



**Report of WOAHA Regional Commissions meetings held during
the 93rd General Session**

[Administrative Working Document]



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Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa

Session 1 (virtual)

The Regional Commission for Africa met by videoconference on 5 May 2026, at 1:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 81 participants, including Delegates and Alternate Delegates from 22 Members of the Commission, observers and representatives from 10 international and regional organisations, as well as WOAHA Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Tunisia, and Uganda.

International/regional organisations: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres: Ecole Inter-Etats de Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaire (EISMV) Senegal, Centre National de Veille Zoosanitaire (CNVZ) Tunisia, Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) Egypt, Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute (OVRI), Ecole Nationale des Services Vétérinaires (ENSV) France, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" (IZS Teramo), Italy

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 Congo, accompanied by Dr Neo Mapitse, Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa.

1 Adoption of the agenda

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

2 Preparation of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Uganda in February 2027

Dr Anna Rose Ademun Okurut, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Uganda, provided details on the organisation of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa. The Conference will take place at the Speke Resort Munyonyo, in Kampala, Uganda. The final dates will be confirmed with the Director General.

She mentioned that, although the venue will be the Conference Centre of the Speke Resort Munyonyo, which is 38 minutes from Entebbe international airport, several alternative hotel accommodation options have been identified. Participants were informed of the relevant logistics, including visa requirements, and were told that more details would be made available on the relevant website.

She assured the participants that all the details would be shared in a timely manner.

3 Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission:

“Promoting a sustainable and safe trade in animals and their products in Africa: state of play, health requirements and levers for improvement in the face of climate change.”

4 Selection of three 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)

The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAHA through various means:

- 1 Strengthening disease intelligence and early warning systems for ecosystems in collaboration with partners, to advance the One Health approach and ensure sustainability;
- 2 Global emergence of foot-and-mouth disease: current situation and prospects for control;
- 3 Promoting health surveillance for effective early detection of epidemic, environmental, or emerging threats, thereby enabling a rapid response.

5 Formal Recognition of the REMESA

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance, presented an overview of the process undertaken to formalise the recognition of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA), with the objective of establishing a more sustainable and legally sound framework to strengthen the network’s institutional basis and enhance its attractiveness to donors and partners. He recalled that REMESA had been established in 2009 to strengthen cooperation on the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in the Mediterranean region and currently brings together 15 Members, supported by several technical subnetworks.

Dr Caya explained that an external legal assessment had been conducted to review the framework supporting REMESA activities, including financing arrangements through the WOAHA World Fund. The assessment concluded that, while the 2012 Cooperation Framework had enabled effective collaboration and allowed REMESA to operate successfully in practice, it lacked legal value and formal legal recognition by WOAHA and FAO. The assessment therefore recommended formalising the recognition of REMESA and selecting the most appropriate legal instruments available to both Organisations in order to ensure a sustainable and strengthened legal framework.

He further informed participants that the matter had been reviewed by the WOAHA Council on 3 March 2026 and by the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee on 29 April 2026. Both governance bodies recognised the need to strengthen the legal framework of REMESA and supported its formal recognition by WOAHA through a Resolution to be presented during the 93rd General Session. The Joint Permanent Committee also supported the development of complementary legal arrangements between WOAHA and FAO, while preserving the current structure and functioning of the network.

Finally, Dr Caya informed Delegates that the draft Resolution had already been shared with members of the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee and would be submitted to the WOAHA Council prior to its presentation for adoption during the Administrative Session of the 93rd General Session.

6 **WOAH's 8th Strategic Plan**

Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit, provided an update on the development, content, and next steps of WOA's 8th Strategic Plan. She explained that the Plan had been developed through an extensive and inclusive consultative process based on co-construction. She further informed participants that the Plan had been endorsed by the Council on 3 March 2026 and would be submitted for adoption during the General Session in May 2026.

Ms Wuensch highlighted that Members' feedback had played a central role in refining the Strategic Plan. She noted that more than 300 comments, including over 100 submitted by Members, had been reviewed and taken into consideration. Overall, the feedback received had been positive, with particular appreciation expressed for the consultative approach adopted throughout the process. She explained that revisions had focused on improving cohesion across the document, clarifying the distinction between strategic and operational elements, strengthening explanations regarding implementation, monitoring and costing, and further emphasising partnerships, collaboration and scientific robustness.

Regarding the structure of the Plan, Ms Wuensch explained that it was built around a Vision and Mission, supported by three Strategic Orientations and four Strategic Enablers. The Strategic Orientations focus on strengthening standard-setting, empowering Members to build robust animal health systems, and positioning animal health as central to addressing global challenges. The Strategic Enablers focus on governance and partnerships, leadership in animal health data, people, and performance and accountability.

In conclusion, Ms Wuensch informed participants that implementation of the Plan would be supported through structured roadmaps, monitoring mechanisms and a costing approach. She noted that the Plan largely consolidates existing activities while identifying priority initiatives. She further indicated that additional funding may be required, alongside the maintenance of current funding levels, supported by targeted resource mobilisation efforts and internal reprioritisation. Finally, she outlined the next steps, which include the formal adoption, publication and launch of the Plan, as well as the development of regional implementation roadmaps.

7 **Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly**

Dr Michael Botlhe Modisane, Regional Member, Chair of the GRC and Delegate of South Africa, presented the work of the Governance Review Committee (GRC) and its recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) at its 93rd General Session (2026). It was explained that the GRC had been established under Assembly Resolution No. 12 (2024) to review WOA's governance framework and provide recommendations to strengthen the Organisation's governance arrangements. The presentation highlighted that the GRC's work was informed by a comprehensive external review of WOA's governance and extensive Member engagement, including regional consultations, thereby ensuring an inclusive and Member-centred reform process. For the 93rd General Session, the GRC submitted a package of seven recommendations aimed at strengthening WOA's financial, institutional and regional governance.

Regarding financial governance, the GRC proposed three measures: (i) enhancing transparency of Member contributions and arrears through a public dashboard and improved reporting; (ii) launching a consultation process on options to transition to an objective, formula-based statutory contribution model; and (iii) clarifying and strengthening sanctions for Members in arrears through a more consistent and graduated framework. It was highlighted that these reforms were intended to improve financial sustainability, predictability, equity and accountability across the Organisation.

With respect to institutional and regional governance, four recommendations were proposed to modernise decision-making and representation in the Assembly and Regional Commissions. These included allowing Delegates to authorise delegation members to speak and vote at the

General Session, updating the functions of the Regional Commissions and Bureaus to strengthen regional input into policy, coordination and implementation of WOAHA activities, and revising Bureau composition and election processes to improve accountability and representation. Further reforms include adjusting the Council's Past President seat to an elected member position to support a more representative governance structure and introducing a risk-based framework for approving WOAHA's cooperation agreements to improve efficiency while maintaining appropriate oversight.

It was further explained that the GRC's work had been planned in two phases: Phase 1 focused on identifying governance reforms, while Phase 2 would address the necessary amendments to WOAHA's legal framework to implement reforms agreed by the Assembly in Phase 1. Although considerable progress had been achieved, it was noted that an extension of Phase 1 until May 2027 would be necessary to complete the review process, including further regional consultations.

Finally, it was highlighted that, under Resolution No. 4, the Assembly was invited to approve the seven recommendations and their implementation plans, initiate Member consultations on options to update WOAHA's statutory contribution model and take note of the extension of Phase 1 until May 2027. The recommendations in draft Resolution No. 4 were intended to support more effective, transparent, and sustainable governance of WOAHA in the years ahead.

Closed Session for Delegates Only

8 **Application for designation of the Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) in Giza, Egypt, as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Bacterial Animal Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance in the African Region**

Dr Hamed Mohamed Mousa Elaknas, Delegate of Egypt, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) in Giza as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Bacterial Animal Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance in the African Region.

