outlined the history of the Quadripartite Alliance's formation, its areas of action, and its strategic priorities. She also covered the alliance's global and regional governance structures.

She emphasised the importance of implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action for Members, focusing on different priority areas, and the importance of evidence-based decision-making to ensure governance and financial sustainability.

Dr Wannous described WOA's work in drafting the Pandemic Agreement, which was recently approved at the WHO Assembly and will impact animal health activities. The agreement provides Veterinary Services with a legal mandate to prevent the emergence of new pandemics and facilitates intersectoral collaboration.

She indicated that technical documents and guidelines for implementing this approach were available to Members on the WOA website.

6 **Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May)**

Dr Carlos Orellana, Delegate of Chile and regional member of the Governance Review Committee, gave a brief summary of the issues discussed at the meeting held on 23 and 24 May 2025.

He stressed that the decisions taken in this governance review process would impact areas such as the Organisation's finances, he urged Members to participate actively.

He also presented the ongoing discussions regarding the procedures for selecting members of the Specialist Commissions and the renewal of their positions, as well as the role of the Reference Centres and their collaboration with Members. He also referred to the Organisation's budgetary sustainability and the involvement of ministers and other senior politicians.

Discussions also emphasised the importance of improving regional and gender representativeness, as well as reducing language barriers, in all Organisation activities.

The representatives of the Governance Review Committee were thanked for their work, and Delegates were encouraged to play an active role in the process. If this was not possible, they were recommended to nominate a member of their team to support them.

Closed Session for Delegates Only

7 Coordination of the regional interventions at WOAHA General Session

The Regional Commission discussed and agreed on common positions to be presented during the 92nd General Session, on behalf of the 32 Members of the Regional Commission for the Americas. Topics are as follows:

- Proposed amendments to the Terrestrial Animals Health Code:
 - o Chapter 8.13. New world screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and old world screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*)
 - o Chapter 8.Y. “Nipah virus infection”, with the need for inclusion of a reference to the term ‘Seroconversion’ in the Glossary.
 - o Chapter 12.4. “Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)”.
 - o Chapter 12.1. “Infection with African horse sickness virus” and Chapter: 11.5. “Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia)”, and review of the situation in WOAHA official status recognition.
- Proposed amendments to the Aquatic Animals Health Code
 - o Chapter 10.3. “Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*”
 - o Chapter 10.4. “Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus”
- Statement on the need to avoid trade barriers to vaccination against High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza.
- Statement on the need to recognise regional characteristics in the application of animal welfare measures and the updating of the WOAHA Standards.

8 Closing

The session officially ended at 1:30 p.m. CEST

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Session 1 (virtual)

**14 May 2025
(4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. CEST)**

Agenda

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Zoom check-in and connecting.
4:00 p.m.– 4:05 p.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Rosemary Sifford, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America)
4:05 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	Outcomes of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission, held in Quito, Ecuador, from 25 to 29 November 2024 (Ing. Christian Zambrano, Alternate Delegate of Ecuador)
4:20 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	Follow-up activities after the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission (Dr Francisco D’Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas)
4: 40 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.	Confirmation of the date and venue of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in 2026 (Dr Hugo Idoyaga, Delegate of Paraguay and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates)
4:50 p.m. – 5:05 p.m.	Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Rafael Enrique Rodriguez Alvarado, Vice President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Honduras)
5:05 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.	Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHA through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Roxanna Álvarez, Secretary General of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Belize)
5:20 p.m. – 5:35 p.m.	Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results (Ms Stéphanie Frehel/ Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management and Internal Control Unit)
5:35 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.	Applications for WOAHA Collaborating Centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Collaborating Centre for Advanced Training in Livestock Health (Dr Mary Jane Ireland, Delegate of Canada)- Integration of the Wildlife Conservation Society to the existing WOAHA Collaborating Centre Consortium on Research, Diagnosis and Surveillance of Wildlife Pathogens (Dr Rosemary Sifford)
5:55 p.m. – 6: 35 p.m.	Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at 92nd General Session and consultation on technical governance (Dr Mary Jane Ireland, Regional member of the Governance Review Committee)
6:35 p.m. – 6: 55 p.m.	Benefits of WOAHA Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes (Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Department)
6:55 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Closing (Dr Rosemary Sifford)

Session 2 (face to face)

**25 May 2025
(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)**

Agenda

- 10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Rosemary Sifford, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America)
- 10:05 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr Rosemary Sifford)
- 10:25 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Proposal for the coordination of activities in Animal Welfare and Wildlife in the Americas (Dr Francisco D’Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas)
- 10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. Project on High health, high performance (HHP) horses in the Americas: Outcomes and future actions (Dr Mauro Meske, Status Department)
- 10:55 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. One Health: Update on the *Pandemic Agreement* and the Quadripartite activities (Dr Chadia Wannous, WOAHA One Health Senior Specialist and Global Coordinator)
- 11:20 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May) (Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero, Delegate of Chile and Regional member of the Governance Review Committee)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Coordination of the regional interventions at WOAHA General Session (Dr Rosemary Sifford)
- 12:30 p.m. Closing of the meeting (Dr Rosemary Sifford)

Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Session 1 (virtual)

The Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific met by videoconference on 13 May 2025, at 7:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 59 participants, including Delegates and/or Alternate Delegates from 20 Members of the Commission, observers and representatives from 1 Regional Organisation.

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

International/regional organisations: Sout East Asian Fisheries Development Center/Aqualture Department (SEAFDEC/AQD)

The Meeting was chaired by Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Delegate of China (People's Rep. of), and Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance addressed a welcome message to all participants.

1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

2 **Preparation of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Indonesia, from 22 to 26 September 2025**

Dr Imron, Alternate Delegate of Indonesia, provided details on the organisation of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which will take place in Jakarta from 22 to 26 September 2025.

He mentioned that several hotel options had been identified, and informed participants of the visa requirements, details of which were available on the relevant website.

He assured the participants that all the details would be sent in a timely manner.

3 **Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

After lively discussion and Zoom poll, the Regional Commission selected the following technical item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission.

“Build a joint TADs prevention and control system in Asia-Pacific region to strengthen regional preparedness and resilience through cross-border cooperation, including surveillance, early detection, disease response, border inspection, utilizing digital innovation.”

4 **Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAAH through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)**

The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAAH through various means:

1. Leveraging digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence, and genomics for animal health systems: enhancing disease surveillance, traceability systems, e-Certification, information accessibility and Veterinary Services.
2. Enhancing veterinary capacity and building resilient veterinary workforce by developing guidance on resource allocation and personnel planning, to address current operational needs and future One Health challenges.
3. Risk management measures for wildlife and companion animal diseases – intersectoral collaboration in implementing effective measures to prevent transmission to livestock or humans.

5 **Discussion on regional positions for WOAAH General Session**

The Regional Commission discussed on two proposals received from China (People's Rep. of) for a potential common position to be put forward at the 92nd General Session on behalf of the Members of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The Delegate of Japan chaired the session.

Proposal from China were as follows :

1. With regard to "*Chapter 12.1. of the WOAAH Code – African Horse Sickness, Article 12.1.1bis – Safe commodities*", including milk and milk products, meat and meat products, hides and skins, hooves, gelatine and collagen, protein meal, and rendered fat, China proposed amending "meat and meat products" to "skeletal muscle meat and skeletal muscle meat products", and "hides and skins" to "treated hides and skins".
2. Regarding "*Chapter 3.9.1 of the Terrestrial Manual – African Swine Fever (vaccine section), Article C.1 – Background*", China proposed adding the following two sentences to the section entitle "An optimal ASF MLV first generation vaccine for the target host should have the following general characteristics (minimum standards)": "has no impact on the reproductive safety of pregnant sows" and "no recombination between vaccine virus and wild virus".

The Delegate of China and Japan agreed to discuss the first proposal further in bilateral talks. The Delegates of Australia and New Zealand requested time to review the proposals.

Additionally, Thailand has announced its intention to propose a common position for consideration within the week. This will be circulated to Members by the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific.

Australia has also announced its intention to propose a joint intervention in support of the GRC's work for consideration.

The Regional Commission agreed to defer decisions on the proposals until the face-to-face Regional Commission meeting on Sunday 25 May.

6 Updates on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS)

Dr Carolyn Guy, the Chair of the WOAHA RAWS Advisory Group for Asia and the Pacific region, presented updates and sought endorsement for RAWS Edition 3 and Membership for 2025.

She provided an overview of the history of RAWS, outlining its objectives and its alignment with the WOAHA Global Animal Welfare Strategy (GAWS). RAWS was notably the first regional animal welfare strategy established by WOAHA, with Edition 1 being endorsed at the 78th General Session in 2007.

Dr Guy explained that RAWS Edition 3 builds on previous versions and aligns with the RAWS Third Action Plan (2024–2028). It provides a framework for implementing the WOAHA Animal Welfare Standards and promoting regional collaboration. She then provided a brief overview of the updated RAWS Edition, recalling its endorsement at the meeting of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific in May 2024. The presentation emphasised the action plan's four goals, along with relevant supporting activities and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that will be used for evaluation.

