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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

Paris, 7-9 October 2025

The meeting was attended by:

Dr Susana Guedes Pombo (Portugal), President of the Council
Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay), Past President of the Council
Dr Fajer Sabah Al Salloom (Bahrain), Vice-President of the Council
Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal), Member
Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez (Nicaragua), Member
Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan), Member
Dr Mary Van Andel (New Zealand), Member
Dr Christine Middlemiss (United Kingdom), Member

Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran, Director General, participated in the work of the Council in a consultative capacity, as did Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General (Institutional Affairs and Governance), Dr Montserrat Arroyo Kuribreña, Deputy Director General (Standards Setting and Implementation), Dr Baba Soumaré, Deputy Director General (Global Framework Coordination and Capacity building) and Ms Marie Alizon (Director of Administration).

Considering the items on the agenda, the following staff members and external persons participated in the relevant sessions:

- Ms Emily Tagliaro, Head of the Engagement and Investment Department participated in the sessions relating to the resource mobilisation strategy for WOA Regular Budget and to the 2025 mid-year review of budget expenditure.
- Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management Officer, participated in the session relating to the approach to the development of the 8th Strategic Plan.
- Mr Quentin Mirgon, Head of the General Services Unit, participated in the session relating to the Headquarters premises real estate study.
- Dr Javier Yagueeros-Marcos, Head of the Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products, participated in the session relating to update of the membership of the AMR Working Group.
- Dr Chadia Wannous, One Health Senior Specialist and Global Coordinator, participated in the session relating to the Pandemic Accord and Quadripartite WOA Secretariat.
- Mr Pierre-Emmanuel Cangah, Chief of Staff, Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Coordination Manager and Mr Gerrit Beger, Head of the Communication Department, participated in the discussion relating to the advocacy at WOA.
- Dr Caroline Paquier, Senior Programme Manager, and Ms Nahoko Ieda, Scientific Officer, participated in the discussion relating to Observatory update.
- Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Chairperson of the Governance Review (GRC) Committee and Delegate of South Africa, participated in the session relating to the work of the GRC.
- Dr Alexandre Fediaevsky, Head of the Preparedness and Resilience Department participated in the session relating to the global conference on biological threat reduction.
- Mr Stéphan Benichou, Head of the Digital Transformation and Information System Department (DTIS), participated in the session relating to the early adoption of resolutions and election electronic platform.

Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the Legal Affairs Unit, contributed to some of the discussions and acted as recording secretary.



1. OPENING ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was opened at 9.30 (Paris time) by the President, Dr Susana Guedes Pombo, who welcomed the members of the Council at the WOAHA Headquarters in Paris.

The President of the Council indicated that Dr Dlamini had retired and stepped down from his position on the Council. She expressed sincere gratitude for his valuable contributions.

2. OPENING ADDRESS OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Director General informed the Council that preparations were already underway for the 93rd General Session, which would take place in a new venue, outlined the different items of the Council meeting agenda and recalled that the minutes of the Council meeting would be published on the WOAHA website following validation by the Council as decided by the Assembly at 2025 General Session. She paid tribute to Dr Dlamini for his remarkable contributions.

3. INTRODUCTION OF DR BABA SOUMARE – DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR GLOBAL FRAMEWORK COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Dr Baba Soumaré introduced himself and shared his professional background. He recalled the importance of working collaboratively with other organisations, which was the message conveyed through the creation of a Directorate on Global Framework Coordination and Capacity Building. The President and other Council members welcomed him.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Council adopted the agenda.

5. GENERAL SESSION

5.1. Synthesis of the 92nd General Session (2025)

Dr Caya presented some statistics of the 92nd General Session and reminded the Council that, since the Covid-19, WOAHA had sought to ensure that Plenary Sessions were as efficient as possible. He presented the results of the post-General Session survey, which included some logistical aspects that could be improved to enhance Delegates' experience. The overall satisfaction of the General Session was rated by participants at 4.34 out of 5, compared to 4.00 in 2024. He explained that internal consultations had been conducted to collect feedback on both the strengths and areas for improvement.

Dr. Caya presented the consolidated feedback received from various departments. It was noted that the registration process had been smooth, and the communication efforts, particularly through social media, had been well executed. The kiosks and the Director General's presentation had successfully engaged participants. Staff members who served as masters of ceremony had also been positively acknowledged. Several challenges were identified, including a lack of available meeting rooms, and conflicts with bilateral meetings. These concerns were expected to be addressed by the benefits of the new venue of the 93rd General Session. In addition, the absence of a dedicated application for real-time networking and notifications had been considered a missed opportunity. However, he noted that a mobile application would be made available, as had been the case two years ago. Finally, Dr. Caya underlined the difficulties encountered in securing quorum and stressed that this responsibility ultimately laid with the Delegates.

The Council thanked Dr Caya for the excellent presentation and noted that the participation levels of 2024 had been maintained in 2025, which reflected a positive evolution of the General Session.



The Council reiterated the challenges in obtaining quorum. The Council observed that some Delegates were present inside the venue building at *Maison de la Chimie* but did not enter the plenary room, a recurring issue that had already been noted during previous General Sessions. It was added that a solution should be found, especially as Delegates receive per diems. The Council suggested that staff from Regional and Sub-Regional Representations could take a more proactive role in encouraging Delegates to enter the plenary room. It was also proposed that an item be included in the Agenda of Regional Commissions' meetings to formally remind Delegates of their responsibility to attend. Finally, it was proposed that a firmer approach might be considered to reinforce the importance of participation, while remaining respectful of the Delegates' responsibilities and circumstances.

The Council also expressed satisfaction that the technical items had been well managed and considered it a great testament to the work WOAHA was conducting. The Council also acknowledged interest in the livestream and suggested that solutions to finance it should be explored.

The Council later emphasised that standard-setting was the core activity of WOAHA and expressed disappointment that the survey did not include a question on this topic. It was further noted that the improvement of standards remained essential to optimise vaccination efforts.

The Council suggested centralising the voting process for resolutions and noted that the simultaneous scheduling of numerous events had been a challenge for Delegates. It was stressed that a better balance needed to be found between the Plenary Session and bilateral meetings.