Prof. Samah Eid, proposed expert for the Collaborating Centre, presented an overview of the Institute, including its activities, facilities, technical capacities and areas of expertise. She also informed Delegates that documentation and supporting information had been shared with Members in advance of the meeting.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

9 **Application for designation of the National School of Veterinary Medicine of Sidi Thabet, Tunisia, as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare**

Dr Wahib Mehri, Delegate of Tunisia, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the National School of Veterinary Medicine of Sidi Thabet in Tunisia as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare.

He briefly presented the school and its activities, noting that the relevant documentation and supporting information had been shared with the Delegates in advance of the meeting. He further informed participants that Prof. Ouajdi Souilem, Director of the Veterinary Research Institute of Tunisia, had been proposed as the expert leading the Collaborating Centre.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

10 **Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join WOAHA Council**

Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela chaired the discussion regarding the candidature for the position of member of the Council, to be put forward for election at the World Assembly.

Dr N'lemba Mabela explained that the position had become vacant because the Delegate of Eswatini had retired.

Dr Abdou Ceesay, Delegate of Gambia, proposed the candidature of Dr Relebohile Lepheana, Delegate of Lesotho, for election to the WOAHA Council. The candidature was seconded by Dr Julius Chulu, Delegate of Malawi. Following an intervention by Dr Yao Akpo, Delegate of Benin, Dr Relebohile Lepheana confirmed acceptance of the nomination and expressed readiness to stand for election at the forthcoming World Assembly of Delegates.

Delegates of the Region agreed to propose Dr Relebohile Lepheana, Delegate of Lesotho, for the position of member of the Council.

11 **Update on the Regional Representation for Africa**

Dr François Caya provided Delegates with an update on the status of the WOAHA Regional Representation for Africa, including the evolving security situation in Bamako and its implications for the Organisation's operations. He explained that in light of the deteriorating security context, WOAHA could no longer fully guarantee the safety and security of staff working in the office. He further noted that the prevailing security constraints were increasingly limiting the Organisation's ability to conduct missions, convene meetings and deploy activities from Bamako under appropriate operational conditions. Consequently and following lengthy deliberations and a thorough review of developments in the security situation in Mali, the Council decided, at its March meeting, to close the WOAHA Regional Office for Africa.

Dr Caya informed Delegates that the transition process was expected to take approximately one year and would be carefully managed in order to ensure continuity of WOAHA's regional activities and sustained support to Members across Africa. He emphasised that WOAHA remains fully committed to the African region and to continuing its close collaboration with Members, while also underlining the important role of Mali within the Organisation and the region.

He further paid tribute to the staff of the Regional Representation, particularly Dr Karim Tounkara and his team, acknowledging their longstanding dedication, professionalism and leadership in advancing WOAHA's work, strengthening regional cooperation and supporting Members throughout the African region over many years.

The President of the Commission welcomed the briefing and acknowledged the difficult context in which the decision had been taken. He reiterated the Commission's appreciation for the remarkable work carried out by Dr Tounkara and the staff of the Regional Representation in Bamako and expressed gratitude for their commitment and service to the African region and to WOAHA.

12 **Brief announcements and closing**

Before closing the meeting, key messages were delivered encouraging Delegates to attend side events on the P3V project and "30 Years of Recognition of Animal Health Status", both scheduled for 20 May 2026, as well as to visit the Regional Kiosk, where the Africa region will showcase its contribution to strengthening Veterinary Services across the continent and the dedicated plenary session on Regional Highlights entitled "Strengthening Veterinary Services Worldwide: The role of WOAHA Regional Offices in supporting Members", scheduled for Friday 22 May 2026.

The meeting officially ended at 4:15 p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face-to-face)

The Regional Commission for Africa met face-to-face on 18 May 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CEST at *CNIT*. The meeting was attended by 38 Members of the Commission and nine observers.

Members of the Commission: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African (Rep.), Chad, Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Côte 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, Somalia, 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), Joint Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) / International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), International Wool Textile Organisation, West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Working Animals International.

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.

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 Rachid Bouguedour, Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa, summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 5 May 2026, at 1:00 p.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 WOAHA through various means, updates on the Governance Review Committee (GRC) and the WOAHA 8th Strategic Plan, the candidate proposed by the Regional Commission for the partial elections of the Council and the approval of the Collaborating Centre proposal, among others.

The Regional Commission endorsed the points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting.

3 **Report of the Bureau of the Regional Commission on activities undertaken since the last meeting and overview of planned strategic activities for the forthcoming year**

Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela presented the report on the activities of the Regional Core Group since June 2025. These included a series of virtual and in-person meetings held to advance regional coordination and implementation of key priorities.

The President highlighted the main issues addressed during these engagements, including the review of outcomes from the 26th Regional Conference, preparations for the 27th Regional Conference, the discussion on technical items, and the identification of strategic topics of global

relevance for WOA. He also mentioned the Governance-related matters, including the ongoing review of WOA governance structures and strategic planning processes, among others.

The Commission noted the planned priorities for 2027, including the organisation of the 27th Regional Conference, the election of a new Bureau during the 94th General Session (May 2027), and continued engagement in governance reform processes extending into 2027–2028.

4 Governance Review Committee (GRC)

Dr Michael Botlhe Modisane, Regional Member of the GRC and Delegate of South Africa, updated the Regional Commission on the outcomes of the 10th meeting of the GRC, held at WOA Headquarters in Paris, on 14 and 15 May 2026.

Dr Miguel Martin, GRC Secretariat, then presented draft Resolution No. 4 on the GRC's report and recommendations to the 93rd General Session (2026), and highlighted updates made at the 10th GRC meeting and subsequently approved by the Council to enhance clarity and facilitate implementation of the Resolution.

Dr Michael Botlhe Modisane also informed the Commission of recent changes in the leadership of the GRC, including the appointment of the Delegate of Cyprus as Chair and the Delegate of Australia as Vice Chair, following his resignation as Chair of the Committee.

5 Regulatory strengthening: Tackling falsified drugs and over-the-counter sales

Dr Javier Yugueros-Marcos, Head of the Veterinary Products and Drug Resistance Department presented WOA's work on tackling substandard and falsified veterinary products. It was highlighted that strengthening the regulation of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) is essential to ensure those circulating are safe and effective. Weak regulatory systems create opportunities for irresponsible VMPs to circulate, inappropriate practices to occur (i.e., over-the-counter sales) and falsified and substandard VMPs to circulate. Consequences are risks to animal health, compromised food security, impacts on public health (i.e., zoonoses, AMR, food safety) and hampered trade.

Dr Yugueros-Marcos further noted that a fundamental prerequisite for strengthening VMPs regulation is the establishment of appropriate veterinary legislation, which should be aligned with WOA International Standards. WOA offers support via the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme and the One Health Legal Assessment Tool for AMR. Moreover, WOA is currently evaluating the Veterinary Medicines Regulatory Agency Self-Assessment Tool, a voluntary, Member-owned tool for systematic self-assessment of veterinary regulatory systems focused on learning.

Uncontrolled over-the-counter sales of VMPs can encourage farmers and animal owners to use medicines without proper veterinary guidance, leading to incorrect dosing, inappropriate treatment, and poor disease management. This can affect animal health outcomes and make it more difficult to ensure responsible use of veterinary medicines. Legislation & regulation have a role to play by including a clear classification system distinguishing prescription-only, and over-the-counter products, ensuring that high-risk medicines are supplied exclusively under veterinary supervision. Awareness among end users is also critical.