Regarding the RAWS 2025 Membership endorsement, she presented the list of current members and observers. It was noted that, after consulting with existing members and observers, the advisory group had decided against initiating a call for new members this year. This decision was based on the current Membership size being effectively managed and the sub-regional distribution being well-proportioned, with 20 members and 17 observers for 2025. Existing members and observers were contacted via email to confirm or renew their Membership.

Finally, she presented a summary of RAWS activities held between 2023 and the present day. This included the recent Regional Workshop for WOAHA National Focal Points for Animal Welfare in Asia and the Pacific region, which took place in Tokyo, Japan, from 21 to 23 January 2025.

As no objections or further comments were raised by the Regional Commission Members during the meeting, RAWS Edition 3 and the 2025 RAWS membership are considered endorsed.

7 Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at the 92nd General Session and consultation on technical governance

Dr Beth Cookson, Delegate of Australia and member of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), presented an update outlining the Committee's ongoing work and initial recommendations.

She reported that the Committee had held three meetings to develop its work programme and formulate initial recommendations in response to Resolution No. 12 of 2024, which called for potential amendments to the WOAHA Basic Texts. It had been noted that the GRC would take into account the findings of the external analysis of WOAHA's institutional, technical, and financial governance (document 91GS/Adm-13), as well as other reform proposals identified by WOAHA Secretariat or by the Committee itself.

Dr Cookson also announced that the GRC's report to the 92nd General Session (92GS/Adm-06) sets out a two-phase work programme. Phase 1 involves assessing possible changes to WOAHA's governance structure and presenting recommendations to the Assembly in 2027. Phase 2 focuses on drafting the necessary legal texts to implement the Assembly's decisions. The programme also includes indicative timelines for consulting Delegates throughout the process. The report includes eight recommendations for governance reforms that can be implemented from May 2025 onwards without requiring amendments to the Basic Texts. Three of these require additional work and consultation, particularly with Regional and Specialist Commissions, before formal proposals can be submitted in 2027. These include potential changes to the appointment process for Specialist Commissions as well as enhancing transparency around Members' financial contributions and arrears. The remaining recommendations, which can be implemented by the Secretariat, aim to improve transparency, for example, creating a central repository of WOAHA experts and publishing Council meeting minutes.

Regarding Draft Resolution No. 5 for the 92nd General Session, she noted that it accurately reflects the conclusions of the GRC report and had been reviewed by GRC members. The resolution proposes that the Assembly take note of the GRC's work programme and the initial reforms to be implemented by the Secretariat, and approve that the GRC beginning to work on initial governance reforms, with a view to submitting a proposal to the Assembly at the 2027 General Session.

Dr Cookson finally informed participants that the GRC would begin examining potential improvements to WOA's technical governance at its upcoming meeting, scheduled for 23 - 24 May 2025. She reminded participants that background information papers had been made available on the WOA Delegate Portal, allowing Delegates to review the materials and share their feedback with their respective regional GRC members. The consultation will mainly focus on two key areas: first, whether to revise the appointment process for members of the Specialist Commissions, including the possible introduction of term limits and gender balance considerations; and second, whether to reorganise WOA's technical bodies structure by consolidating its working groups and ad hoc groups into a single type of technical body, governed by a unified process for establishment and members' appointment.

Dr Cookson concluded by reminding Delegates that they could provide input either during the meeting or via alternative channels agreed upon with their regional GRC representatives, such as email.

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General, and responsible for the GRC Secretariat at WOA HQ level, concluded the session by emphasising the importance of Members' active involvement in the GRC's work. This includes reviewing the reports and recommending improvements to the governance. He encouraged Delegates to review the relevant documents and provide input on the GRC's initiatives to their regional GRC members.

8 Benefits of WOA Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Coordination Manager, gave a brief explanation of the outcomes of the independent analysis of the benefits of WOA Membership. This project was launched to support Members' engagement and advocacy efforts, particularly at high political levels. She announced that the ten-month project, which ran from May 2023 to March 2024, was funded by the Australian government and conducted by an external consultancy firm selected through a consultation of suppliers' process. The initiative aimed to clarify the value of WOA Membership for both current and prospective Members, to inform advocacy activities. She noted that all deliverables had been completed on time, including a proposed advocacy framework designed to improve communication, clarify WOA's mandate, and support Delegates in promoting the organisation's benefits. Implementing this framework is expected to strengthen institutional identity and help national decision-makers better understand the return on investment of WOA Membership.

Ms Monsalve commented that the analysis, based on internal and external consultations, had identified key challenges, such as the difficulty of justifying Membership costs for less-resourced Members and the absence of communication tools tailored to policymakers. The findings also emphasised the importance for clearer communication about WOA's unique value compared to other international organisations.

She then summarised the project's recommendations, highlighting that the analysis had proposed several actions to enhance the visibility, understanding, and impact of WOA's value, mandate, and engagement. These included, among others, creating a dedicated Membership page, consolidating benefit listings (especially for less-resourced or non-trade-focused Members) and establishing systems that allow better follow-up of activities in order to measure impact more effectively. The project also emphasised the importance of clearly communicating WOA's role in co-funded initiatives. Clarifying WOA's mandate and addressing overlaps with other international organisations had also been recommended. Tailored engagement strategies, improved accessibility of capacity-building programmes, and a transparent, equitable financial contribution system had been identified as priorities for engaging Members more effectively. In terms of advocacy, the analysis called for a formal strategy targeting high-level decision-makers, supported by tailored tools and regular advocacy training for Delegates (the main WOA contact

at national level) and WOAAH staff (WOAH ambassadors). It also recommended stronger collaboration between HQ and regional offices to incorporate regional visions and expectations into the global strategies. Deliverable 3 proposed a medium- to long-term advocacy framework to empower Delegates, engage all WOAAH staff, shift communication to a Member-centric perspective, communicate WOAAH's value in a way that is tailored to each Member's unique context, and use a language and a content that is tailored to political and financial decision-makers.

Ms Nathaly Monsalve emphasised that the purpose of this presentation was to provide preliminary feedback on the project results, primarily to keep Members informed of progress. She took the opportunity to express her appreciation for the valuable input received from all Members and non-Members that had been consulted for this project. She noted that the initial findings were consistent with the ongoing revision of the Basic Texts, particularly the recommendation to define WOAAH's mandate more clearly, and that they aligned closely with one of the Director General's key priorities: enhancing the Organisation's visibility.

Ms Monsalve concluded that the project has produced substantial material to support the implementation of the Director General's vision and meaningfully contribute to the development of the 8th Strategic Plan. The results will be presented to the Council during its September meeting along with more precise proposal for the next steps, which will be discussed and defined further.

9 General Session kiosks and side events

Ms Nathaly Monsalve provided information on the scheduled kiosks and side events during the General Session including WOAAH Regions kiosk: Connecting expertise, building networks and fostering collaboration to strengthen Veterinary Services. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

10 Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results

Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management Officer, presented the key findings of the workshops held with the Regional Core Group (RCG) members during the first phase of the 8th WOAAH Strategic Plan development. She reported that the process had been designed to be inclusive and collaborative, with the aim of defining shared priorities for the next five years through strategic pillars and measurable outcomes. The workshops highlighted the key regional priorities expressed by RCG members from the five regions. For Asia, these included control of transboundary diseases, Capacity building, implementation of WOAAH standards, One Health integration, food security and sustainability, communication and engagement, partnerships and governance.

Ms Wuensch explained that the following common strategic topics had been identified across the regions during the workshops: standard setting and safe trade; animal health and welfare services and systems; and the need for WOAAH to affirm its leadership on animal health. Enablers had also been identified, including collaboration partnerships, sustainability (in terms of resources and governance), and data and technology.

Ms Wuensch provided details of the next steps and concluded by informing participants that the findings of the first phase will inform the development of the strategic axes and enablers of the 8th Strategic Plan to be presented by the Director General during the General Session. The findings will also inform the next phase of the plan's development. This phase will focus on the content of the axes and involve a larger number of Members through regional workshops conducted between 30 June and 2 July.

11 Closing

The meeting officially ended at 10:20 a.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face to face)

The Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific met face to face on 25 May 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CEST at the *Maison de la Chimie* in Paris. The meeting was attended by 20 Members of the Commission:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Chinese Taipei, , India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, and Maldives.

Observers: French Polynesia

Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Delegate of China, presented the adoption of the agenda. The Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific recognised the significant progress achieved in the areas of TADs, One Health and cross-sectoral collaboration. They also acknowledged the valuable support provided to Members to strengthen Veterinary Services, as well as the efforts of the Governance Review Committee.

1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

2 **Summary of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting**

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented a summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting. These included the technical items agreed for the forthcoming Regional Conference as well as the details about its organisation, the proposals for strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHP through various means and some discussions on common positions, among others.