Dr Caya thanked the Council for the comments and noted that the Director General would convey gratitude to WOAHA staff for their efforts in the organisation of the 92nd General Session. On the issue of quorum, he stated that Council members could advocate within their respective regions, and that WOAHA would continue to explore all appropriate measures to support improved participation. The role of Regional and Sub-regional Representatives was highlighted by the Director General who noted that the matter could be discussed during the Regional Commissions meetings. The Director General also suggested that Delegates who had not attended the Plenary Session the previous year, could be reminded of the importance of their presence, particularly in view of the quorum requirements. The Council agreed and supported the idea of sending a letter to such Delegates to remind them of their obligations.

In response to the Council's comments on resolution voting, Dr Caya recalled the efforts made since Covid-19, including the early adoption of resolutions to enhance effectiveness, and noted that the Organisation was reaching its limits in terms of finding new solutions.

5.2. Proposed modalities for holding the 93rd General Session's Forum (2026)

Dr Caya presented the proposed modalities of the 93rd General Session scheduled from Monday 18 May to Friday 22 May 2026. He announced that the new venue selected was the CNIT (*Centre des nouvelles industries et technologies*), in the Paris area, and delivered a presentation on the building and the opportunities it offered, notably a spacious amphitheatre, additional networking spaces, and modern equipment.

He also noted that the General Session maintained a principle of coherence by ensuring that all activities related to the Session revolved around a single, unified theme. To ensure cohesion throughout the event, all activities, including speeches by high-level authorities and panel discussions that offered political perspectives, had been aligned with this central theme.

Dr Caya detailed the different steps leading to the General Session. Due to the earlier timing of the General Session and as several documents needed to be published 60 days before the start of the General Session, the first 2026 Council meeting would most likely take place earlier than usual. He noted that two days would be allocated to the Regional Commissions meetings, which would be held virtually, and that a seminar for new Delegates would also be organised at a date to be decided. He recalled that several draft resolutions would be published more or less one week before the opening of the General Session for early adoption through an electronic voting platform.

The Council was provided information on the events taking place during the 93rd General Session. Dr Caya mentioned the different topics under discussion, notably the budget, the management of quorum, the structure of the plenary session, facilitation, as well as Members' and partners' kiosks and side events.

The Director General stated that a press conference would be organised and highlighted that the meeting with Ministers before the start of the 92nd General Session had been successful. Most of the Ministers had come from Europe or Africa. She suggested that representativeness should be improved and asked Council members whether



Ministers from their respective countries should be considered. She also asked the Council for views on private sector participation.

The Council agreed that most Ministers had come from two regions, which had resulted in a limited regional perspective. It supported the participation of the private sector, especially in light of WOA's initiatives involving public-private partnerships. The Council added that the private sector actors should be identified and involved in these discussions, and that Regional Commissions and Council members could assist in identifying relevant actors.

Following the Director General's inquiry into how extensively the Organisation should engage with the private sector, the Council responded that it was reasonable to involve private sector representatives in discussions. However, it expressed reservations regarding their participation in standard-setting or administrative sessions. The Director General agreed with this position.

The Director General added that there had been a suggestion to include a young veterinary student in each delegation and reminded the Council of the existence of the International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA). The President agreed that it could be useful for young professionals to become familiar with WOA early in their career. She noted that this would not be mandatory, but that some Council members could initiate the practice.

5.3. 93rd General Session: The Animal Health Forum 2026 – Investing in Animal Health to Secure Everyone's future

Ms Tagliaro presented WOA's concept note for the 2026 Animal Health Forum to be held in the margins of the 93rd General Session titled '*Investing in Animal Health to Secure Everyone's future*'.

The President expressed support for the proposal to increase advocacy and visibility for Veterinary Services, noting that this aligned with discussions held in other Council sessions. She emphasised that the topic was of great interest and provided significant value to Ministers attending the General Session. Striking an effective balance between technical and political discussions would be key to engaging the audience. She further underlined the importance of integrating the role of Veterinary Services in ensuring food security within the broader narrative and highlighted the need to ensure the participation of suitable speakers and attendees at the Forum. She opened the floor for comments.

The Council confirmed the relevance of the topic for the World Assembly and stressed the urgent need for sustainable investment from both public and private sectors to address national priorities and advance global development goals.

The Council emphasised that the Forum should be aiming at generating ideas and practical solutions rather than simply "preaching to the converted."

WOA was encouraged to consider how to build political momentum around the issue. It was noted that financial resources alone were not sufficient; achieving tangible results also requires time and sustained support. Drawing on past experience in strengthening surveillance, it was described how government–industry dialogue had helped clarify mutual needs, interests, and goals, enabling effective collaboration despite differing end objectives. The Council urged Members to engage their own industries in advocating to Ministers on behalf of Veterinary Authorities.

The Council recommended incorporating a One Health perspective into the Forum's discussions, suggesting that this approach could foster greater investment and promote cost-sharing among government ministries.

The Council described the topic as both compelling and complex. The President's comments on the importance of selecting high-quality speakers were echoed and it was proposed to invite Ministers to share concrete solutions, while ensuring strong participation from industry and the private sector.



The Council agreed on the relevance and scope of the topic, acknowledging its broad and challenging nature. It was suggested that WOAH refine the discussion points and objectives, and that the forthcoming Resolution could serve as a framework to help guide the Forum's focus.

The Director General expressed appreciation for the Council members' constructive feedback, noting that their insights would inform the next version of the concept note. She also indicated that an extraordinarily virtual Council meeting could potentially be organised before the next face-to-face Council meeting to validate the Forum's approach and objectives.

5.4. Early adoption and election electronic platform - State of Play

Mr de Souza and Mr Benichou recalled the preparations undertaken for the 92nd General Session and reminded that, due to unforeseeable concerns relating to the election voting platform, the Council, at the proposal of the Secretariat, had decided to hold elections by show of hands, without the use of technology. They added that a separate voting platform had been successfully used by Delegates for the early adoption of resolutions, and that an alternative platform was being reviewed for the 93rd General Session as UK Engage had discontinued that platform.

Regarding the early adoption of resolutions for the 93rd General Session, DTIS expressed confidence that the alternative system proposed by UK Engage would be operational for the 93rd General Session, subject to further testing. The Council agreed to use such platform proposed by UK Engage if the tests were satisfactory.