Weak regulatory systems and limited market surveillance create opportunities for falsified and substandard VMPs to circulate along the supply chain. These products can lead to treatment failure, economic losses for farmers, reduced trust in Veterinary Services and increased risks of AMR. While legislation can play a key role by incorporating robust enforcement provisions and addressing all stages of the product lifecycle, we must not forget the importance of strong coordination across all relevant sectors, including regulatory authorities, veterinary services, customs, and law enforcement, and the practical impact of VMP labelling, as a low-cost, high-impact regulatory tool that can support responsible use of VMPs.

To support Members, WOAAH is launching TRUVET system (Track and Report Unsafe VETerinary products), systematically collecting incident data, conducting risk analyses, and issuing global alerts through strong international collaboration. TRUVET team works closely with all WOAAH Members, Collaborating Centres, industry stakeholders, and international partners to prevent, detect, mitigate, and respond to the risks posed by substandard and falsified veterinary products.

The Commission discussed the fragmented mandates in the governance of veterinary medicinal products, affecting coordination. In response on WOAAH actions to address this fragmentation, the speaker emphasised the need to strengthen the leadership of Veterinary Services, ensuring compliance with WOAAH standards. The Commission called for WOAAH to facilitate inter-agency coordination.

The need to engage the private sector and farmers for harmonisation to better combat substandard and falsified products was raised, aimed at enhancing farmer inclusion.

The scarcity of veterinary medicinal products contributes to widespread self-medication practices increasing the risk of circulation and use of unregulated and substandard products.

The need to strengthen regulatory systems, as well as continued WOAAH advocacy to ensure that regulation is led by appropriately qualified veterinary authorities, was underlined.

Finally, concerns were raised regarding the quality of vaccines, including allegations that substandard vaccines may contribute to disease occurrence or spread in certain contexts. Participants emphasised that efforts to address substandard and falsified veterinary products (SFVP) should explicitly extend to vaccines. It was further noted that while vaccine production is generally well regulated, challenges persist in ensuring appropriate matching of vaccine strains to circulating field strains.

6 Current status and recent developments of Foot and Mouth Disease in Southern Africa

Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, provided an update on the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) situation in the Southern African Development Community sub-region. Dr Letshwenyo highlighted that the sub-region has a large and diverse livestock population that is critical for food security, livelihoods and trade, with most animals reared under traditional smallholder production systems. However, transboundary animal diseases, particularly FMD, continue to pose a major threat to sustainable livestock production and market access. FMD is a highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals and has existed in Southern Africa since the 1930s, particularly involving Southern African Territories (SAT) serotypes associated with African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) populations, which serve as important reservoir hosts. The disease causes significant economic losses through reduced productivity of animals, costly control measures, movement restrictions and loss of export markets. Prior to 2016, several Members in the sub-region were officially recognised as FMD-free without vaccination or maintained extensive FMD-free zones. However, by the first quarter of 2026, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, South Africa had lost their FMD-free status. The impacts of FMD extend across the entire livestock value chain, affecting farmers, traders, slaughterhouses and rural livelihoods, while recovery from outbreaks is often slow, complex and resource intensive.

Dr Letshwenyo further emphasised that effective control of FMD requires strong surveillance systems, vaccination, biosecurity and movement management, supported by efficient Veterinary Services and strong regional collaboration. WOAAH continues to support Members through international standards, technical assistance and capacity building initiatives. Through the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), WOAAH and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) coordinate regional and global efforts to control FMD using tools such as the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD (PCP-FMD) and the Global FMD Control Strategy (2012–2027). Given the transboundary nature of FMD, a coordinated regional approach remains essential for safeguarding livestock industries, food security and international trade.

Delegates noted the limited availability of data and information on the FMD situation in West Africa, which constrains effective decision-making and response efforts. Challenges related to access and availability of vaccines, were also highlighted. The importance of strengthening partnerships to address vaccine supply gaps and improve access was underscored.

7 PPR Eradication in Africa: Update on the Pan African Programme and Progress of PRAPS Implementation

Dr Neo Mapitse, Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa presented an update on Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) eradication efforts in Africa, focusing on the implementation of the EU-Supported PPR Eradication from Africa Programme and progress under the Regional Support Project for Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS).

The Commission was informed that both initiatives are central to achieving PPR eradication by 2030. The Pan-African Programme, aligned with the FAO/WOAH Global Strategy and implemented across most of Africa (excluding the Maghreb), provides a coordinated framework. Supported by the European Union, Phase 1 was launched in February 2025 with EUR 8 million mobilised, while Phase 2 preparations (EUR 50 million grant and EUR 40 million blended financing) are ongoing. Led by AU-IBAR, the programme focuses on strengthening veterinary services, enhancing surveillance and diagnostics, improving vaccination, and promoting regional coordination in Africa, except North Africa (Maghreb region).

Implementation is coordinated through the Pan-African PPR Secretariat, with WOAH, FAO and the African Union Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC) as implementing partners. WOAH contribution is guided by its mandate on standards, disease notification, capacity building, and disease status recognition.

The Commission noted progress under Phase 1, including, strengthened institutional and technical capacities, including support to Members on notifications, mapping epidemiological systems, development of buffer zone strategies to protect PPR-free areas, strategic approaches for hard-to-reach and insecure areas and the establishment of project governance structures. Vaccination strategies have been developed and costed, with the emphasis on ensuring transition pathways towards cessation of vaccination and recognition of PPR-free status using WOAH standards.

The Commission was informed that PRAPS, a World Bank-funded programme, supports pastoralism in six Sahelian Members and contributes significantly to PPR control. WOAH provides technical coordination of the animal health component, focusing on harmonisation of vaccination strategies, strengthening epidemiological surveillance, improving veterinary services, including through the PVS Pathway among others.

Key achievements include vaccination of over 337 million small ruminants, harmonised seromonitoring, strengthened cross-border coordination and synchronised campaigns, and the alignment of national strategies with global and regional frameworks. Dr Mapitse highlighted some challenges including funding gaps for both programmes. The Commission was informed that lessons learned from PRAPS would be useful for the next phase of the EU Supported programme, noting that PRAPS was due to close in 2027.

The Commission welcomed the progress achieved under both initiatives and noted that the implementation architecture for the Pan-African Programme is now fully operational and acknowledged the acceleration of resource mobilisation efforts, including upcoming high-level engagements.

Delegates highlighted the need to extend successful programme models, such as those implemented under PRAPS, to additional Members in order to ensure more comprehensive regional coverage and impact including coordinated efforts.

8 **Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions**

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General for Standard Setting and Implementation, provided an overview of the selection process for WOAHA Specialist Commissions for the 2027–2030 term. Dr Arroyo described the planned stages, from preparation of documentation and launch of an open call for experts on 6 July 2026, through screening of applications after closure of the call on 11 September 2026 and evaluation of eligible candidates by a Nomination Evaluation Committee, comprising external evaluators, a Council representative and WOAHA staff.

Suitable candidates would be proposed to the WOAHA Director General, followed by endorsement by the WOAHA Council and election of Commission members by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 94th General Session in May 2027.

Closed Session for Delegates Only

9 **Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join the WOAHA Council**

The President of the Regional Commission recalled that, during the virtual meeting of the Regional Commission, Members had already agreed to propose a candidate for the vacant position of member of the Council, following the retirement of the Delegate of Eswatini, as explained by Dr Mabela.

The President invited the Regional Commission to confirm this proposal during the present meeting. Delegates of the Region unanimously confirmed the proposal of Dr Relebohile Lepheana (Delegate of Lesotho) for election to the position of member of the Council.

10 **Closing**

Before closing Dr Mabela took the opportunity to reiterate the importance of Members paying their statutory contributions and noted that a significant number of Members in the Region were in arrears which negatively impacted their voting rights.