3 **Debrief of WOAHP Council meeting**

Drs Masatsugu Okita and Mary van An del, Council members, updated the Regional Commission on matters concerning registration and voting rights for the General Session. As of 22 May, it was reported that 143 out of 183 Members had completed registration, surpassing the quorum requirement of 93. However, only 121 Members were confirmed to have voting rights.

Regarding resolutions, Council members informed that 29 resolutions would be proposed for adoption. Of these, 14 were identified for early adoption, covering topics such as disease status, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and Collaborating Centres, and would proceed through electronic means. The remaining 15 resolutions were scheduled to be presented for in-person adoption during the General Session.

Members were also briefed on the voting process. It was clarified that electronic voting would not be utilised for the partial elections, and that voting would revert to traditional in-person methods.

With regard to Draft Resolution 29 on the Technical Item, it was announced that a small group would be responsible for drafting the resolution, bearing in mind the interests of the Members and the interventions made during the Animal Health Forum.

It was also mentioned that the GRC-related draft resolution emphasises transparency and the documentation of standard-setting and nomination procedures for Specialist Commissions.

Additional announcements included the scheduling of a supplementary session focused on the 8th Strategic Plan to enlarge the Members consultation. It was also mentioned that WOAHP was to publish the State of World's Animal Health report which would be made available in hard copy, and that the 93rd General Session would be held at a new venue.

4 **Application from Singapore for WOAAH to designate the Centre for Wildlife Forensics, National Parks Board, Animal & Plant Health Centre as a WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Trade and Wildlife Health**

The Delegate of Singapore, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the Centre for Wildlife Forensics, National Parks Board, Animal & Plant Health Centre as a WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Trade and Wildlife Health.

Singapore presented their proposal emphasising their commitment to promoting safe, sustainable and risk-mitigated wildlife trade and movement.

They outlined their strengths in tackling threats to the health and welfare of wildlife, as well as to biodiversity and transboundary diseases at the interface of ecosystems, humans, and domestic animals.

In response to a question from the Delegate of Bangladesh regarding the potential for spillover to human health and domestic animals, Singapore explained that their initial focus would be on raising awareness among frontline staff and encouraging them to report potential issues to the relevant authorities promptly.

It was reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

5 **Application from Thailand for WOAAH to designate the Thailand National Wildlife Health Centre (Thailand-NWHC), and the Monitoring and Surveillance Centre for Zoonotic Diseases in Wildlife and Exotic Animals (MoZWE), Faculty of Veterinary Science, Mahidol University as a WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health Surveillance and Epidemiology**

The Delegate of Thailand, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the Thailand National Wildlife Health Centre (Thailand-NWHC), and the Monitoring and Surveillance Centre for Zoonotic Diseases in Wildlife and Exotic Animals (MoZWE), Faculty of Veterinary Science, Mahidol University as a WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health Surveillance and Epidemiology.

The Thailand-NWHC and MoZWE presented their strengths, including their well-established network of collaboration with national, regional and international partners, including WOAAH. They are recognised and accredited by several international standards organisations. Their current activities include laboratory diagnostics, wildlife disease surveillance and research, network development, capacity building and knowledge sharing in the field of wildlife health.

Their contribution to WOAAH includes supporting the South-East Asian Wildlife Health Network as secretariat.

It was reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

6 **Update on the Disease Reporting and Rumour tracking in the Region**

Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, presented an overview of the regional disease reporting situation via WAHIS and ARAHIS, as well as new emerging diseases. She noted that the region is performing particularly well in terms of aquatic disease reporting. Dr Hutchison encouraged Members to maintain this positive momentum by continuing to submit their six-monthly and annual reports in a timely manner.

Dr Jacqueline Lusat, Animal Health Information Officer at WOAAH, presented on the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific project, focusing on strengthening early warning systems through event-based surveillance (rumour tracking). The project strengthens the collective

capacity to detect and respond to early warning threats. Further discussion points for the Regional Conference in Indonesia in September 2025 will include information sharing (external summary reports) and improving collaboration by enhancing EIOS local sources and categories.

The Delegate of Australia raised a question about the measures of success for the project. Dr Hutchison responded that the key indicators of success are increased sensitivity and timeliness of disease notifications to WAHIS.

7 Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA General Session

Dr Mary van Andel, Delegate of New Zealand introduced the proposals from China, Thailand, and Australia.

Thailand raised concerns about the listing of susceptible species in the WOAHA Aquatic Code and Manual, particularly with regard to White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) and Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS). Thailand requested that WOAHA maintain species-level listings of susceptible aquatic animals, and sought support from Members for this proposal. India expressed support for the proposal. However, Australia stated that they were unable to support the proposal in its current form, citing difficulties in obtaining species-level information on aquatic diseases, and recommending that further technical guidance be sought from the Aquatic Animals Commission. Consequently, no common regional position was reached. The Chair noted that Thailand may still choose to present their proposal during the WOAHA General Session.

China presented a regional common position in support of the GRC's work in reviewing WOAHA basic texts. Singapore and Japan also supported this position. Singapore offered to present this position on behalf of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Regional Commission endorsed China's proposal and acknowledged the shared position of its Members. It also approved Singapore's representation of the region during the Assembly.

8 Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May)

Dr Beth Cookson, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Australia, provided an update on the GRC meeting held on 23 and 24 May 2025. The meeting focused on technical governance. She commented that the meeting emphasised the importance of maintaining robust and transparent Specialist Commissions that report directly to the Assembly, paying particular attention to scientific expertise, regional representation and gender balance. The GRC agreed on measures to improve transparency and participation, including the development of a repository of external experts, the clarification of expert workload expectations, the sharing of Council meeting minutes and the use of hyperlinks for reference materials.

Australia presented an update on behalf of the GRC members from Australia, Sri Lanka and China, incorporating input from regional advisors. The discussions were based on recommendations 14–18 of the external consultant's report, which have been prioritised in Resolution No. 5 to be presented at the General Session.

The next GRC meeting, scheduled for July, will focus on institutional and regional governance, with the aim of presenting final proposals to the Assembly in 2026.

9 WOAHA Incident Management System

Dr. Alexandre Fediaevsky, Head of the Preparedness and Resilience Department, presented on the WOAHA Incident Management System (IMS). He outlined that the IMS is designed to ensure a structured, effective, and coordinated response to incidents affecting animal health.

The Regional Commission took note of the background, objectives, and progress related to the development of the IMS, including the creation of an operational manual.

It was recalled that, following the adoption of Resolution 28 during the 2022 General Session, work commenced on the development of the IMS with support from Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

The initiative aims to establish a robust system to strengthen emergency response capabilities, enhance response capacity, set operational standards, and facilitate the sharing of best practices.

The approach adopted for the IMS was described as scalable, inclusive and adaptable. It is supported by a policy framework intended to improve structural effectiveness. An operational manual has been developed to guide the response to Member or WOAHA requests to manage the incidence.

The system underwent testing first through an internal simulation exercise organised by WOAHA and then during a real-world application in response to a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in Europe.

In response to a question from Australia regarding coordination between WOAHA and national emergency response forces, with a specific reference to France, it was clarified that the IMS's current internal mechanisms do not establish direct links with France's or other countries' emergency response systems. However, the importance of liaising with national systems was emphasised, as this aligns with a systems-based approach to managing incident risks.

The Delegate of India asked how national contingency or crisis management plans should align with the IMS. It was explained that the IMS is designed to be adaptable to its implementation context. Flexibility is a core mandate of the organisation. Members were informed that the forthcoming emergency response chapter would provide high-level guidance and that the IMS should be developed to align with organisational and national contexts.

The representative from Bangladesh questioned whether the development of the IMS had taken the International Health Regulations (IHR) into account. In response, it was stated that WOAHA is capable of coordinating activities with international organisations and networks, such as the Quadripartite and the GF-TADs. It was also noted that the IMS takes a multi-sectoral approach, considering the One Health dimension and drawing on relevant expertise to assess risks, impacts and consequences.

10 **Closing**

The President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific thanked all the speakers, Members and partners for their contributions. The Regional Commission acknowledged the two proposals for WOAHA Collaborating Centres on wildlife, submitted by Singapore and Thailand respectively. Members were reminded of the upcoming Regional Conference, which will take place in Indonesia from 22 to 26 September 2025.