The Council was informed that since last summer the Legal Affairs Unit and DTIS had initiated benchmarking work and started drafting documents in view of the launch of a new procurement process to select voting systems for elections as well as for the early adoption of resolutions. However, due to time constraints, the Secretariat could not ensure the availability of a fully tested and operational voting solution for elections for the Council to approve at its March 2026 meeting. In order to avoid any new technical issues on election day, the Council agreed that that voting would take place without technology, using contingency arrangements from the previous year. The Secretariat would take the necessary steps to launch a procurement process in order to secure new voting systems for both the early adoption of resolutions and elections, select new service providers, test the new voting systems, present fully-tested systems to the Council at its September 2026 meeting and ensure complete readiness for the 2027 elections. This approach, validated by the Council, aimed at allowing sufficient time to prepare and ensure the reliability of the voting systems for the 2027 General Session.

The Council requested for to receive at its March 2026 meeting an update on the progress made. Dr Okita and Dr Idoyaga were designated as 'champions' to review any specifications drafted by the Secretariat in order to ensure notably that the desired user voting experience of Members would be adequately taken into account. They would report back to the Council in March 2026.

5.5. Follow-up to the implementation of General Session Resolutions

5.5.1. Overall implementation plan

The Director General recalled that during the 92nd General Session a total of 29 resolutions had been adopted. These resolutions reflected the strategic, financial and technical priorities of the Organisation as decided by its Members. She noted that the resolutions had been grouped into three categories: administrative (5 resolutions), financial (7 resolutions), and technical (17 resolutions).

The Director General presented to the Council the implementation plan, which provided a concise overview of the actions taken to operationalise each resolution, highlighting progress and current status.

The Council inquired why Resolution No. 29, concerning the designation of WOAH Collaborating Centres, was still ongoing. The Director General responded that the topic would be addressed at a later stage during the Council meeting and recalled that the implementation of resolutions sometimes required time.



5.5.2. Closure of the 2023 Resolution No. 28 on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

The Council was updated on the results of the two-year implementation framework for Resolution No. 28, adopted at the 90th General Session on strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) resulted from the discussion at the Animal Health Forum and the Technical item.

The resolution implementation framework enabled WOAHA to align efforts and monitor progress closely in response to the recommendations of the Assembly. Over the two-year timeframe, all the planned activities were implemented by WOAHA Departments and WOAHA Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, contributing to coordinated and targeted efforts. Implemented through a logical results framework, it proved value for monitoring progress within a results-based approach, thereby strengthening performance, transparency and institutional agility for resource mobilisation. Among others, these efforts culminated with the launch of the *Global Strategy for the Control of HPAI (2024-2033)*, designed to guide collective action and support WOAHA Members in strengthening control worldwide.

While the implementation of Resolution No. 28 was considered achieved, WOAHA avian influenza-related activities would continue to be aligned with the GF-TADs Global Strategy, ensuring continued coordination and sustainability.

The Council welcomed the update, acknowledging the achievements and the effective coordination established. The critical role of the WOAHA/FAO Network for avian influenza expertise (OFFLU) and of the WOAHA Reference Laboratories played in providing technical support to WOAHA Members, and the need for enhanced public-private partnerships for effective control were also underlined. The Council noted the importance of implementing WOAHA standards in particular with regards vaccination, biosecurity and safe trade, ensuring access to quality vaccines and diagnostics.

The Council also noted the remaining challenges, including unjustified trade barriers due to the implementation of vaccination strategies. The Director General acknowledged these, indicating further work should be carried out, as requested by some WOAHA Members, to facilitate safe trade (i.e., development of guidelines on minimum requirements for surveillance when vaccination strategies are set).

5.5.3. Presentation on the 2-year implementation plan for the 2025 Resolution 29 on Vaccines and Vaccination

The Council took note of the implementation framework proposal for Resolution No. 29 adopted at the 92nd General Session on vaccines and vaccination. The 2025 Animal Health Forum, under the theme “*Veterinary vaccines and vaccination: from science to action – reflections for changes*”, provided a successful platform for dialogue between WOAHA Delegates, experts and stakeholders on the constraints affecting vaccine development and use in disease prevention and control strategies. The Resolution will be implemented through a framework covering the period from May 2025 to May 2027.

The implementation framework outlined the main expected outcomes and outputs, including activities aimed at improving vaccine availability and access, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and supporting WOAHA Members in integrating vaccination into national and global disease control strategies.

The Council acknowledged the importance of Resolution No. 29 and underlined the critical role of vaccination in animal disease prevention, antimicrobial resistance containment, and public health protection. The Council emphasised the persistent challenges of vaccine access and affordability in several regions, noting the importance of ensuring that trade considerations do not become the main determinant of vaccination decisions. The Council also recognised the relevance of linking this plan with existing One Health and antimicrobial resistance frameworks.

The President underlined the success of the Animal Health Forum, and agreed with the two-year implementation framework, emphasising the importance of the topic and noting that the Council would follow its implementation with high interest.



6. DRAFT WOAHP 8TH STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

The President introduced the session, which aimed to discuss the first draft of WOAHP's 8th Strategic Plan (the "Plan"), elaborated by the Secretariat and shared for review by the Council. She emphasised that the Plan was a core document for the Organisation and invited Council Members to engage actively in the discussion.

The session started with an overview of the development phases and the upcoming steps. In the coming months, the Secretariat will integrate feedback from stakeholders and develop a final version of the Plan, which will be presented to the Council for endorsement at its March 2026 meeting, before the 93rd General Session in May, when it will be submitted for adoption by the Assembly.

The approach for estimating the cost of implementing the Plan was then introduced. Key features included factoring in the Governance Review Committee reflections on funding governance, ongoing budgetary processes, and the extent to which the Plan will be used to advocate for increased contributions and funding. A potential calculation method would be based on the average annual budgets, regardless of the source, as well as an estimate of additional funds needed to cover aspirational initiatives.

The session then moved to discussing the draft of the Plan, starting with Orientation One: "Develop global standards, adaptable and applicable to all." Members of the Council raised several points. The first was concern over the feasibility of reinforcing monitoring of the implementation of standards, to which the Director General, clarified that the goal would be to increase Observatory studies. The second was to explain what was meant by "all" – recognising regional disparities and that Members who have difficulties implementing standards are usually not those most involved in the standard-setting process. The Director General explained that although the intent was to maintain global standards, the goal was to identify barriers to implementation during the standard-setting process to be able to factor them in.

Council members also suggested strengthening the link between standards (Orientation One) and capacity-building of Members (Orientation Two). The Director General underlined that Orientation One was on standards because they were the Organisation's core business. Another point raised by the Council was to address cross-cutting issues, such as the illegal trade of wild animals. Finally, the discussion focused on WOAHP's role in trade-related dispute mediation – and what it would entail under the Plan. The Director General explained that the point was not for WOAHP to arbitrate, but to provide technical support and mediate before a dispute reaches the WTO.