The meeting officially ended at 12:51 p.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE
WOAH REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Session 1 (virtual)

5 May 2026

(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 and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
1:05 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Preparation of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Uganda, in February 2027 (Dr Rose Ademun, Vice- President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Uganda)
1:20 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.	Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Abderrahman El-Abrak, Vice-President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Morocco)
1:35 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	Selection of three 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 Abderrahman El-Abrak)
1:50 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Formal Recognition of the REMESA (Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance)
2:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	WOAH's 8 th Strategic Plan (Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit)
2:20 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly (Dr Michael Botlhe Modisane, Chair and regional member of the GRC, Delegate of South Africa)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

3:05 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Application for designation of the Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) in Giza, Egypt, as a new WOAHP Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Bacterial Animal Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance in the African Region (Dr Hamed Elaknas, Delegate of Egypt)
3:20 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.	Application for designation of the National School of Veterinary Medicine of Sidi Thabet, Tunisia, as a new WOAHP Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare (Dr Wahib Mehri, Delegate of Tunisia)
3:35 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join WOAHP Council (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
3:50 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Update on the Regional Representation for Africa (Dr François Caya)
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Brief announcements and closing (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
4:15 p.m.	End of the meeting

Session 2 (face-to-face)

Monday 18 May 2026

10:00 AM-12:30 PM (CEST), CNIT Forest, Paris, France

Room : Dragonnier 6

Agenda

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
10:05 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr Rachid Bouguedour, Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa)
10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Report of the Bureau of the Regional Commission on activities undertaken since the last meeting and overview of planned strategic activities for the forthcoming year (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
10:30 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC) (Dr Michael Botlhe Modisane, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of South Africa and HQ – GRC Secretariat): a. Outcomes of the 10th meeting of the GRC (14-15 May 2026) b. GRC Resolution at the 93rd General Session (2026) (Draft Resolution No. 4)
10:55 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Regulatory strengthening: Tackling falsified drugs and over-the-counter sales (Dr Javier Yugueros-Marcos, Head of the Veterinary Products and Drug Resistance Department)
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Current status and recent developments of Foot and Mouth Disease in Southern Africa (Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa)
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	PPR Eradication in Africa: Update on the Pan African Programme and Progress of PRAPS Implementation (Dr Neo Mapitse, Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa)
11:45 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.	Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General – Standard Setting and Implementation)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11:55 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.	Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join the WOAHA Council (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
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 6 May 2026, at 4:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 43 participants, including Delegates and observers from 23 Members of the Commission and representatives from four international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

International/Regional Organisations: Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SG-CAN), International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA).

The meeting was chaired by Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado and Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero, Vice Presidents of the Regional Commission and Delegates of Honduras and Chile, respectively, accompanied by Dr Francisco D'Alessio, WOAHA Regional Representative for the Americas. In addition, Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance addressed participants with a welcome message.

1 Adoption of the Agenda

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

Due to time constraints, a request from Brazil to discuss procedural aspects related to the registration of stable events in WAHIS platform, as well as a proposal of Paraguay to present a video related to upcoming Conference of the Regional Commission, were agreed to be included in the agenda of the in-person meeting of the Regional Commission to be held on 18 May 2026, in Paris, France.

2 Preparation of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission, to be held in Asuncion, Paraguay, from 2 to 6 November 2026

Dr Hugo Idoyaga, Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Paraguay, together with other staff members of the Veterinary Services, provided details on the organisation of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas, which will take place in Asuncion, Paraguay, from 2 to 6 November 2026.

He mentioned that the main venue had been identified, together with several hotel options for participants, and informed attendees of the visa requirements and of the measures taken to facilitate visa issuance, details of which will be made available on the relevant website.

In addition, he noted that the agenda of the Conference aims to reflect the current priorities and needs of the region, while including technical panels and discussions with high level authorities.

He assured participants that both the agenda and all the logistical details would be communicated in a timely manner.

3 **Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas:

“Economic aspects of effective and sustainable animal health surveillance systems.”

4 **Selection of three 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)**

The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAHA through various means:

1. Regional cooperation for surveillance systems and response to animal health emergencies;
2. Surveillance systems for avian influenza in species of importance to animal health;
3. Antimicrobial resistance and the mitigation actions offered by biosecurity and good husbandry practices.

In addition, the three following supplementary topics were considered as relevant:

1. Climate change and vector-borne diseases;
2. Effective communication strategies between producers and national Veterinary Services for timely reporting of suspected quarantinable diseases;
3. The need for continuous and systematic training of Veterinary Services to support prevention and control of animal diseases at national and regional levels: challenges, gaps, needs, and opportunities.

5 **WOAHA's 8th Strategic Plan**

Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit, provided an update on the development, content, and next steps of WOAHA's 8th Strategic Plan. She explained that the Plan had been developed through an extensive and inclusive consultative process based on co-construction. She further informed participants that the Plan had been endorsed by the Council on 3 March 2026 and would be submitted for adoption during the General Session in May 2026.

Ms Wuensch highlighted that Members' feedback had played a central role in refining the Strategic Plan. She noted that more than 300 comments, including over 100 submitted by Members, had been reviewed and taken into consideration. Overall, the feedback received had been positive, with particular appreciation expressed for the consultative approach adopted throughout the process. She explained that revisions had focused on improving cohesion across the document, clarifying the distinction between strategic and operational elements, strengthening explanations regarding implementation, monitoring and costing, and further emphasising partnerships, collaboration and scientific robustness.

Regarding the structure of the Plan, Ms Wuensch explained that it was built around a Vision and Mission, supported by three Strategic Orientations and four Strategic Enablers. The Strategic Orientations focus on strengthening standard-setting, empowering Members to build robust animal health systems, and positioning animal health as central to addressing global challenges. The Strategic Enablers focus on governance and partnerships, leadership in animal health data, people, and performance and accountability.

In conclusion, Ms Wuensch informed participants that implementation of the Plan would be supported through structured roadmaps, monitoring mechanisms and a costing approach. She noted that the Plan largely consolidates existing activities while identifying priority initiatives. She further indicated that additional funding may be required, alongside the maintenance of current funding levels, supported by targeted resource mobilisation efforts and internal reprioritisation. Finally, she outlined the next steps, which include the formal adoption, publication and launch of the Plan, as well as the development of regional implementation roadmaps.

6 Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly

Dr François Caya, presented the work of the Governance Review Committee (GRC) and its recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) at its 93rd General Session (2026). It was explained that the GRC had been established under Assembly Resolution No. 12 (2024) to review WOA's governance framework and provide recommendations to strengthen the Organisation's governance arrangements. The presentation highlighted that the GRC's work was informed by a comprehensive external review of WOA's governance and extensive Member engagement, including regional consultations, thereby ensuring an inclusive and Member-centred reform process. For the 93rd General Session, the GRC submitted a package of seven recommendations aimed at strengthening WOA's financial, institutional and regional governance.

Regarding financial governance, the GRC proposed three measures: (i) enhancing transparency of Member contributions and arrears through a public dashboard and improved reporting; (ii) launching a consultation process on options to transition to an objective, formula-based statutory contribution model; and (iii) clarifying and strengthening sanctions for Members in arrears through a more consistent and graduated framework. It was highlighted that these reforms were intended to improve financial sustainability, predictability, equity and accountability across the Organisation.

With respect to institutional and regional governance, four recommendations were proposed to modernise decision-making and representation in the Assembly and Regional Commissions. These included allowing Delegates to authorise delegation members to speak and vote at the General Session, updating the functions of the Regional Commissions and Bureaus to strengthen regional input into policy, coordination and implementation of WOA activities, and revising Bureau composition and election processes to improve accountability and representation. Further reforms include adjusting the Council's Past President seat to an elected member position to support a more representative governance structure and introducing a risk-based framework for approving WOA's cooperation agreements to improve efficiency while maintaining appropriate oversight.