The meeting officially ended at 12:30 p.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Session 1 (virtual)

**13 May 2025
(7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Paris time)**

Draft Agenda

6:45 a.m.– 7:00 a.m.	Zoom check-in and connecting
7:00 a.m. – 7:05 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Delegate of China, PR)
7:05 a.m. – 7:15 a.m.	Preparation of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission, to be held in Indonesia, from 22 to 26 September 2025 (Dr Imron, Alternate Delegate of Indonesia)
7:15 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Dr Akma binti Ngah Hamid, Vice-President for Regional Commission and Delegate of Malaysia)
7:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.	Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHP through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)
7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Discussion on regional positions for WOAHP General Session (Dr Masatsugu Okita, Council member and Delegate of Japan)
8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Updates on Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) (Dr Carolyn Guy Chair of RAWS Advisory Group)
8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at 92nd General Session and consultation on technical governance (Dr Beth Cookson, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Australia)
9:15 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.	Benefits of WOAHP Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes (Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Department)
9:35 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results (Ms Stéphanie Frehel/ Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management and Internal Control Unit)
9:50 a.m.	Closing (Dr Baoxu Huang)

Session 2 (face to face)
25 May 2025
(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)

Agenda

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Delegate of China, PR)
10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)
10:15 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	Debrief of WOAHC Council meeting (Drs Masatsugu Okita and Mary van Andel, Council members)
10:25 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	Application from Singapore for WOAHC to designate the Centre for Wildlife Forensics, National Parks Board, Animal & Plant Health Centre as a WOAHC Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Trade and Wildlife Health (Delegate of Singapore)
10:35 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Application from Thailand for WOAHC to designate the Thailand National Wildlife Health Centre (Thailand-NWHC), and the Monitoring and Surveillance Centre for Zoonotic Diseases in Wildlife and Exotic Animals (MoZWE), Faculty of Veterinary Science, Mahidol University as a WOAHC Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health Surveillance and Epidemiology (Delegate of Thailand)
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Updates on the Disease Reporting and Rumour tracking in the Region (WAHIAD/DID/RRAP)
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Discussion on regional positions for WOAHC General Session (Dr Mary van Andel, Council member and Delegate of New Zealand)
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May) (Dr Beth Cookson, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Australia)
12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	WOAHC Incident Management System (Dr Alexandre Fediaevsky, Preparedness and Resilience Department)
12:30 p.m.	Closing (Dr Baoxu Huang,)

Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe

Session 1 (virtual)

The Regional Commission for Europe met by videoconference on 15 May 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 68 participants, including Delegates, Alternate Delegates and Representatives from 34 Members of the Commission, observers, and representatives from 4 International and Regional Organisations:

<u>Members of the Commission:</u>	Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.
<u>Observers:</u>	European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security, (FESASS), Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), Vier-Pfoten
<u>International/regional organisations:</u>	European Commission (EC), European Union Council (EUC), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Coalition for Animal Welfare (RSPCA-ICFAW).

The Meeting was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission for Europe, accompanied by Dr Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative for Europe, who opened the virtual meeting and welcomed participants.

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance addressed a welcome message to all participants.

1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

Dr Balodis welcomed the Delegates and other participants, thanking them for their interest and attendance at this first session of the Regional Commission meeting. The agenda, which was presented in detail by the Chair and described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

2 **Outcomes of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 30 September to 4 October 2024**

On behalf of Dr Abrar Akbarov, Delegate of Uzbekistan, Mr Amirkhon Tukhtasinov, summarised the main conclusions from the topics presented and discussed during the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe. The Conference was attended by 146 participants, including WOAHA Delegates, representatives of 32 Members of the Region, and senior officers from 8 regional and international organisations.

Mr Tukhtasinov highlighted the two technical items presented at the conference, which allowed the Regional Commission to adopt recommendations to be presented to the World Assembly for adoption. These were technical item 1, on “Pandemic preparedness in Europe: the role of Animal Health and Veterinary Services in One Health and pandemic preparedness”, and technical item 2 on “Advancements in the Veterinary Services through Digitalisation”. He also emphasised the presentation made by Uzbekistan regarding its agriculture and livestock sectors and the work of the Veterinary Committee in collaboration with WOAHA, and how engagement in the PVS Pathway has helped Uzbekistan secure funding from partners to improve its Veterinary Services.

He also referred to the visit organised for participants to the University of Samarkand, during which the students conducted a WOA Model exercise, inspired by the Model United Nations (MUN). Developed by the Samarkand University of Veterinary Medicine, the WOA Model simulates a WOA General Session. This helps veterinary students to become familiar with the organisation's structures and procedures, as well as the field of international animal health diplomacy. The WOA Model prepares students for future participation in WOA sessions, fostering an early understanding of One Health and global veterinary governance. It also helps to align veterinary education with international standards and promotes youth involvement in veterinary policy and disease prevention, nurturing future leaders in the field.

Several Delegates expressed interest about this WOA Model.

Mr Tukhtasinov concluded by once again expressing his country's honour at having hosted such an important regional event. The Regional Commission thanked Uzbekistan once more for the excellent organisation of the conference.

3 **Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission**

Dr Maris Balodis, Delegate of Latvia, reiterated Latvia's offer to host the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe. It will take place in Riga at the end of September 2026.

The exact dates will be agreed at a later stage in consultation with the Director General.

4 **Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe**

The Regional Commission selected the following topic for technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission:

Harmonization and effectiveness of biosecurity measures for
emerging and reemerging transboundary animal diseases

5 **Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOA through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting).**

The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOA through various means:

1. Climate Change, Animal Health and One Health
2. Veterinary Workforce Resilience to Veterinary Workforce Sustainability
3. Digital Transformation
4. AMR: tackling AMR, highlighting good practices, barriers, and the opportunities to drive global progress on Antimicrobial Resistance

The Delegate of Sweden requested that WOA consider including a topic focusing on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the agenda for the next General Session, to enable Delegates to discuss the barriers and opportunities for achieving the goals of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) AMR Declaration, and to share country experiences of tackling AMR.

6 **Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results**

Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management Officer, presented the key findings of the workshops held with the Regional Core Group (RCG) members during the first phase of the 8th WOA Strategic Plan development. She reported that the process had been designed to be inclusive and collaborative, with the aim of defining shared priorities for the next five years through strategic pillars and measurable outcomes. The workshops highlighted the key regional priorities

expressed by RCG members from the five regions. For Europe, these included Strengthening preparedness for emerging diseases, strengthening Veterinary Services, One Health approach and the role of Veterinary Services, digitalisation and data, visibility and communication, science-based standards, partnerships and WOAHA governance.

Ms Wuensch explained that the following common strategic topics had been identified across the regions during the workshops: standard setting and safe trade; animal health and welfare services and systems; and the need for WOAHA to affirm its leadership on animal health. Enablers had also been identified, including collaboration partnerships, sustainability (in terms of resources and governance), and data and technology.

Ms Wuensch provided details of the next steps and concluded by informing participants that the findings of the first phase will inform the development of the strategic axes and enablers of the 8th Strategic Plan to be presented by the Director General during the General Session. The findings will also inform the next phase of the plan's development. This phase will focus on the content of the axes and involve a larger number of Members through regional workshops conducted between 30 June and 2 July.

7 Proposal of the new Terms of Reference for the Regional Core Group of the Regional Commission for Europe and the new composition

Dr Ulrich Herzog, First Vice President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria, presented a proposal for revised Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Regional Core Group (RCG) of the Regional Commission for Europe, including an updated composition. The revision process began in 2024 and comprised two dedicated RCG meetings. The updated ToR aims to enhance communication and cooperation across the region, while ensuring more balanced and broader regional representation. The new composition comprises the six elected Members, as well as additional representatives from each of the five identified subregions: the European Union (EU), the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Western Europe (non-EU), South-Eastern Europe and Western and Central Eurasia (non-EAEU). A rotation system will be applied for a three-year term. To support the nomination process in line with the new ToR, the WOAHA Regional and Sub-Regional Representations held five online consultations with the subregions.

The new ToR will be endorsed during the face-to-face meeting of the Regional Commission on 25 May 2025.

8 Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at the 92nd General Session and consultation on technical governance

In his capacity as member of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), Dr Herzog presented an update outlining the Committee's ongoing work and initial recommendations.

He reported that the Committee had held three meetings to develop its work programme and formulate initial recommendations in response to Resolution No. 12 of 2024, which called for potential amendments to the WOAHA Basic Texts. It had been noted that the GRC would take into account the findings of the external analysis of WOAHA's institutional, technical, and financial governance (document 91GS/Adm-13), as well as other reform proposals identified by WOAHA Secretariat or by the Committee itself.

Dr Herzog also announced that the GRC's report to the 92nd General Session (92GS/Adm-06) sets out a two-phase work programme. Phase 1 involves assessing possible changes to WOAHA's governance structure and presenting recommendations to the Assembly in 2027. Phase 2 focuses on drafting the necessary legal texts to implement the Assembly's decisions. The programme also includes indicative timelines for consulting Delegates throughout the process. The report includes eight recommendations for governance reforms that can be implemented from May 2025 onwards without requiring amendments to the Basic Texts. Three of these require additional work and consultation, particularly with Regional and Specialist Commissions, before formal proposals can be submitted in 2027. These include potential changes to the appointment process for Specialist Commissions as well as enhancing transparency around Members' financial contributions and arrears. The remaining recommendations, which can be implemented by the Secretariat, aim to improve transparency, for example, creating a central repository of WOAHA experts and publishing Council meeting minutes.

Regarding Draft Resolution No. 5 for the 92nd General Session, he noted that it accurately reflects the conclusions of the GRC report and had been reviewed by GRC members. The resolution proposes that the Assembly take note of the GRC's work programme and the initial reforms to be implemented by the Secretariat and approve that the GRC beginning to work on initial governance reforms, with a view to submitting a proposal to the Assembly at the 2027 General Session.