Overall, the members of the Council appreciated the comprehensiveness of Orientation Two, "Empower Members towards robust animal health and welfare systems, and veterinary public health". Noting the ambitious scope of this Orientation, the need for effective coordination with other organisations was expressed. Other feedback included adding reinforcing Regional Commissions and clarifying what the continuation of the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) would entail. The Director General explained that the idea was to pick up where GBADs left off and develop a tool that would be more usable for Members. The use of the term "empower" in the title of the Orientation was debated, emphasising that "empower" also meant taking ownership.

A question was raised on whether PVS refers to evaluations only or also capacity-building support. The Director General clarified that PVS evaluations informed where capacity building needs were, allowing WOAHP to design "tailored" capacity-building related activities. The Director General highlighted that a major initiative under Orientation Two could be to produce epidemiological situational reports at the regional level, but that this required staff and funding.

The President of the Council welcomed Orientation three, "Position Animal Health as central to tackling global challenges". Overall, this Orientation was well received, with some suggestions for adjustment. The first was to include specific examples on the links between animal health and societal issues, such as empowering women, food security, equity, or gender equality. The place of One Health in this Orientation was also debated. The conclusion was to make it stand out slightly more, recognising its value as an advocacy tool, while keeping the focus on WOAHP's core mission, animal health.

The discussion then moved on to the enablers, starting with Enabler One: "Governance and partnerships for sustainability." Feedback included a suggestion to spell out the principles of good governance (as outlined in the "Guiding Principles" section of the Plan). In terms of funding governance, Council members requested clarity on what will be expected from Members in terms of funding the Plan, particularly as the Plan "enhances" WOAHP's



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core missions and the challenging funding landscape. Dr Caya mentioned that the GRC would soon start working on financial governance, which would also inform this aspect of the Plan.

Enabler Two, “Leadership in animal health data” was welcomed by the Council. The overall recommendation was to make it more attractive to Members. Suggestions for doing so included being explicit about capacity-building, providing ideas on how WOAHA would encourage Members to submit surveillance data, and offering examples of information tools that illustrate the added value of the data provided by Members to WOAHA.

Council Members recognised the importance of Enabler three, “People at the heart of WOAHA”, but perceived it as staff-focused and questioned whether it should be revisited. They debated how best to carry forward the message about the importance of having a motivated, performing and inclusive workforce, the responsibilities of WOAHA, and how to make the Organisation attractive, while reframing this section. The Director General highlighted the importance of having human resources processes in place and operationalising the “One WOAHA” concept, i.e., increasing fairness between Regions and HQ. The President of the Council underlined the importance of workforce motivation.

Two points were raised for Enabler four: “Performance and Accountability.” The first was how far the Plan intends to go with the Gender strategy and whether it should be mainstreamed across the Plan instead (for example, linking PVS and Gender). The Director General explained that it would cover both internal and external aspects (in-work and at-work). The second was whether the Strategy should refer to the accountability of governance bodies and Delegates, in addition to WOAHA’s accountability to stakeholders.

The final part of the session focused on the mission, vision, values and guiding principles outlined in the draft of the Plan. Members of the Council suggested changing “assert” to “affirm” in the vision statement “[asserting] WOAHA leadership and the critical role of animal health and welfare in addressing global challenges”, extracting “transparency” out of “good governance” as a core principle of the Organisation and including a reference to collaboration in the vision. Finally, the Council suggested simplifying and clarifying the first section of the Plan entitled “8th Strategic Plan in summary” and explaining how layers relate to each other.

The Director General thanked the members of the Council for their feedback and invited them to provide additional written comments within the following week. The President concluded by thanking the Council for their proactive engagement in these discussions.

7. ADVOCACY AT WOAHA – A CONSOLIDATED APPROACH

Mr Cangah presented to the Council WOAHA’s consolidated approach to advocacy and communication, driven by the Director General’s priorities to increase WOAHA’s visibility, strengthen Veterinary Services, and modernise the Organisation. The growing need for strategic, coherent communication and advocacy to address increasing challenges facing the animal health community and its system was emphasised. Key highlights included the alignment with the 8th Strategic Plan, implementation of the global communication strategy targeting multiple audiences-from policymakers and donors to professionals and the public-and a need for a global advocacy framework spanning policy, financial, technical, public, and internal communication.

Importantly, the approach also stressed the coordination of priorities and six-months roadmaps through the WOAHA Strategic Committee on Advocacy and Communication (SCAC) to ensure messages and actions were well adapted and impactful globally and locally. Notable quick wins proposed included increasing WOAHA’s presence in high-level international forums and WOAHA’s engagement with Ministers at national and regional level and ambassadors in Paris as well as with other international organisations. The creation of an institutional calendar and the intensification of support to Delegates for effective national advocacy were also mentioned.

Council members were also presented with the next steps for WOAHA’s communication strategy. It notably included the development and implementation of an advocacy strategy aligned with the 8th Strategic Plan, the continuation of a dialogue across teams to ensure that the roles of communication and advocacy were fully understood, and the strengthening of WOAHA’s internal communication. This comprehensive approach was designed to position the Organisation even more firmly as a central player in global health, demonstrating its value to WOAHA Members, stakeholders, and diverse audiences alike.



8. WOAHP NEW ORGANISATIONAL CHART – IMPLEMENTATION STATE OF PLAY

The Director General shared with the Council the new organisational chart which included the creation of a new Directorate under the leadership of Dr Soumaré.

The workstreams launched since August 2025 were presented to the Council. These included the review of the delegation of responsibilities with notably delegation of signature and the strengthening of cross-functional coordination through interdepartmental committees. The Director General then explained that the objectives for early 2026 were to achieve a finalised functional and hierarchical structure, operational interdepartmental committees with clear terms of reference, and harmonised validation processes across all levels.

She informed the Council that the Executive Committee (EXCOM) had pre-identified areas for structural improvement and that the EXCOM members were conducting internal consultations. She added that the extended Management Committee meeting scheduled in November would include a collaborative session to finalise structural and procedural frameworks. This session would be facilitated by an external consultant.

The Council congratulated the Director General and described the structure as appropriate.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

9.1. Progress on Partnership Approach at WOAHP

Dr Caya provided an update and comprehensive overview of the status of institutional cooperation agreements and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), its alignment with the objectives of the Strategic Plan, and its linkage to the discussions held within the framework of the Governance Review Committee. He emphasised the Organisation's needs in terms of human and material resources to ensure the proper review and monitoring of the many cooperation agreements, both from the standpoint of their legal foundations and their technical content, as well as their contributions to the Organisation's activities and overall mandate.