It was further explained that the GRC's work had been planned in two phases: Phase 1 focused on identifying governance reforms, while Phase 2 would address the necessary amendments to WOA's legal framework to implement reforms agreed by the Assembly in Phase 1. Although considerable progress had been achieved, it was noted that an extension of Phase 1 until May 2027 would be necessary to complete the review process, including further regional consultations.

Finally, it was highlighted that, under Resolution No. 4, the Assembly was invited to approve the seven recommendations and their implementation plans, initiate Member consultations on options to update WOA's statutory contribution model and take note of the extension of Phase 1 until May 2027. The recommendations in draft Resolution No. 4 were intended to support more effective, transparent, and sustainable governance of WOA in the years ahead.

The Delegate of Argentina, seconded by other Delegates, thanked the Delegates serving as representatives of the Region on the GRC, as well as the staff of the Headquarters Secretariat and the Regional Representation for their support throughout the process.

7 **Announcements from WOAAH**

Dr Mauro Meske, from the Status Department, highlighted a side event entitled “30 Years of Official Animal Health Status Recognition” scheduled to take place during at the 93rd General Session, on Wednesday 20 May 2026, from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m.

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance, provided an update on the status of the WOAAH Regional Representation for Africa and informed the Regional Commission for the Americas of the recent decision to close the Organisation’s office in Bamako, Mali, in light of the evolving security situation. He explained that this decision had been taken following careful consideration of staff safety and security, as well as the operational constraints affecting the organisation of activities and missions from Bamako, while ensuring continuity of WOAAH’s activities and support to Members across the African region during the transition process. He also expressed appreciation for the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the staff of the Regional Representation in supporting and advancing WOAAH’s work in the African region over the years.

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Head of the Regional Coordination Department, drew Delegates’ attention to the regional kiosk, which will be available throughout the week of the 93rd General Session, as well as the dedicated plenary session on Regional Highlights entitled “Strengthening Veterinary Services Worldwide: The role of WOAAH Regional Offices in supporting Members”, scheduled for Friday 22 May 2026. She invited all participants to visit the kiosk and attend the plenary session.

Closed Session for Delegates Only

8 **Application of the Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research AGROSAVIA to join the WOAAH Collaborating Centre Consortium for Animal Welfare and Sustainable Livestock Systems**

Dr Mariana Delgado, WOAAH Science and Disease Management Department, presented the rules and the procedure for the proposal and approval of Reference Centres, which include Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

Dr Viviana Sofía Zamora Pineda, Delegate of Colombia, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research AGROSAVIA to join the WOAAH Collaborating Centre Consortium for Animal Welfare and Sustainable Livestock Systems.

She briefly presented the structure, the scientific and extension activities, as well as the expertise as detailed in the submitted application, and reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

9 **Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Regional Commission Bureau as President**

As requested by the Bureau, Dr Francisco D’Alessio explained the process for the selection of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas as President. Dr D’Alessio also facilitated the discussions regarding the proposal of candidates for the position of President to the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas, to be put forward for election at the World Assembly.

Delegates of the Region agreed to propose Dr Rafael Rodríguez Alvarado for the position of President of the Regional Commission for the Americas, together with the advancement of all other Bureau members to the next positions in the succession order.

In addition, Delegates agreed to postpone discussions regarding the selection of a candidate for the position of Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission until the Regional Commission meeting to be held in Paris.

The agreed proposals for positions within the Bureau are listed below:

- President Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado (Honduras)
- Vice President Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero (Chile)
- Vice President Dr Roxanna Alvarez (Belize)
- Secretary General *vacancy*

10 **Closing**

The meeting officially ended at 7:45 p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face-to-face)

The Regional Commission for the Americas met face-to-face on 18 May 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CEST at CNIT. The meeting was attended by 20 Members of the Commission and nine observers.

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America, and Uruguay.

Observers: Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SG-CAN), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA), International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA), Latin American Poultry Association (ALA), Pan American Center for Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Veterinary Public Health (PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO), World Renderers Organization (WRO).

The meeting was chaired by Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado, Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Honduras, accompanied by Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero, Delegate of Chile and Roxanna Alvarez Delegate of Belize, Vice president and Secretary General of the Regional Commission respectively. They were supported by Dr Hugo Idoyaga Benitez and Wilmer Juárez Juárez, members of the Council, as well as by Dr Francisco D'Alessio, WOAHA Regional Representative for the Americas.

1 Adoption of the Agenda

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

2 Report on the activities of the Regional Core Group during the last year, and summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting

Dr Rodriguez Alvarado presented the work carried out by the Regional Core Group during the last year, describing the meetings held and the topics discussed. He emphasised that main focus was placed on following a structured regional agenda integrating Members' needs and the support provided by the Regional Representation, aligned to global programmes.

In addition, he summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 6 May 2026, allowing the Regional Commission to confirm the main points agreed. Topics included an update on the organisation of the forthcoming Conference of the Regional Commission and the selection of its second technical item, the strategic topics to be addressed by WOAHA through various means, as well as the candidates proposed to fill the vacant position of President and the changes within the Bureau of the Regional Commission. The Commission also agreed on the inclusion of AGROSAVIA, Colombia, as a partner in the Collaborating Centre Consortium for Animal Welfare and Sustainable Livestock Systems.

3 Governance Review Committee (GRC)

Dr Mary Jane Ireland, Regional Member of the GRC and Delegate of Canada, updated the Regional Commission on the outcomes of the 10th meeting of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), held at WOAHA Headquarters, on 14 and 15 May 2026.

She highlighted the decision taken by the GRC to focus on core topics such as the WOAHA mandate and legal status, and institutional and financial governance. In addition, she acknowledged the important workload and the high number of documents that the work of the

committee had implied and noted that measures would be taken for its improvement. Finally, she encouraged greater engagement from Members in consultations, and highlighted the strong support received from the Regional Representation to facilitate this process.

Dr Miguel Martín, GRC Secretariat, then presented the draft Resolution No. 4 on the GRC's report and recommendations to the 93rd General Session (2026), and highlighted updates made at the tenth GRC meeting and subsequently approved by the Council to enhance clarity and facilitate implementation of the Resolution.

He concluded by reminding Delegates on the need to participate in the next consultations on the WOAHA mandate and financial aspects, scheduled to begin in June 2026.

4 Collaboration with WOAHA Reference Centres to support WOAHA regional activities

Dr Francisco D'Alessio highlighted the essential role of Collaborating Centres to provide support and promote capacity building for Members as a key part of the Organisation and emphasised the synergetic potential with the Regional Representation's mandate, which aims to articulate regional and global needs, activities and priorities.

Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno, on behalf of the Center for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Aquaculture (CASA), and Dr Andrés Pérez, from the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety, University of Minnesota, presented the activities carried out by their Collaborating Centres in support of WOAHA regional activities.

Both speakers highlighted that the interaction with the Regional Representation allows closer engagement with Members and their needs, as well as involving other organisations, in line with regional projects and plans, and contributing to global initiatives.

Dr Martin Minassian, from the Regional Representation, presented a case study on the coordinated support provided by several Reference Centres after the recent viral haemorrhagic septicaemia outbreak in Colombia. He stressed that the interaction with Reference Centres established during non-emergency periods allowed a better response to the disease and encouraged Members to contact the Regional Representation to benefit from the available resources to improve their capacities.

5 Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, WOAHA Deputy Director General for Standard Setting and Implementation provided an overview of the selection process for WOAHA Specialist Commissions for the 2027–2030 term. Dr Arroyo described the planned stages from preparation of documentation and launch of an open call for experts on 6 July 2026, through screening of applications after closure of the call on 11 September 2026 and evaluation of eligible candidates by a Nomination Evaluation Committee, comprising external evaluators, a Council representative and WOAHA staff.