Dr Herzog finally informed participants that the GRC would begin examining potential improvements to WOA's technical governance at its upcoming meeting, scheduled for 23 - 24 May 2025. He reminded participants that background information papers had been made available on the WOA Delegate Portal, allowing Delegates to review the materials and share their feedback with their respective regional GRC members. The consultation will mainly focus on two key areas: first, whether to revise the appointment process for members of the Specialist Commissions, including the possible introduction of term limits and gender balance considerations; and second, whether to reorganise WOA's technical bodies structure by consolidating its working groups and ad hoc groups into a single type of technical body, governed by a unified process for establishment and members' appointment.

Dr Herzog concluded by reminding Delegates that they could provide input either during the meeting or via alternative channels agreed upon with their regional GRC representatives, such as email.

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General, and responsible for the GRC Secretariat at WOA HQ level, concluded the presentation by emphasising the importance of Members' active involvement in the GRC's work. This includes reviewing the reports and recommending improvements to the governance. He encouraged Delegates to review the relevant documents and provide input on the GRC's initiatives to their regional GRC members.

The Delegate of UK asked for clarification on whether the need to define the mandate of WOA would be addressed by the GRC, and if so, how this would be reflected in and aligned with the objectives, actions and development of the 8th Strategic Plan.

Dr François Caya explained that this issue had already been highlighted by the external consultants hired to analyse the WOA Basic Texts, as well as by the consultants who conducted the analysis of Membership value for advocacy purposes. He also said that WOA was aware of the need to consolidate its mandate and it would be addressed as part of the work of the Governance Review Committee.

9 **Benefits of WOA Membership independent analysis: Project outcomes**

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Coordination Manager, gave a brief explanation of the outcomes of the independent analysis of the benefits of WOA Membership. This project was launched to support Members' engagement and advocacy efforts, particularly at high political levels. She announced that the ten-month project, which ran from May 2023 to March 2024, was funded by the Australian government and conducted by an external consultancy firm selected through a consultation of suppliers' process. The initiative aimed to clarify the value of WOA Membership for both current and prospective Members, to inform advocacy activities. She noted that all deliverables had been completed on time, including a proposed advocacy framework designed to improve communication, clarify WOA's mandate, and support Delegates in promoting the organisation's benefits. Implementing this framework is expected to strengthen institutional identity and help national decision-makers better understand the return on investment of WOA Membership.

Ms Monsalve commented that the analysis, based on internal and external consultations, had identified key challenges, such as the difficulty of justifying Membership costs for less-resourced Members and the absence of communication tools tailored to policymakers. The findings also emphasised the importance for clearer communication about WOA's unique value compared to other international organisations.

She then summarised the project's recommendations, highlighting that the analysis had proposed several actions to enhance the visibility, understanding, and impact of WOA's value, mandate, and engagement. These included, among others, creating a dedicated Membership page, consolidating benefit listings (especially for less-resourced or non-trade-focused Members) and establishing systems that allow better follow-up of activities in order to measure impact more effectively. The project also emphasised the importance of clearly communicating WOA's role in co-funded initiatives. Clarifying WOA's mandate and addressing overlaps with other international organisations had also been recommended. Tailored engagement strategies, improved accessibility of capacity-building programmes, and a transparent, equitable financial contribution system had been identified as priorities for engaging Members more effectively. In terms of advocacy, the analysis called for a formal strategy targeting high-level decision-makers, supported by tailored tools and regular advocacy training for Delegates (the main WOA contact at national level) and WOA staff (WOA ambassadors). It also recommended stronger collaboration between HQ and regional offices to incorporate regional visions and expectations into the global strategies. Deliverable 3 proposed a medium- to long-term advocacy framework to empower Delegates, engage all WOA staff, shift communication to a Member-centric perspective, communicate WOA's value in a way that is tailored to each Member's unique context, and use a language and a content that is tailored to political and financial decision-makers.

Ms Nathaly Monsalve emphasised that the purpose of this presentation was to provide preliminary feedback on the project results, primarily to keep Members informed of progress. She took the opportunity to express her appreciation for the valuable input received from all Members and non-Members that had been consulted for this project. She noted that the initial findings were consistent with the ongoing revision of the Basic Texts, particularly the recommendation to define WOA's mandate more clearly, and that they aligned closely with one of the Director General's key priorities: enhancing the Organisation's visibility.

Ms Monsalve concluded that the project has produced substantial material to support the implementation of the Director General's vision and meaningfully contribute to the development of the 8th Strategic Plan. The results will be presented to the Council during its September meeting along with more precise proposal for the next steps, which will be discussed and defined further.

10 **General Session kiosks and side events**

Ms Nathaly Monsalve provided information on the scheduled kiosks and side events during the General Session including WOA Regions kiosk: Connecting expertise, building networks and fostering collaboration to strengthen Veterinary Services. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

11 **Partial elections: Proposals of Members of the Regional Commission for Europe to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe as Secretary General and Vice President**

Dr Balodis, chaired the discussion regarding the proposal of candidates for the positions of Vice President and Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe, who will be put forward for election at the World Assembly.

Dr Balodis explained that the two positions were vacant because the Delegates from the two countries who held the positions of second Vice President (Georgia) and Secretary General (North Macedonia) have withdrawn.

Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Second Vice President: Dr Galib Abdulaliyev (Delegate of Azerbaijan)

Secretary General: Dr Keti Margariti (Delegate of Albania)

12 **Closing**

Dr Balodis read the draft agenda for the Regional Commission session on 25 May.

The meeting officially ended at 13.05. p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face to face)

The Regional Commission for Europe met face to face on 25 May 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CEST at the *Maison de la Chimie*. The meeting was attended by 35 Members of the Commission.

Members of the Commission: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Rep., Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: European Commission (EC), European Union Council, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC).

Observers: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security (FESASS).

The Meeting was chaired by Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria, accompanied by Dr Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative for Europe.

1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

2 Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting

Dr Vasili Basiladze, Second Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Georgia, summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 15 May 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CEST, allowing the Regional Commission to confirm the main points agreed, namely the Technical Item proposed for the forthcoming Regional Conference, the strategic topics proposed to be addressed by WOAAH through various means and the candidates proposed by the region to be presented to the World Assembly for the partial elections of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

3 Endorsement of the new Terms of Reference for the Regional Core Group of the Regional Commission for Europe and the new composition

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Austria, presented the new Terms of Reference for the Regional Core Group of the Regional Commission for Europe and its new composition, and sought endorsement of both.

The following composition of the RCG has been proposed:

- Elected members of RCG: Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and regional members of the Council.
- Nominated members of RCG: Dr Herman Claeys (Belgium), Dr Sasa Boskovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Dr June Fanning (Ireland), Dr Vaidotas Kiudulas (Lithuania), Dr Laurent Monnerat (Switzerland), Dr Konstantin Savenkov (Russia), Dr Abrar Akbarov (Uzbekistan).

The Regional Commission unanimously endorsed the proposal.

4 Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May)

Dr Herzog briefly presented the outcomes of the discussions at the Governance Review Committee (GRC) meeting on technical governance held on 23 and 24 May and highlighted the importance of the work of the GRC for the future of the Organisation.

The GRC, through its work programme, will be providing advice to the Assembly on potential governance reforms and revisions to the Basic Texts. The aim is to enhance WOA's legal and governance frameworks' certainty, clarity, coherence, transparency, and inclusiveness.

The Committee plans to submit its recommended governance changes to the 93rd General Session in 2026. Based on the Assembly's decisions, a subsequent package of modifications to WOA's Basic Texts and legal frameworks will be prepared for consideration at the 94th General Session in 2027.

5 Update on the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe activities

Dr Herzog provided an update on the activities of the WOA Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, focusing on the implementation of the 4th Action Plan for 2024–2026 and highlighted the main achievements, including the implementation of 85% of the planned activities and strengthening the communication strategy.

The presentation provided an overview of completed and planned activities for the five priority topics (transport of animals by land and by sea, slaughter of animals, and dog population management, welfare of working equids and welfare of animals during disasters).

Dr Herzog also recalled the role and new composition of the Steering Group, inviting the Regional Commission to initiate discussions on priority topics and activities to be included in the next Platform action plan.

6 Eurasian Economic Union: Veterinary sanitary measures in the Eurasian Economic Union and their harmonisation with WOA international standards

Dr Vladimir Subbotin, Head of the SPS Department, provided an overview of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), an international organisation for regional economic integration, and its bodies and main tasks, including the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC).

The presentation focused on the legal regulation of veterinary and sanitary measures within the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). The aim is to address two key issues: ensuring the health and welfare of animals within the customs territory of the EEU, and guaranteeing the safety of food and other products of animal origin. Currently, these measures are covered by 22 regulatory legal acts. It was emphasised that all of these are developed in accordance with, and aligned with, WOA international standards.

The EEC places great importance on digitalisation issues relating to the implementation of veterinary controls by the Veterinary Services of the Member States, the application of veterinary measures and the operational interaction between these services.