Dr Caya outlined the legal framework governing the cooperation agreements and referred to specific provisions highlighting the importance of partnerships for the implementation of WOAHP's mandate.

Several challenges were identified in the regular monitoring, evaluation, and approval processes of the many cooperation agreements. Recognising the importance of this matter, it was incorporated as one of the enablers of the 8th Strategic Plan currently under development. The GRC discussed the consultants' report (Recommendation 8) concerning relations with other international organisations and entities in July 2025. The GRC recognised the strategic importance of establishing long-term, time-bound agreements and supported adopting a tier risk-based approach to WOAHP's approval process for entering into cooperation arrangements.

It was underlined that the Secretariat was actively working on drafting a new framework for PPPs to fulfil the mandate of Resolution No. 5 (92nd General Session), and revitalising the WOAHP Partnership Taskforce with the arrival of a dedicated Senior Governance and Partnership Advisor under the supervision of Dr Caya.

The Council expressed great interest in the discussion of this matter and emphasised the importance of multilateral collaboration in the current global context. It showed particular interest in the number and types of cooperation agreements, both inter-institutional and those potentially established with sectoral organisations, as well as in public-private collaboration, as a means to enhance the practical implementation of WOAHP's standards and strategies. Council members noted, however, that there was a large number of cooperation agreements and suggested evaluating them to concentrate on the most relevant ones. It was considered necessary to undertake a comprehensive review, categorisation, and analysis of the risks and benefits of the existing agreements, prioritising those that could have the most positive impact on advancing the Organisation's mandate and strategies.

The Director General highlighted the importance of cooperation and the need to work closely with international organisations, as well as with the private sector, including the possibility of creating forums or platforms to



formalise discussions, consultations, and collaborative work on WOAH standards, strategies and their practical implementation, in the framework of the 8th Strategic Plan.

9.2. 2025 Mid-year Review of Budget Expenditure

Ms Alizon presented an update on the WOAH's budget execution as of 31 August 2025. To date, 65% of the annual budget had been committed, with a clear improvement in payment terms and better financial traceability thanks to the Procure to pay (P2P) tool. This tool for budget monitoring and processing from purchases to the invoices was well adopted by the financial and technical teams, although the budget monitoring of scheduled activities remained to be strengthened. The development of the "Projects" module was the next important step in improving the visibility and management of World Fund projects. P2P would have to be adapted to the local needs of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

In terms of human resources, she pointed out that the situation had improved after a period of understaffing with new recruitments and the launch of the Human Resources Information System (HRIS).

In terms of risk management, she recommended the establishment of dedicated provisions, particularly for specific contexts such as Mali and Lebanon.

She stressed that the 2025 budget dialogue, conducted within each department, had made it possible to consolidate the coordination of the teams and to highlight the need to strengthen the risk and contingency provisions.

Finally, she informed the Council of the retirement of the External Auditor, voted during the previous General Session in May 2025. Appropriate solutions for the next audit would be proposed.

In response to questions raised by Council members, Ms Alizon explained that she had not identified any unforeseen events in the last quarter of 2025 affecting the Regular Budget at the time of the budget dialogue meetings with the relevant teams. However, she emphasised the importance of establishing provisions to consider potential risks relating to the Organisation's activities. Furthermore, Ms Tagliaro recalled that the Regular Budget would be impacted if some of the World Fund's activities were delayed.

Ms Alizon highlighted the progress achieved in reducing payment delays to suppliers, experts and staff, and mentioned the heavy workload of the accounting team which processed more than 60,000 entries per year, with a fluctuating workforce of around four people instead of the six required at the beginning of the year. This improvement was made possible with temporary staff and the stabilisation of the accounting team by the recruitment of one of the temporary workers during this second half of the year. In addition, the improvement in payment terms was also linked to the appropriation by the technical teams of P2P. This tool also helped ensure that planned expenditures were properly anticipated and allowed trade-offs if necessary.

In response to the observation concerning the precarious nature of staff contracts within the Organisation, Ms Alizon took note of this issue. She highlighted the need to strengthen staff retention to achieve greater stability, notably through integration and continuous training, while also considering the constraints imposed by donor-funded contracts.

The Council welcomed the follow-up of the commitment of expenditure this year and stressed the importance of setting up a management dialogue to ensure that the expenditure was appropriate and arbitrated. The implementation of P2P in 2024 was therefore keeping its promises.

The President thanked Ms Alizon for her presentation and stressed the importance of monitoring budget implementation.

9.3. Update on the Headquarters premises real estate study

Ms Alizon introduced the item on the Headquarters Real Estate Study of WOAH and recalled that the Administration Directorate was conducting a comparative study of real estate options.



Five scenarios were developed to inform the Organisation's decision-making. Of these, it was proposed to retain three for further consideration. The two scenarios that were discarded involved the disposal of the Organisation's real estate assets and relocation to leased premises; these options would have significantly weakened the Organisation's balance sheet and entailed substantial long-term risks to its financial soundness.

As a result, the three remaining scenarios concerning the renovation or relocation of the Organisation's Headquarters were under consideration. She emphasised the importance of aligning the project with the Organisation's Strategic Plan, as well as the need to reassure Council members regarding the justification and financial soundness of the project.

The Council discussed the need to address the lack of ergonomic and social spaces in the current premises, as well as to adapt to new working arrangements, including teleworking and the possible introduction of flexible office models. The Council noted the significant technical debt of the buildings, estimated at six million euros, and the current occupancy rate of 0.7.

Ms Alizon reviewed the financing options and acknowledged that all scenarios would require recourse to borrowing. It was indicated that WOAHA had a strong borrowing capacity. The Director General stressed that the evolving needs identified throughout the study required a gradual adjustment of the decision-making criteria.

Several Council members expressed a preference for Scenario 2, which included the possible acquisition of a modest-sized building located in the vicinity of the Headquarters' building, and the undertaking of structural works. It was noted that, should this acquisition prove impossible, Scenario 1 - involving structural works on the current premises - could remain a viable alternative. Council members also emphasised the need to prepare a robust communication and justification package before the project's submission for Council approval.