Suitable candidates will be put forward to the WOAHA Director General, followed by endorsement by the WOAHA Council, and election of Commission members by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 94th General Session in May 2027.

6 Update on the 28th Regional Conference to be held in Paraguay in November 2026

Dr Hugo Idoyaga, Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Paraguay, accompanied by Dr Jose Carlos Martin Camperchioli, President of the National Animal Health and Quality Service (SENACSA) and Mr Daniel Prieto, President of the Rural Association of Paraguay (ARP) presented the upcoming Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Asunción, Paraguay, in November 2026, and presented an institutional video.

Closed Session for Delegates Only

7 **Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Regional Commission Bureau as Secretary General**

It was recalled that, during the virtual meeting of the Regional Commission, Members had agreed to propose Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado for the position of President of the Regional Commission for the Americas, together with the advancement of the other Bureau members to the next positions in the succession order. Discussions regarding the position of Secretary General of the Bureau had been postponed until the present meeting.

Delegates of the Region unanimously agreed to propose Dr Alan Huddleston, Delegate of the United States of America, for the position of Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

The agreed proposals for positions within the Bureau are listed below:

- President Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado (Honduras)
- Vice President Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero (Chile)
- Vice President Dr Roxanna Alvarez (Belize)
- Secretary General Dr Alan Huddleston (United States of America)

These positions shall remain effective until next elections at the 94th General Session in 2027.

8 **Coordination session for regional interventions at WOAHA General Session**

Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero chaired the discussion on common positions to be presented on behalf of the Members of the Regional Commission for the Americas, with the support of Dr D'Alessio.

The Commission reviewed the proposals presented during the virtual meeting of the commission and circulated through the Regional Representation and agreed to put forward common positions.

Interventions were agreed on several topics, as well as the timing for the interventions and the speaker to promote a coordinated participation.

9 **Information on the creation of stable events markers on the WAHIS platform**

Following a request from Dr Marcelo de Andrade Mota, Delegate of Brazil, a presentation was made by Dr Jenny Hutchinson, Head of the WOAHA World Animal Health Information Department.

Dr Hutchinson presented the updated functionality for identifying stable animal health events, detailing that this is aligned to the Code provisions, and offered the support of her Department for any further clarification or training needs.

10 **Closing**

The meeting officially ended at 12:40 p.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Session 1 (virtual)

6 May 2026

(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 Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado, Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Honduras)
4:05 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	Preparation of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Asuncion, Paraguay, from 2 to 6 November 2026 (Dr Hugo Idoyaga, Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Paraguay)
4:20 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission (Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero, Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Chile)
4:40 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Selection of three 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 Alvarez, Secretary General of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Belize)
5:00 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.	WOAH's 8 th Strategic Plan (Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit)
5:25 p.m. – 6: 00 p.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly (Dr François Caya)
6:00 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.	Announcements from WOAHA

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

6:10 p.m. – 6: 30 p.m.	Application of the Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research (AGROSAVIA) to join the WOAHA Collaborating Centre Consortium for Animal Welfare and Sustainable Livestock Systems (Introduction by Dr Mariana Delgado, WOAHA Science and Disease Management Department, and presentation of the application by Dr Viviana Sofia Zamora Pineda, Delegate of Colombia)
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Regional Commission Bureau as President (Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado)
7:00 p.m.	Closing (Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado)

Session 2 (face-to-face)

Monday 18 May 2026

10:00 AM-12:30 PM (CEST), CNIT Forest, Paris, France

Room : Dragonnier 3

Agenda

- 10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado, Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Honduras)
- 10:05 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Report on the activities of the Regional Core Group during the last year, and summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado)
- 10:20 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Governance Review Committee (GRC):
- a. Outcomes of the 10th meeting of the GRC (14-15 May 2026)
 - b. GRC Resolution at the 93rd General Session (2026) (Draft Resolution No. 4)
- (Dr Mary Jane Ireland, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Canada, and HQ – GRC Secretariat)
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. Collaboration with WOAHP Reference Centres to support WOAHP regional activities
- Center for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Aquaculture (CASA), University of Chile
 - Center for Animal Health and Food Safety, University of Minnesota
 - Case study: The support provided by Reference Centres after the viral haemorrhagic septicaemia outbreak in Colombia.
- 11:05 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General – Standard Setting and Implementation)
- 11:10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Update on the 28th Regional Conference to be held in Paraguay in November 2026 (Dr. Hugo Idoyaga, Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Paraguay)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 11:15 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Regional Commission Bureau as Secretary General (Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado)
- 11:40 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. Coordination session for regional interventions at WOAHP General Session (Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero, Vice President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Chile)
- 12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Information on the creation of stable events markers in WAHIS platform (Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of WAHIAD).
- 12:30 p.m. Closing (Dr Rafael Rodriguez Alvarado)

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 5 May 2026, at 7:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 70 participants, including Delegates and/or Alternate Delegates from 21 Members of the Commission, observers and representatives from six international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vanuatu.

International/regional organisations: ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ), Humane World for Animals, International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW), Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat.

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 Tomoko Ishibashi, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific. In addition, Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance address participants with a welcome message.

1 Adoption of the agenda

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

2 Outcomes of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission held in Indonesia, from 22 to 26 September 2025

Dr Pebi Suseno, WOAHA Focal Point for Communication for Indonesia, speaking on behalf of Dr Hendra Wibawa, Alternate Delegate of Indonesia, presented the main conclusions of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 22 to 26 September 2025. He highlighted the strong participation and constructive discussions that took place throughout the Conference, which focused on regional priorities, strengthening Veterinary Services, and enhancing cooperation among Members.

He noted that Technical Item I on Animal Vaccines and Vaccination resulted in nine recommendations aimed at strengthening the implementation of WOAHA international standards, promoting evidence-based vaccination strategies, and enhancing regional collaboration to support disease prevention, safe trade and One Health objectives. Technical Item II on Building a joint TADs prevention and control system in the Asia-Pacific region, produced ten recommendations focused on strengthening surveillance, regional coordination, digital systems, preparedness and cross-border collaboration.

Dr Suseno also underlined the importance of the Regional Work Plan Framework (RWPF), which continues to support the identification of regional priorities and monitoring of WOAHA activities in the region. He indicated that the Asia and the Pacific experience with the RWPF was expected to inform and support the extension of this approach to other WOAHA regions within the framework of the Organisation's 8th Strategic Plan.

Dr Suseno noted that the Conference had also provided opportunities for a field visit, cultural activities and networking, which further contributed to strengthening collaboration and exchanges among participants.

He concluded by thanking the Regional Commission of the active participation.

3 **Confirmation of the venue of the 35th Conference of the Regional Commission**

Dr Beth Cookson, Delegate of Australia, reiterated Australia's offer to host the 35th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 2027.

The exact dates and location will be confirmed and 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 35th Conference of the Regional Commission**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 35th Conference of the Regional Commission:

“Application of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence and other information technologies for animal health and production.”

5 **Selection of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOA through various means (Scientific 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. Optimise the Global Mechanism for Integrated Analysis of Veterinary Epidemiological Information, and for the Risk communication; Use of artificial intelligence (AI) for disease surveillance and reporting;
2. Strengthening One Health networks and SOPs at regional and national levels, with a focus on antimicrobial resistance and climate change adaptation;
3. Strengthening Biosecurity, Surveillance and Veterinary Systems for the Prevention and Response to Emerging, Re-emerging and Exotic Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs).