Since 2014, the EEC and WOA have cooperated within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding. The speaker thanked WOA regional office in Moscow and WOA sub-regional office in Astana for their fruitful cooperation.

7 European Union: Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Europe; and update on EU activities

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Director of DG Health and Food Safety at the European Commission, provided an overview of the activities, events and strategies covered by the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) in Europe, as set out in the Second Action Plan (2023–2027). This plan targets six priority transboundary animal diseases: African Swine Fever (ASF), Rabies, High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

Dr Van Goethem reported on the outcomes of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee meeting, which was held in October 2024. He emphasised the importance of coordinated and innovative solutions to tackle the challenges posed by transboundary animal diseases in Europe and Central Asia. The inaugural GF-TADs Regional Conference of Standing Groups of Experts on Priority Transboundary Animal Diseases is set to convene in Belgrade, Serbia, in September 2025.

Dr Bernard Van Goethem also provided an overview of the European Commission's activities related to animal health and disease management within the EU. The presentation covered the situation regarding specific animal diseases in the EU, including African Swine Fever (ASF), Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), and Sheep and Goat Pox (SPGP)

Dr Van Goethem highlighted the European Commission's emergency response measures, which include the adoption of eight Implementing Decisions to manage disease outbreaks. These measures include establishing restricted zones in Hungary, Slovakia and Austria, creating protection and surveillance zones with severe restrictions, and defining additional restricted zones with moderate restrictions, in order to safeguard the rest of the EU. The presentation also emphasised the EU's role in supporting and coordinating efforts to manage animal diseases, the importance of swift and decisive measures, and the strong commitment of affected Member States to eradicating these diseases.

8 WOAHS Incident Management System

Dr Alexandre Fediaevsky, Head of the Preparedness and Resilience Department, presented the WOAHS Incident Management System (IMS), designed to provide a structured, effective, and coordinated response to animal-health-related incidents.

The IMS aims to ensure operational continuity, support WOAHS's mandate, and strengthen collaboration with external partners. It applies to all animal-health-related incidents involving WOAHS staff, external experts, contractors, and third-party service providers.

The IMS enhances WOAHS's capacity to respond to emergencies, strengthens its role in international emergency preparedness, and supports Veterinary Services in national preparedness efforts.

Following a question from Dr Middlemiss, Delegate of the United Kingdom, on specific examples for the IMS application, Dr Fediaevsky replied that IMS will be triggered in such cases as natural disasters, and new emergency diseases or animal welfare issues.

Closed Session for Delegates Only

9 **Annual reconfirmations: ongoing work related to compliance with requirements for maintenance of an official status & streamlining of the procedure**

Dr Anna-Maria Baka, Senior Disease Status Officer, presented an update on the ongoing work related to maintaining an official animal health status in accordance with the requirements of the Terrestrial Code, as well as streamlining the procedure for annually reconfirming this status.

Members with an official animal health status or an endorsed official control programme recognised by WOAHP must submit their annual reconfirmation(s). With regard to import conditions, Members importing commodities from countries or zones that are not officially recognised as free by WOAHP must adhere fully to the requirements of the disease-specific chapters of the Terrestrial Code, or provide evidence demonstrating that alternative measures achieve an equivalent level of risk mitigation to that required by the disease-specific chapters.

Efforts to streamline the annual reconfirmation procedure began during the 2024- 2025 recognition cycle. This involved standardising the process through guidance documents, consulting disease experts on the minimum acceptable level of evidence for demonstrating compliance, and collecting data on the types of supporting information submitted by Members.

Future steps will involve revising the reconfirmation forms and establishing clear criteria for when documented evidence will be required.

10 **Partial elections: selection of two Members of the Regional Commission for Europe to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe as Secretary General and Vice President.**

The Delegates of the Region unanimously agreed on the following proposed names:

Vice President: Dr Galib Abdulaliyev (Delegate of Azerbaijan)

Secretary General: Dr Keti Margariti (Delegate of Albania)

11 **Closing**

The meeting officially ended at 11:55 CEST.

**MEETINGS OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**
Session 1 (virtual)

15 May 2025
(10:00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. CEST)

Agenda

09:45 a.m.– 10:00 a.m.	Zoom check-in and connecting.
10:00 a.m. 10:05 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia)
10:05 a.m.–10:20 a.m.	Outcomes of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 30 September to 4 October 2024 (Mr Amirkhon Tukhtasinov , Head of the Division of WTO issues, Uzbekistan)
10:20 a.m.–10:25 a.m.	Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission (Dr Maris Balodis)
10:25 a.m.–10:40 a.m.	Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe (Dr Ulrich Herzog, First Vice President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria)
10:40 a.m.–10:55 a.m.	Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHP through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Vasili Basiladze, Second Vice President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Georgia)
10:55 a.m.–11:10 a.m.	Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results (Ms Stéphanie Frehel/ Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management and Internal Control Unit)
11:10 a.m.–11:20 a.m.	Proposal of the new Terms of Reference for the Regional Core Group of the Regional Commission for Europe and the new composition (Dr Ulrich Herzog)
11:20 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at 92nd General Session and consultation on technical governance (four Regional members of the Governance Review Committee, led by Dr Ulrich Herzog)
12:00 p.m. –12:15 p.m.	Benefits of WOAHP Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes (Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Department)
12:15 p.m. –12:45 p.m.	Partial elections: Proposals of Members of the Regional Commission for Europe to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe as Secretary General and Vice President (Dr Maris Balodis)
12:45 p.m.	Closing (Dr Maris Balodis)

Session 2 (face to face)
25 May 2025
(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)

Agenda

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Ulrich Herzog, Delegate of Austria and Vice-president of the Regional Commission for Europe)
10:05 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr Vasili Basiladze, Second Vice President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Georgia)
10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Endorsement of the new Terms of Reference for the Regional Core Group of the Regional Commission for Europe and the new composition (Dr Ulrich Herzog)
10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May) (Dr Ulrich Herzog, Regional member of the Governance Review Committee)
10:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	Update on the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe activities (Dr Ulrich Herzog)
11:05 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Eurasian Economic Union: Veterinary sanitary measures in the Eurasian Economic Union and their harmonisation with WOH international standards (Dr Vladimir Subbotin, Head of SPS Department)
11:20 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	European Union: Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Europe; and update on EU activities (Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Director, DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission)
11:35 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	WOAH Incident Management System (Dr Alexandre Fediaevsky, Preparedness and Resilience Department)

CLOSED SESSION (DELEGATES FROM EUROPE ONLY)

11:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Annual reconfirmations: ongoing work related to compliance with requirements for maintenance of an official status & streamlining of the procedure (Dr Anna-Maria Baka, Senior Disease Status Officer)
12:10 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Partial elections: selection of two Members of the Regional Commission for Europe to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe as Secretary General and Vice President (Dr Ulrich Herzog)
12:30 p.m.	Closing (Dr Ulrich Herzog)

Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

Session 1 (virtual)

The Regional Commission for the Middle East met by videoconference on 14 May 2025, at 9:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 37 participants, including Delegates from 13 Members of the Commission, 5 observers, and representatives from 1 Regional Organisation:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and United Arab Emirates.

Observers: Collaborating Centre for Quality Management Systems, Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases (ADAFSA), Collaborating Centre for Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines in the Middle East (CLEVB), Razi Vaccine & Serum Research Institute, Reference laboratory for sheep and goat pox (RVSI), and Palestine.

International/regional organisations: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD).

The Meeting was chaired by Dr Sanad Alharbi, President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia.

1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted with the only change being the reordering of the presentation on the proposal of a new Collaborating Centre from Egypt, which was moved to second on the agenda.

2 **Preparation of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission, to be held in Larnaca, Cyprus, from 24 to 28 November 2025**

Dr Christodoulos Pipis, Vice President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Cyprus, provided details on the organisation of the 18th Conference for the Regional Commission for the Middle East which will take place in Larnaca, Cyprus, from 24 to 28 November 2025.

He commented on the various arrangements that the country had made so far to organise the conference, and informed participants of the visa requirements, details of which were available on the relevant website.

He assured the participants that all the details would be sent in a timely manner.

3 **Application from Egypt for WOAAH to designate the Animal Reproduction Research Institute (ARRI) in Giza as a new WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Animal Reproductive, Neonatal and Udder Health in the Middle East**

Dr Hamed Mohamed Mousa ELaknas, Delegate of Egypt, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the Animal Reproduction Research Institute (ARRI) in Giza as a new WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Animal Reproductive, Neonatal and Udder Health in the Middle East.

He briefly presented the Institute and its activities and reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

Delegates from the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain asked Egypt questions about the technical aspects, the funding sources for the various activities and the details of the research activities, as well as how these were aligned with the priorities of WOAAH and the Middle East Regional Commission.

4 Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission.

“Strengthening multisectoral cooperation to implement a new vision of an alternative compensation policy that supports the stamping out policies for the control and eradication of high priority animal diseases in emergencies and pandemics”

5 Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAAH through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)

The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAAH through various means:

1. Developing unified regional protocols for responding to emerging and transboundary diseases.
2. Regional and global collaboration to reduce the impact of transboundary animal diseases on trade, and to implement updated standards.
3. Strengthen One Health Surveillance Systems for Emerging Zoonotic Threats.