Council members observed that the Organisation's staffing levels had increased significantly over the past decade, while the premises had not evolved accordingly. They underlined the importance of adapting the workspaces to the Organisation's current size and to Members' vision for the expansion of activities.

The Director General agreed with the preference expressed for Scenario 2 and reaffirmed the need to resort to borrowing, regardless of the scenario selected. She requested that the next update to the Council include a slide illustrating the evolution of staff numbers. Depending on the possibility of acquiring the building at 14 rue de Prony (rear courtyard), the presentation to the World Assembly of Delegates would take place in 2026 or, failing that, in 2027.

Ms Alizon reminded the Council of the regulatory obligations requiring the Organisation to bring its facilities into compliance within three years. The timeline of each scenario was considered a key factor in the decision-making process. She also indicated that a provision would be recorded at year-end to fund the necessary compliance works outlined in this report.

In her concluding remarks, the President acknowledged the Council's awareness of the project's strategic importance and of the imperative need to launch compliance works within the three-year timeframe. She stressed the importance of transparency and expressed the hope that the project would not lead to an increase in Members' contributions. She also recognised the emotional dimension of this decision for WOAHA Delegates attached to the current Headquarters premises. The President requested that the Council be kept regularly informed of the project's progress and that a detailed study be presented prior to any formal adoption proposal.

9.4. Resource Mobilisation Strategy for WOAHA Regular budget

Ms Tagliaro presented the information paper outlining WOAHA's proposed approach to mobilising resources for the Regular Budget.

Following the President's invitation for comments, the Council expressed support for the proposed approach. The importance of enhancing transparency and leveraging the Organisation's diplomatic networks was underscored.



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The need to strengthen advocacy on WOAHA's activities and the use of funds, while improving communication channels to maximise impact was also emphasised.

The Council reaffirmed that financial sustainability remained a critical issue for both the Organisation and its Members. The Council endorsed the proposed actions but observed that many WOAHA Delegates were not in a position to make decisions related to increasing statutory contributions. The importance of fostering stronger relationships with Ministers, particularly those responsible for finance, and with diplomatic representatives was therefore stressed. The need for a fairer contribution model was also reiterated by the Council which welcomed the Governance Review Committee's ongoing work to strengthen WOAHA's financial governance framework.

The Council called for measures to safeguard the independence of the Regular Budget, acknowledging the range of internal and external factors affecting it. Drawing on past experience with arrears at a national level in some Members, the Council encouraged WOAHA Members facing similar challenges to actively advocate for the timely payment of statutory contributions by engaging their Ministers and highlighting the value of WOAHA's work. The Council further suggested that WOAHA enhance communication on its benefits for low- and middle-income countries.

The Council observed with surprise that several WOAHA Members with high agricultural GDPs and significant exports of animals and animal products contributed comparatively little to the Regular Budget. The Council supported the proposal to address this matter in future regional meetings to ensure that WOAHA Members' financial support reflected the benefits they derived, particularly regarding trade and animal health.

Some Council members mentioned that they routinely debriefed regional Members following each Council meeting, and expressed readiness to include this topic in their discussions. They noted that this practice had been initiated by some Council members in their respective region and could usefully be continued. The Council advocated for greater transparency to help WOAHA Members better understand WOAHA's financial situation and enabled them to advocate nationally for contributions consistent with the Organisation's principle of solidarity.

The President concluded the discussion by emphasising the need to prioritise advocacy. She reminded the Council that many Ministers remained unfamiliar with WOAHA, which placed the Organisation at a disadvantage compared to other international bodies. Drawing on her own experience of defending WOAHA's budget requests, she encouraged the Secretariat to develop practical materials and tools to support Delegates in national-level discussions. She highlighted the importance of communicating both the risks associated with unequal contributions and the range of available options for financial support - including increasing statutory contribution categories, providing extraordinary contributions, or contributing to the WOAHA World Fund. She further stressed that engaging with embassies was essential to effective advocacy efforts.

The Director General noted that she had engaged in implementing a plan to recover arrears and emphasised the importance of seizing every opportunity to engage with Ministers and high-level officials in order to strengthen WOAHA's financial sustainability. She expressed her intention to pursue these efforts in close collaboration with the Council.

10. TECHNICAL MATTERS

10.1. Approval of nomination of replacement experts at WOAHA Reference Laboratories

The Council was presented with the results of the Specialist Commissions' evaluation of the Reference Centres applications at their September 2025 meeting and the proposal of expert replacements.

The Council considered and approved the applications of one Reference Laboratories and provisionally approved one Collaborating Centres pending of the opinion of the Regional Commission. On behalf of the Assembly, the Council also endorsed the replacement of experts from six existing Reference Laboratories. Additionally, the Council took note of Reference Centres and experts whose applications had been rejected by the Specialist Commissions.



The Council reiterated that the consultation process should be adjusted to include the Regional Commission's advice prior to Council review, given its more precise understanding of regional contexts. The Council noted that this adjustment would not alter the Council's key role in ensuring a globally balanced distribution of expertise.

The President thanked the Secretariat for the work in maintaining the Reference Centres network and requested that future applications for Collaborating Centres should first be reviewed and endorsed by the relevant Regional Commission before submission to the Council. She also highlighted the importance of keeping communication with Reference Centres applicants diplomatic and concise, while ensuring that detailed evaluation reports remain available upon request.

10.2. Observatory Update

The Council received an update from Dr Paquier and Ms Ieda on the progress since 2023 of the WOAHO Observatory programme. The two main deliverables were the monitoring report and thematic studies. The second monitoring report was scheduled for publication in autumn 2025, following the release of analysis factsheets in May. It was noted that the monitoring indicators were largely contextual, aiming to establish baselines on the implementation of WOAHO standards by Members.

Three thematic topics had been addressed to date: zoning, animal welfare during transport, and compartmentalisation. The study on compartmentalisation had recently commenced, with a questionnaire circulated to all Members and collaboration initiated with the private sector.

Dr Paquier and Ms Ieda further informed the Council of the plans to launch a digital platform to facilitate access to its outputs, including a secure interface for Member-level indicators. The steering committee of the Observatory was expected to validate the next study topics shortly, and the Council would be informed of the selection.

Dr Paquier and Ms Ieda explained that recommendations derived from the Observatory's outputs were intended to guide WOAHO Member actions and inform WOAHO's strategic planning. These recommendations also contributed to the development of the Organisation's 8th Strategic Plan and were being integrated into departmental workplans.