For the strategic topic three, the Regional Commission recommended that WOA considers addressing under this topic issues related to the spread of FMD serotype SAT-1 and African Swine Fever (ASF), global monitoring and response frameworks for exotic and re-emerging animal diseases, the wildlife-domestic animal interface and its contribution to FMD outbreaks, as well as practices to verify decontamination in poultry facilities affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

6 **WOAH's 8th Strategic Plan**

Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit, provided an update on the development, content, and next steps of WOA's 8th Strategic Plan. She explained that the Plan had been developed through an extensive and inclusive consultative process based on co-construction. She further informed participants that the Plan had been endorsed by the Council on 3 March 2026 and would be submitted for adoption during the General Session in May 2026.

Ms Wuensch highlighted that Members' feedback had played a central role in refining the Strategic Plan. She noted that more than 300 comments, including over 100 submitted by Members, had been reviewed and taken into consideration. Overall, the feedback received had been positive, with particular appreciation expressed for the consultative approach adopted throughout the process. She explained that revisions had focused on improving cohesion across the document, clarifying the distinction between strategic and operational elements, strengthening explanations regarding implementation, monitoring and costing, and further emphasising partnerships, collaboration and scientific robustness.

Regarding the structure of the Plan, Ms Wuensch explained that it was built around a Vision and Mission, supported by three Strategic Orientations and four Strategic Enablers. The Strategic Orientations focus on strengthening standard-setting, empowering Members to build robust animal health systems, and positioning animal health as central to addressing global challenges. The Strategic Enablers focus on governance and partnerships, leadership in animal health data, people, and performance and accountability.

In conclusion, Ms Wuensch informed participants that implementation of the Plan would be supported through structured roadmaps, monitoring mechanisms and a costing approach. She noted that the Plan largely consolidates existing activities while identifying priority initiatives. She further indicated that additional funding may be required, alongside the maintenance of current funding levels, supported by targeted resource mobilisation efforts and internal reprioritisation. Finally, she outlined the next steps, which include the formal adoption, publication and launch of the Plan, as well as the development of regional implementation roadmaps.

7 Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly

Dr Beth Cookson, Regional Member of the GRC and Delegate of Australia, presented the work of the Governance Review Committee (GRC) and its recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) at its 93rd General Session (2026). It was explained that the GRC had been established under Assembly Resolution No. 12 (2024) to review WOA's governance framework and provide recommendations to strengthen the Organisation's governance arrangements. The presentation highlighted that the GRC's work was informed by a comprehensive external review of WOA's governance and extensive Member engagement, including regional consultations, thereby ensuring an inclusive and Member-centred reform process. For the 93rd General Session, the GRC submitted a package of seven recommendations aimed at strengthening WOA's financial, institutional and regional governance.

Regarding financial governance, the GRC proposed three measures: (i) enhancing transparency of Member contributions and arrears through a public dashboard and improved reporting; (ii) launching a consultation process on options to transition to an objective, formula-based statutory contribution model; and (iii) clarifying and strengthening sanctions for Members in arrears through a more consistent and graduated framework. It was highlighted that these reforms were intended to improve financial sustainability, predictability, equity and accountability across the Organisation.

With respect to institutional and regional governance, four recommendations were proposed to modernise decision-making and representation in the Assembly and Regional Commissions. These included allowing Delegates to authorise delegation members to speak and vote at the General Session, updating the functions of the Regional Commissions and Bureaus to strengthen regional input into policy, coordination and implementation of WOA activities, and revising Bureau composition and election processes to improve accountability and representation. Further reforms include adjusting the Council's Past President seat to an elected member position to support a more representative governance structure and introducing a risk-based framework for approving WOA's cooperation agreements to improve efficiency while maintaining appropriate oversight.

It was further explained that the GRC's work had been planned in two phases: Phase 1 focused on identifying governance reforms, while Phase 2 would address the necessary amendments to WOAH's legal framework to implement reforms agreed by the Assembly in Phase 1. Although considerable progress had been achieved, it was noted that an extension of Phase 1 until May 2027 would be necessary to complete the review process, including further regional consultations.

Finally, it was highlighted that, under Resolution No. 4, the Assembly was invited to approve the seven recommendations and their implementation plans, initiate Member consultations on options to update WOAH's statutory contribution model and take note of the extension of Phase 1 until May 2027. The recommendations in draft Resolution No. 4 were intended to support more effective, transparent, and sustainable governance of WOAH in the years ahead.

Members were encouraged to review the recommendations, contained within Draft Resolution No. 4, prior to the General Session, reaching out to GRC members or Secretariat if further clarification was necessary.

8 Application to designate the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, APQA (under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, MAFRA) in Gyeongsangbuk-do, Korea (Rep. of) as a new WOAH Collaborating Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance in Terrestrial Animals

Dr Dongsik Lee, Delegate of Korea (Rep. of), submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, APQA (under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, MAFRA) in Gyeongsangbuk-do, Korea (Rep. of) as a new WOAH Collaborating Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance in Terrestrial Animals.

He briefly presented the Agency and its activities and reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

9 Discussion on regional positions for WOAH General Session

The Regional Commission discussed potential common positions to be put forward at the 93rd General Session on behalf of the Members of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The session was chaired by the Delegate of Australia.

During the discussions the Delegates of New Zealand and China (People's Republic of) proposed that consideration be given to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Chapter 7.5 on animal welfare during slaughter. In addition, the Delegate of New Zealand highlighted the importance of the work undertaken by the GRC and the consultative approach adopted in the development of WOAH's 8th Strategic Plan.

It was further indicated that additional details on these proposed common positions would be shared with Members prior to the Regional Commission meeting scheduled for 18 May 2026. Members were invited to submit any comments, together with a brief rationale, to the Regional Representation by 12 May 2026.

10 Announcements from WOAH

Dr Min-Kyung Park, Head of the Status Department, highlighted a side event entitled "30 Years of Official Animal Health Status Recognition" scheduled to take place during at the 93rd General Session, on Wednesday 20 May 2026, from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m.

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance, provided an update on the status of the WOAH Regional Representation for Africa and informed the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the recent decision to close the Organisation's office in Bamako, Mali, in light of the evolving security situation. He explained that this decision had been taken following careful consideration of staff safety and security, as well as the operational constraints affecting the organisation of activities and missions from Bamako, while ensuring continuity of WOAH's activities and support to Members across the African region during the

transition process. He also expressed appreciation for the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the staff of the Regional Representation in supporting and advancing WOA's work in the African region over the years.

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Head of the Regional Coordination Department, drew Delegates' attention to the regional kiosk, which will be available throughout the week of the 93rd General Session, as well as the dedicated plenary session on Regional Highlights entitled "Strengthening Veterinary Services Worldwide: The role of WOA's Regional Offices in supporting Members", scheduled for Friday 22 May 2026. She invited all participants to visit the kiosk and attend the plenary session.

Dr Tomoko Ishibashi informed Members of the Director General's Ambassador Dialogue series to highlight animal health as a global political priority and recommended Delegates to contact their respective Embassies when in Paris to discuss relevant matters.

Closed Session for Delegates Only

11 **Partial elections: selection of two Members of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission as Vice Presidents**

In the absence of Dr Baoxu Huang, the discussion regarding the candidates proposed for the two Vice-President positions in the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to be put forward for election at the World Assembly, was chaired by Dr Tomoko Ishibashi.

Dr Ishibashi explained that the two Vice-President positions had become vacant following the withdrawal of the Delegates from Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

Following discussions, Delegates of the Region agreed to propose Dr Naresh Pal Gangwar (India) for the position of Vice-President 1 and Dr Chang Siow Foong (Singapore) for the position of Vice-President 2 of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr Ishibashi reminded Delegates that membership in the Regional Core Group (RCG) includes both *ex officio* members, namely WOA's Members represented in the regional governance bodies (Council or Bureau), and additional members selected by the Regional Commission from among Delegates of the region. She explained that, should India and Singapore be elected to the Bureau, they would automatically become *ex officio* members of the RCG, resulting in the vacancy of the two selected member positions they currently hold within the RCG. Delegates were therefore invited to submit candidatures for these selected RCG positions to the WOA's Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific by 15 May 2026, in order for the Regional Commission to consider and select new members during the in-person meeting scheduled for 18 May 2026.