6 Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results

Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management Officer, presented the key findings of the workshops held with the Regional Core Group (RCG) members during the first phase of the 8th WOAAH Strategic Plan development. She reported that the process had been designed to be inclusive and collaborative, with the aim of defining shared priorities for the next five years through strategic pillars and measurable outcomes. The workshops highlighted the key regional priorities expressed by RCG members from the five regions. For the Middle East these included food security and trade resilience, integrated One Health approach, animal welfare, regional capacity building, emerging and transboundary diseases, visibility and technical leadership of WOAAH, and partnerships and digitalization.

Ms Wuensch explained that the following common strategic topics had been identified across the regions during the workshops: standard setting and safe trade; animal health and welfare services and systems; and the need for WOAAH to affirm its leadership on animal health. Enablers had also been identified, including collaboration partnerships, sustainability (in terms of resources and governance), and data and technology.

Ms Wuensch provided details of the next steps and concluded by informing participants that the findings of the first phase will inform the development of the strategic axes and enablers of the 8th Strategic Plan to be presented by the Director General during the General Session. The findings will also inform the next phase of the plan's development. This phase will focus on the content of the axes and involve a larger number of Members through regional workshops conducted between 30 June and 2 July.

7 **Recommendations and conclusions of the roadmaps meeting and workshops related to Priority Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) in the region**

Dr Faycal Meziani, Technical expert from the Regional Representation for the Middle East, provided an overview of recent regional roadmap meetings and workshops held under the GF-TADs framework. These meetings and workshops focused on priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs) in the Middle East. He reported that discussions centred on strategic directions, key recommendations and priority actions for the six major diseases: PPR, FMD, brucellosis, vector-borne diseases (VBDs), HPAI and rabies.

Dr Meziani explained that each meeting produced tailored outcomes, such as roadmaps, action plans, or recommendations, based on regional disease dynamics and capabilities. The following highlights were shared:

- PPR and FMD: The emphasis is on harmonised surveillance, improved vaccination strategies, cross-border coordination and progressive control, all of which are aligned with global strategies.
- Rabies: The 'Zero by 2030' goal to be reinforced through the mass dog vaccination, dog population management, and collaboration across multiple sectors.
- Brucellosis: Launch of a regional network, strengthening of laboratories capacity, public health awareness, and One Health-based vaccination and biosecurity measures.
- VBDs: The priorities included advancing research, genome sequencing, integrating laboratories, and establishing multi-sectoral early warning systems.
- HPAI: The key focus areas identified were risk-based surveillance, wildlife monitoring and intersectoral coordination.

Finally, Dr Meziani confirmed that the way forward involves maintaining political commitment, strengthening regional networks and developing tools and procedures to ensure the effective implementation of recommendations and action plans at regional level.

8 **Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at 92nd General Session and consultation on technical governance**

Dr Christodoulos Pipis, Delegate of Cyprus and member of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), presented an update outlining the Committee's ongoing work and initial recommendations.

He reported that the Committee had held three meetings to develop its work programme and formulate initial recommendations in response to Resolution No. 12 of 2024, which called for potential amendments to the WOAHA Basic Texts. It had been noted that the GRC would take into account the findings of the external analysis of WOAHA's institutional, technical, and financial governance (document 91GS/Adm-13), as well as other reform proposals identified by WOAHA Secretariat or by the Committee itself.

Dr Pipis also announced that the GRC's report to the 92nd General Session (92GS/Adm-06) sets out a two-phase work programme. Phase 1 involves assessing possible changes to WOAHA's governance structure and presenting recommendations to the Assembly in 2027. Phase 2 focuses on drafting the necessary legal texts to implement the Assembly's decisions. The programme also includes indicative timelines for consulting Delegates throughout the process. The report includes eight recommendations for governance reforms that can be implemented from May 2025 onwards without requiring amendments to the Basic Texts. Three of these require additional work and consultation, particularly with Regional and Specialist Commissions, before formal proposals can be submitted in 2027. These include potential changes to the appointment process for Specialist Commissions as well as enhancing transparency around Members' financial contributions and arrears. The remaining recommendations, which can be implemented by the Secretariat, aim to improve transparency, for example, creating a central repository of WOAHA experts and publishing Council meeting minutes.

Regarding Draft Resolution No. 5 for the 92nd General Session, he noted that it accurately reflects the conclusions of the GRC report and had been reviewed by GRC members. The resolution proposes that the Assembly take note of the GRC's work programme and the initial reforms to be implemented by the Secretariat and approve that the GRC beginning to work on initial governance reforms, with a view to submitting a proposal to the Assembly at the 2027 General Session.

Dr Pipis finally informed participants that the GRC would begin examining potential improvements to WOA's technical governance at its upcoming meeting, scheduled for 23 - 24 May 2025. He reminded participants that background information papers had been made available on the WOA Delegate Portal, allowing Delegates to review the materials and share their feedback with their respective regional GRC members. The consultation will mainly focus on two key areas: first, whether to revise the appointment process for members of the Specialist Commissions, including the possible introduction of term limits and gender balance considerations; and second, whether to reorganise WOA's technical bodies structure by consolidating its working groups and ad hoc groups into a single type of technical body, governed by a unified process for establishment and members' appointment.

Dr Pipis concluded by reminding Delegates that they could provide input either during the meeting or via alternative channels agreed upon with their regional GRC representatives, such as email.

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General, and responsible of the GRC Secretariat at WOA HQ level, concluded the presentation by emphasising the importance of Members' active involvement in the GRC's work. This includes reviewing the reports and recommending improvements to the governance. He encouraged Delegates to review the relevant documents and provide input on the GRC's initiatives to their regional GRC members.

9 **Benefits of WOA Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes**

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Coordination Manager, gave a brief explanation of the outcomes of the independent analysis of the benefits of WOA Membership. This project was launched to support Members' engagement and advocacy efforts, particularly at high political levels. She announced that the ten-month project, which ran from May 2023 to March 2024, was funded by the Australian government and conducted by an external consultancy firm selected through a consultation of suppliers' process. The initiative aimed to clarify the value of WOA Membership for both current and prospective Members, to inform advocacy activities. She noted that all deliverables had been completed on time, including a proposed advocacy framework designed to improve communication, clarify WOA's mandate, and support Delegates in promoting the organisation's benefits. Implementing this framework is expected to strengthen institutional identity and help national decision-makers better understand the return on investment of WOA Membership.

Ms Monsalve commented that the analysis, based on internal and external consultations, had identified key challenges, such as the difficulty of justifying Membership costs for less-resourced Members and the absence of communication tools tailored to policymakers. The findings also emphasised the importance for clearer communication about WOA's unique value compared to other international organisations.

She then summarised the project's recommendations, highlighting that the analysis had proposed several actions to enhance the visibility, understanding, and impact of WOA's value, mandate, and engagement. These included, among others, creating a dedicated Membership page, consolidating benefit listings (especially for less-resourced or non-trade-focused Members) and establishing systems that allow better follow-up of activities in order to measure impact more effectively. The project also emphasised the importance of clearly communicating WOA's role in co-funded initiatives. Clarifying WOA's mandate and addressing overlaps with other international organisations had also been recommended. Tailored engagement strategies, improved accessibility of capacity-building programmes, and a transparent, equitable financial contribution system had been identified as priorities for engaging Members more effectively. In terms of advocacy, the analysis called for a formal strategy targeting high-level decision-makers, supported by tailored tools and regular advocacy training for Delegates (the main WOA contact at national level) and WOA staff (WOA ambassadors). It also recommended stronger

collaboration between HQ and regional offices to incorporate regional visions and expectations into the global strategies. Deliverable 3 proposed a medium- to long-term advocacy framework to empower Delegates, engage all WOAAH staff, shift communication to a Member-centric perspective, communicate WOAAH's value in a way that is tailored to each Member's unique context, and use a language and a content that is tailored to political and financial decision-makers.

Ms Nathaly Monsalve emphasised that the purpose of this presentation was to provide preliminary feedback on the project results, primarily to keep Members informed of progress. She took the opportunity to express her appreciation for the valuable input received from all Members and non-Members that had been consulted for this project. She noted that the initial findings were consistent with the ongoing revision of the Basic Texts, particularly the recommendation to define WOAAH's mandate more clearly, and that they aligned closely with one of the Director General's key priorities: enhancing the Organisation's visibility.

Ms Monsalve concluded that the project has produced substantial material to support the implementation of the Director General's vision and meaningfully contribute to the development of the 8th Strategic Plan. The results will be presented to the Council during its September meeting along with more precise proposal for the next steps, which will be discussed and defined further.