The Council discussed the potential designation of an Observatory focal point to enhance the understanding of zoning and compartmentalisation, particularly in low-income contexts. The Director General noted that the upcoming Zoning Forum, to be held in Paris in December with support from France and the European Union, provided an opportunity for WOAHO Members to exchange experiences. She added that the possibility of a future Global Conference focusing on zoning and compartmentalisation was under consideration. Regarding the proposal of a new focal point, the Director General emphasised the need to first strengthen support for the existing eight focal points, given the financial implications of expanding the network. The President confirmed that any decision on this matter would require a separate discussion.

The Council also discussed WOAHO Member engagement with Observatory questionnaires. Dr Paquier and Ms Ieda reported previous response rates of 50-65% and welcomed continued support to improve participation.

In conclusion, the Council acknowledged the Observatory as a valuable mechanism to support the implementation of WOAHO standards by WOAHO Members.

10.3. WOAHO Participation in One Health Related Activities

10.3.1. Follow-up on the UNGA Political Declaration on AMR

The Council received an update on the implementation of the political declaration on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), in particular on the four (4) animal health specific commitments contained in United Nations Resolution A/RES/79/2, which adopted the Political Declaration of the High-Level meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance held in 2024. The update covered actions undertaken by WOAHO, its Members and key stakeholders.

The Council was also informed of ongoing efforts to achieve meaningful reductions on the quantity of antimicrobials used globally in agri-food systems, as trend seemed to remain steady over the last three rounds of



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data collection. The Council members were thanked for their consistent commitment to reporting to WOAHA's global database, ANIMUSE, and were also reminded of the importance of using results from the EcoAMR Series report, which describes positive effects on the global Gross Domestic Product if a 30% global reduction was achieved by 2030.

The Council took note of the concerning lack of advances in phasing out the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters, as the number of Members still reporting such use had not changed since 2017. In parallel, the Council was informed on the upcoming update of WOAHA's list of priority diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use, in alignment with recommendations from Resolution No. 29 adopted at the 92nd General Session.

Given that, overall, the level of awareness of the Membership around this political declaration was fairly low, Council members were requested to advocate within their respective regions. Council members were also reminded on the availability of a four-page memorandum summarising the key outcomes that Veterinary Services need to consider and implement as their essential contributions to ensure that this global effort translated into successful achievements.

Furthermore, the Council was also updated on the Global Action Plan (GAP) on AMR by 2026, as a major commitment assigned to the Quadripartite organisations. Council members noted the procedure being undertaken, which will lead to a WOAHA Membership consultation of the revised text from mid-October to mid-November, for a final version of the revised GAP to be presented to the Council during its March 2026 meeting. This would precede a submission to WOAHA Members for adoption at the 93rd General Session.

Lastly, the Council was provided an update on the potential establishment by the Quadripartite organisations of the Independent Panel for Evidence for Action against AMR (IPEA), leading to an official launch on December 10th, on the sides of the seventh United Nations Environmental Assembly to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Council welcomed the updates presented, expressing some concerns on the unequal visibility and given importance to the issue across the different sectors, as observed in one specific region. The Secretariat acknowledged that while coordination at global level was perfectly functional, further efforts were still needed to bring up to speed regional and national coordination mechanisms.

The Council thanked the Secretariat for the summarised materials produced to facilitate implementation of the political declaration on AMR.

The Director General informed the Council members on the upcoming Inter-Ministerial Meeting on AMR planned to be held in Nigeria on June 29-30, 2026, encouraging them to engage with their respective ministries for a successful multisectoral event. The Director General also expressed concerns on the difficulties to maintain financial support for AMR-related activities, which could dramatically lead to stopping major activities such as WOAHA's global database ANIMUSE, the update of AMR-related international standards, and the update of WOAHA's list of priority diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use.

The President encouraged Council members to act as AMR advocates, and invited WOAHA to explore and suggest alternatives to better identify messages requiring a priority action by WOAHA Delegates.

10.3.2. Pandemic Accord and related activities

Dr Wannous provided to the Council an update on WOAHA's successful efforts to ensure that One Health and prevention were firmly embedded in the Pandemic Agreement highlighting what were the provisions in these articles, the Obligations for Parties and the implications for animal health and veterinary services. The Pandemic Agreement makes animal health inseparable from pandemic prevention. Veterinary services are positioned as frontline actors in surveillance, prevention of zoonotic spillover, AMR control, and implementation of One Health policies, requiring stronger integration with human and environmental health systems. It also requires increased investment in veterinary infrastructure (labs, surveillance systems, IT), and expansion of veterinary workforce development with multisectoral competencies.



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The Council noted WOAHA continued efforts to follow up on ongoing negotiations surrounding the Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) instrument, which was essential to finalise before the Accord could be opened for ratification by countries.

Dr Wannous also delivered to the Council a presentation on major achievements and strategic priorities of the One Health team, including collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA).

The Council recognised ongoing efforts to integrate One Health principles into WOAHA's standards and strategies. The proposal for an Observatory thematic study on One Health integration in standards was proposed to be implemented in 2026.

The discussions highlighted the importance of effective communication and the translation of results to national levels, as well as the need to link global initiatives to national-level implementation, emphasising strong government-led coordination among sectors.

In the future, the Council noted the potential for collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), particularly in the fields of diagnostics and public health in the Americas region.

Key updates on upcoming One Health work were also presented to the Council. The updates included the integration of One Health priorities into the WOAHA 8th Strategic Plan (2027–2031), the development of a WOAHA position paper on climate change and animal health, and progress on the Observatory's thematic study on One Health standards. Several upcoming One Health events were also highlighted, such as the WOAHA Biological Threats Reduction Conference in October 2025, the International One Health Day celebrations in November 2025, and regional One Health workshops aimed at operationalising the One Health Joint Plan of Action (JPA). In addition, other upcoming events included a donor roundtable to mobilise targeted investment in One Health and active engagement in major international fora, including COP30 in Brazil, the G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, United Nations Environmental Assembly, and the France One Health Summit 2026, to ensure One Health remained visible on the global political agenda.

10.3.3. Quadripartite Update

Dr Wannous provided to the Council an update on the Quadripartite activities. In the area of scientific and policy work, the presentation emphasised the roles of One Health High-Level Expert Panel and the Joint One Health Learning Task Force (JOHLT) in advancing One Health governance and implementation through evidence generation and guidance to the Quadripartite.

The Council was informed of WOAHA's commitment to ensuring that One Health tools and frameworks were made accessible to Members, working with Quadripartite partners to develop a comprehensive One Health toolbox that supported tailored national and regional implementation needs.

10.4. Update on Global Framework-Transboundary Animal Diseases Activities

Dr Soumaré introduced the topic, stressing the importance of the collaboration with FAO on the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), certain institutional challenges and the necessity to commensurate expectations to what was achievable. An overview of the GF-TADs mechanism and its recent evolutions were presented, informing the Council that an evaluation of the mechanism would be jointly conducted following a proposal initiated by FAO. The necessity to have diverse source of funding to provide support to Members independently of donors' priorities for countries of intervention was also highlighted.

The Council expressed views on the usefulness of the GF-TADs coordination and its margins of improvement, in particular to avoid that tensions divert partners from the main objectives of supporting Members in disease control. The Council enquired on the independency of the evaluation and recommended that WOAHA be fully engaged in the evaluation process and looked forward to being updated on the results.



11. GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

11.1. Update on GRC Activities

Dr Botlhe Modisane, Chairperson of the Governance Review Committee (GRC) and WOAHA Delegate of South Africa, provided an update on the GRC's work. He highlighted that the Assembly had adopted Resolution No. 5 (2025) at the 92nd General Session in May 2025, which, together with Assembly Resolution No. 12 (2024) and the report prepared by external consultants,¹ laid the foundation for a comprehensive governance reform package to be reviewed and decided upon by the Assembly from the General Session in May 2026. Since the last Council meeting, the GRC had held three meetings, during which it had examined and made recommendations on various aspects of technical, institutional, and regional governance. Topics under discussion had included clarifying the roles of the Assembly, Council, Regional Commissions, and the Director General, as well as the establishment and organisation of Specialist Commissions, Working Groups, and Ad hoc Groups. Dr Modisane emphasised the strong engagement of regional Members and noted that the reform process had been progressing steadily.

11.2. GRC Consideration of Council Functions, Size and Composition

Dr Caya updated the Council on the Governance Review Committee's work on potential reforms to the functions, size and composition of the Council and the functions of the Regional Commissions. He explained that, in accordance with Assembly Resolution No. 5 (2025), the Committee may submit recommendations on these topics to the Assembly from the 93rd General Session (2026).

Some Council members supported updating the Council's functions to strengthen its role in organisational risk management and to improve the Council's ability to take decisions between the annual General Session of the Assembly and in emergencies. Some members also supported expanding the role of the alternate Delegate or allowing advisers or alternates to participate in the General Session of the Assembly. It was further noted that, in addition to the Committee's work to modernise the functions of the Council and the Regional Commissions, the GRC could also work on clarifying the role of Regional Commission Bureau members.

The Council requested that the Secretariat circulate to Council members documentation submitted to the Governance Review Committee on updating the size of the Council. Dr Caya highlighted that all GRC documentation was also available on the WOAHA Delegate Portal.

The Council advised that the Governance Review Committee would need to identify effective safeguards for any changes to the Permanent Delegate's role in the Assembly, Council and Regional Commissions as well as the boundaries of the Council's decision-making authority with any new or updated Council functions recommended by the GRC. The Council also noted that the financial implications of any reforms submitted by the Governance Review Committee to the Assembly should be identified.

12. Miscellaneous

12.1. WOAHA Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction – 28-30 October 2025

Dr Soumaré highlighted the role of WOAHA as a convener on this strategic topic. An overview of the conference, expected participation, investment and deliverables was presented. The Council confirmed interest in the event and acknowledged that financial support could be provided to certain Members to attend the conference.

12.2. Participation of WOAHA in High-Level Meetings

In 2025 the Director General actively participated in numerous high-level events alongside Executive Committee (COMEX) members, reinforcing WOAHA's visibility and strategic positioning on the global stage. Notable engagements included the UN Secretary-General's online event on Artificial Intelligence, the French Agriculture

¹ J. Llobera Serra and E. Szabó, *Analysis and Evaluation of the Institutional, Technical, and Financial Governance of the World Organisation for Animal Health (2024)*.



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Week in France, the WOAHA General Session in France, Codex CCGP 34 and the IPPC Assembly, the Ministerial Conference on One Health in Tunisia, the G20 Agriculture Ministerial in South Africa, and regional conferences in Africa (Kenya), Asia-Pacific (Indonesia), and the Caribbean Agriculture Week (Saint Kitts and Nevis). These appearances were complemented by bilateral meetings with ministers and heads of international organisations.

Looking ahead, COMEX members were expected to participate in several strategic forums, including the World Food Forum and FAO's 80th Anniversary in Italy, the World Dairy Summit in Chile, WOAHA's Global Conference on Biothreats in Switzerland, the G7 CVO Forum in Canada, COP 30 in Brazil, the Middle East Regional Conference in Cyprus, and the United Nations Environment Assembly and United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on AMR in Nairobi.

The Director General emphasised that, in the past, WOAHA had remained absent from key platforms such as the G20 and highlighted the importance of strengthening the Organisation's visibility, asserting its strategic positioning, and developing a coherent advocacy approach. This was not merely about promoting WOAHA but it was about reaffirming its essential role in global health, environmental sustainability, and development discussions.

The Council expressed strong support for this initiative, recognising the need for WOAHA to reinforce its visibility.

12.3. Others

The Council was informed that Paraguay would host the next Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas in November 2026 and welcomed all Council members to attend.

Regarding the security situation in Bamako (Mali), the Director General informed the Council that WOAHA's travel insurance provider had issued a warning concerning safety risks in the country. Although Bamako had not previously been affected, the situation had become increasingly alarming. She had outlined the measures that had already been taken in response to ensure the safety of staff. Council members discussed the potential development of the Organisation's security protocols to address and manage certain situations in geopolitically unstable countries.

With respect to human resources matters, the Council highlighted the importance of the 'enabler' on People in the context of the 8th Strategic Plan. Council members asked to prioritise management training, establish any relevant procedures, and conduct regular staff surveys to monitor staff morale. The Director General responded that the 8th Strategic Plan included plans to monitor staff morale through regular anonymous surveys.

With respect to a letter sent to all Council members by a former and disgruntled staff member, the Council agreed that it had no competence in and would not be involved in such matters, especially if a pre-litigation or litigation was ongoing.

The Council was informed that the next Council meeting would be held from 3 to 5 March 2026. The President requested that documents be provided earlier to allow for better preparation and noted that having both paper copies and access to an electronic shared folder would be beneficial.