10 **General Session kiosks and side events**

Ms Nathaly Monsalve provided information on the scheduled kiosks and side events during the General Session including WOAAH Regions kiosk: Connecting expertise, building networks and fostering collaboration to strengthen Veterinary Services. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

Closed Session for Delegates Only

11 **Application from Egypt for WOAAH to designate the Animal Reproduction Research Institute (ARRI) in Giza as a new WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Animal Reproductive, Neonatal and Udder Health in the Middle East**

Following the presentation done by Dr Hamed Mohamed Mousa ELaknas, Delegate of Egypt, at the beginning of the meeting, regarding the application of the country for a new WOAAH Collaborating Centre, Delegates shared their views via a Zoom poll.

While the proposal sparked valuable discussion, it was ultimately decided that it would not be approved at this time.

12 **Discussions and closing**

The meeting officially ended at 12:10 p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face to face)

The Regional Commission for the Middle East met face to face on 25 May 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CEST at the *Maison de la Chimie* in Paris. The meeting was attended by 42 participants from 11 Members of the Commission:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates.

Observers: ADAFSA Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases, and Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute.

The Meeting was chaired by Dr Sanad Alharbi, President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia.

1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

2 **Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting**

The President of the Regional Commission summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 14 May 2025, at 9:00 a.m. CEST, allowing the Regional Commission to confirm the main points agreed, namely the technical item proposed for the forthcoming Regional Conference and the organisation of the Conference, the strategic topics proposed to be addressed by WOAAH through various means, among others.

3 **One Health Joint Plan of Action (JPA), State of play in the Middle East Region, Achievements and future perspectives under the Quadripartite collaboration**

Dr Chadia Wannous, One Health Senior Specialist and Global Coordinator and Dr Faycal Meziani, Technical Expert from the Regional Representation for the Middle East, presented the objectives and framework of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (JPA), highlighting how it provides a global framework for enhancing multisectoral collaboration in preventing and mitigating health threats at the human-animal-environment interface.

Dr Meziani highlighted the regional achievements made through the Quadripartite (QPT) collaboration, including finalising the Regional One Health Action Plan, establishing the Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism and drafting the Joint Statement of Intent for Regional One Health Coordination. These strategic documents are currently undergoing final validation and endorsement and will be officially presented at the Regional One Health Conference in Tunis on 14–15 June 2025. Prior to this, an online signing ceremony for the Joint Statement will take place on Monday, 2 June 2025, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. CET, showcasing the region's leadership and dedication to the One Health approach.

4 **Implementation of Post Vaccination Monitoring studies for FMD and PPR in the region**

Dr Santina Grazioli, Director of IZS Brescia, and Dr Ahmad Al Majali, Regional Representative for the Middle East, informed participants why Post Vaccination Monitoring is necessary to optimise vaccination programmes and the use of limited resources to achieve expected results. Demonstrating the impact of vaccination programmes on disease helps justify the cost of vaccination and identify weaknesses in the programme to improve it. Monitoring vaccination programmes and population immunity are important components of the surveillance system for countries embarking on a vaccine-based foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) control programme (PCP stage 2 and 3).

To help countries monitor and design their Post Vaccination Monitoring, a group of experts supported by WOAAH and FAO published a guide setting out and explaining the different steps in the process and assisting with the evaluation of FMD vaccination regimen and programme performance. The results of the Post Vaccination Monitoring conducted in Syria in 2021 serve as an example of the information that can be obtained from this study.

Dr Al Majali highlighted that, despite vaccination efforts in the Middle East, PPR outbreaks are still being reported in some parts of the region, mainly due to bottlenecks in surveillance activities. Prevalence studies to assess PPRV antibodies and immunity status are crucial for PPR eradication. This includes post-vaccination evaluation (PVE) and sero-monitoring, which determine vaccine efficacy and vaccination effectiveness respectively. Dr Al Majali stressed the importance of including protocols for assessing the post-vaccination immune response (sero-monitoring) to evaluate overall vaccination effectiveness.

5 The Role of the WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Camel Disease in Improving Camel Health Regionally and Inter-regionally

Ms Asma Abdi Mohammed of the WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases provided a presentation on the necessity of establishing a Collaborating Centre for camel diseases in the Middle East due to the lack of specialised facilities for diagnosing and responding to camel disease emergencies in the region. She noted that, in May 2022, the centre was recognised by the WOAAH and nominated as the world's first specialised WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases (WOAH-CCD), hosted by Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. The centre provide consultancy and technical support to countries practising camel breeding worldwide, with the aim of filling the knowledge gap on camel diseases, diagnostic capacities, and epidemiological and research studies. The centre has developed and activated specialised, well-equipped diagnostic facilities, including a modern biobanking system and high biosafety level laboratories for the safe handling of high-risk pathogens. It also has advanced molecular and sequencing technologies for the epidemiological characterisation of pathogens. This will support local and national authorities, as well as international partners, in responding rapidly and in a timely manner to epidemic emergencies within the scope of the One Health approach.

Dr Kaltham Kayaf, Delegate of the UAE, added that the WOAAH Reference Laboratory CVRL in Dubai is engaged in the study of MERS-CoV, Pox and brucellosis.

6 Update on the activities of the Regional and Subregional Representation

Dr Ahmad Al Majali and Dr Mohamed Alhosani provided updates on the activities carried out at the Regional and Subregional offices, respectively, including workshops, webinars, meetings and training sessions, as well as upcoming activities.

7 Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May)

Dr Christodoulos Pipis, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Cyprus, provided a brief overview of the discussions held during the meeting on 23 and 24 May.

He emphasised that, at the last physical GRC meeting, which took place in Paris on 23–24 May 2025, Codex and IPPC representatives presented an overview of the technical work of their respective Organisation to feed the GRC discussion on WOAAH's technical governance. He mentioned that, subsequently, the group reviewed the text alongside the proposals presented by the Secretariat regarding WOAAH's technical governance, as well as the proposed Resolution 5 text.

Dr Pipis added that, following discussion, the GRC had decided to proceed with two of the eight proposed texts on the technical governance review and had requested the Secretariat to prepare the relevant informative texts for dissemination and consultation with the Regional Commissions. Regarding future steps, the next two meetings will be held virtually in July and September, followed by an in-person meeting in November 2025. The GRC recommendations will be presented at the 2026 General Session for endorsement, after which the respective texts will be drafted and presented for approval at the 2027 General Session.

8 Closing

The meeting officially ended at 12:30 p.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
Session 1 (virtual)**

14 May 2025

(9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CEST)

Agenda

8:45 a.m.– 9:05 a.m.	Zoom check-in and connecting
9:05 a.m.– 9:10 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Sanad Alharbi, President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia)
9:10 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.	Preparation of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission, to be held in Larnaca, Cyprus, from 24 to 28 November 2025 (Dr Christodoulos Pipis, Vice President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Cyprus)
9:25 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.	Application from Egypt for WOAHA to designate the Animal Reproduction Research Institute (ARRI) in Giza as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Animal Reproductive, Neonatal and Udder Health in the Middle East (Dr Hamed Al Aknas, Delegate of Egypt).
9:40 a.m. – 09:55 a.m.	Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Vice-President of the Council and Delegate of Bahrain)
9:55 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHA through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Elias Ibrahim, Secretary General of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Lebanon)
10:10 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results (Ms Stéphanie Frehel/ Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management and Internal Control Unit)
10:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Recommendations and conclusions of the roadmaps meeting and workshops related to Priority Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) in the region (Dr Faycal Meziani, Technical Expert of the Regional Representation for the Middle East).
10:40 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at 92nd General Session and consultation on technical governance (Dr Christodoulos Pipis, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Cyprus)
11:20 a.m.- 11:40 a.m.	Benefits of WOAHA Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes (Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Department)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11:40a.m.-11:50 a.m.	Application from Egypt for WOAHA to designate the Animal Reproduction Research Institute (ARRI) in Giza as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Animal Reproductive, Neonatal and Udder Health in the Middle East (Dr Hamed Al Aknas, Delegate of Egypt).
11:50 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.	Discussions and Closing

Session 2 (face to face)
25 May 2025
(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)

Agenda

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Opening and Welcome
10:05 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Sanad Alharbi, President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia)
10:10 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr Sanad Alharbi)
10:25 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	One Health Joint Plan of Action (JPA), State of play in the Middle East Region, Achievements and future perspectives under the Quadripartite collaboration (Dr Chadia Wannous, One Health Senior Specialist and Global Coordinator and Dr Faycal Meziani Technical Expert, RRME)
10:45 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	Implementation of Post Vaccination Monitoring studies for FMD and PPR in the region (Dr Santina Grazioli, Director of IZS Brescia/Dr Ahmad Al Majali, Regional Representative for the Middle East).
11:05 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.	The Role of the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Camel Disease in Improving Camel Health Regionally and Inter-regional (Ms. Asma Abdi Mohammed, WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases, Abu Dhabi, UAE).
11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Update on the activities of the Regional and Subregional Representation (Dr Ahmad Al Majali, Regional Representative and Dr Mohamed Alhosani, Subregional Representative)
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.	Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May) (Dr Christodoulos Pipis, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Cyprus)
12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Conclusions and Next Steps, Closing remarks