12 **Closing**

The meeting officially ended at 10.10 a.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face-to-face)

The Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific met face-to-face on 18 May 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CEST at *CNIT*. The meeting was attended by 18 Members of the Commission and four observers.

Members of the Commission: Australia, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vanuatu

Observers: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), International Alliance for Biological Standardisation, International coalition for animal welfare (ICFAW) and Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

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), Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, and Dr Naree Ketusing, Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia.

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 Baoxu Huang summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 5 May 2026, 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 WOAHP through various means, the candidates proposed for the partial elections of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and the approval of the Collaborating Centre proposal, among others.

The Regional Commission endorsed the points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting.

3 Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Advisory Group updates (ToR revision, membership, new chair)

Dr Carolyn Guy, Chair of the WOAHP RAWS Advisory Group (AG) for the Asia and the Pacific region, presented updates and sought endorsement for the RAWS Terms of Reference, membership and the new Chair of the RAWS AG. She provided an overview of the history of RAWS.

Regarding the RAWS 2026 membership endorsement, she presented the list of current members and observers.

Finally, she presented a summary of RAWS activities held between the 92nd General Session and the present day. This included a series of webinars for the Pacific and a Training of Trainers for animal welfare in pig production systems.

As no objections or further comments were raised by Members of the Regional Commission during the meeting, RAWS Edition 3 and the 2026 RAWS membership were endorsed.

4 Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs): Review of regional experiences and way forward

Dr Masatsugu Okita, Member of the Council and Delegate of Japan, provided an overview of GF-TADs activities in Asia and the Pacific. He recalled that the framework was established in 2004.

Dr Okita highlighted the importance of having different governance framework tiers within GF-TADs. The existence of a coordination mechanism at every level implies that each sub-region has the right to decide the direction of GF-TADs and that the fight against TADs can be coordinated at the grassroots level, utilising local expertise, and promoting better coordination and sharing of best practices among Members.

Dr Okita highlighted key regional achievements, including the SEACFMD campaign, the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in Asia and the Pacific (established in 2019), the East Asia Chief Veterinary Officer Forum, and sub-regional TADs workshops. He also noted the participation of Asia and the Pacific representatives in the 22nd SGE-ASF in Europe to exchange experiences and learn from European border control practices.

Dr Okita further underlined the importance of the continuous role of the GF-TADs framework in providing opportunities for collaboration and encouraged Members to utilise the mechanism to address TADs in the region.

5 Governance Review Committee (GRC)

Dr Beth Cookson, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Australia, updated the Regional Commission on the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the GRC, held on 14 and 15 May 2026 at WOA Headquarters in Paris.

Ms Josephine Dooley, GRC Secretariat, then presented draft Resolution No. 4 on the GRC report and recommendations to the 93rd General Session (2026), and highlighted updates made at the tenth GRC meeting and subsequently approved by the Council to enhance clarity and facilitate implementation of the Resolution.

6 Revision plan for the regional work plan framework in line with the 8th Strategic Plan

Dr Masatsugu Okita presented an outline of the Regional Work Plan Framework (RWPF), including the background and function of the document, and proposed a process for preparation of the 4th RWPF in alignment with the 8th Strategic Plan.

Dr Okita offered that Japan could take the lead of a designed group to draft the document, with support offered from China (People's Rep. of), India and Singapore. Other Members interested in contributing were encouraged to contact the Regional Representation. Once drafted, the document will be shared with Members for review and comments.

It was agreed to target completion of the 4th RWPF for the 35th Conference of the Regional Commission in 2027.

7 Regional initiative and collaboration to control AMR

Dr Pondpan Suwanthada, Regional AMR Project Officer for Asia and the Pacific, presented the regional achievements and the current situation of antimicrobial use to Members. The presentation highlighted that antimicrobial use in Asia and the Pacific continues to increase, while non-responsible use practices remain a concern across the region.

It was also noted that nearly half of the antimicrobial agents used for growth promotion are classified as Veterinary Critically Important Antimicrobial Agents (VCIA), with some also categorised by the World Health Organization as Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials (HPCIA).

The presentation emphasised the need for stronger collaboration and continued joint efforts across the region to address these challenges effectively.

8 Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General for Standard Setting and Implementation, provided an overview of the selection process for WOAHA Specialist Commissions for the 2027–2030 term. Dr Arroyo described the planned stages, from preparation of documentation and launch of an open call for experts on 6 July 2026, through screening of applications after closure of the call on 11 September 2026 and evaluation of eligible candidates by a Nomination Evaluation Committee, comprising external evaluators, a Council representative and WOAHA staff.

Suitable candidates will be proposed to the WOAHA Director General, followed by endorsement by the WOAHA Council and election of Commission members by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 94th General Session in May 2027.

9 Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA General Session

The Regional Commission discussed on items for a potential common position to be put forward at the 93rd General Session on behalf of the Members of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Mary Van Andel, Delegate of New Zealand, chaired the session. A single item relating to Article 7.5.30 on “Electrical water-bath stunning of poultry in Chapter 7.5 Animal welfare during slaughter” was proposed for discussion by China (People’s Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, New Zealand and Thailand.

Members expressed concern regarding the limited flexibility of the proposed provisions, considering the wide range of settings and the further need for scientific data to the support parameters. Draft text for the regional position was reviewed and will be open for comments until the end of day on 19 May.

10 Announcement of Regional Core Group (RCG) election

Regarding the vacancy in the RCG, Dr Tomoko Ishibashi announced that, during the virtual meeting, Dr Dong-Sik Lee, Delegate of Korea, had expressed his interest in joining the group. The Delegate reiterated his interest during the present meeting. The Regional Commission subsequently endorsed Dr Lee’s membership.

11 Some additional announcements to the Commission

The Delegate of Australia announced the proposal to host the next Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Sydney, Australia.

Council members informed the Regional Commission that the partial elections would be conducted by non-secret ballot for logistical reasons, provided that no objections were raised. They also reminded Members that WOAHA strictly observes quorum requirements and strongly encourages Members to attend the adoption of resolution and voting session on time.

12 Closing

The meeting officially ended at 12:45 p.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Session 1 (virtual)

5 May 2026

(7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. CEST)

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 (People's Rep. of))
7:05 a.m. .– 7:15 a.m.	Outcomes of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission held in Indonesia, from 22 to 26 September 2025 (Dr Pebi Suseno, Member of Delegation of Indonesia)
7:15 a.m. .– 7:25 a.m.	Confirmation of the venue of the 35th Conference of the Regional Commission (Dr Beth Cookson, Delegate of Australia)
7:25 a.m. .– 7:40 a.m.	Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 35th Conference of the Regional Commission (Dr Masatsugu Okita, Council member and Delegate of Japan)
7:40 a.m. .– 7:55 a.m.	Selection of three 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 Mary van Andel, Council member and Delegate of New Zealand)
7:55 a.m. .– 8:15 a.m.	WOAH's 8 th Strategic Plan (Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit)
8:15 a.m. .– 9:00 a.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly (Dr Beth Cookson, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Australia)
9:00 a.m. .– 9:15 a.m.	Application to designate the Animal Health and Plant Quarantine Agency, APQA (under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, MAFRA) in Gyeongsangbuk-do, Korea (Rep. of) as a new WOAHP Collaborating Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance in Terrestrial Animals (Dr Dongsik Lee, Delegate of Korea (Rep. of))
9:15 a.m. .– 9:30 a.m.	Discussion on regional positions for WOAHP General Session (Dr Beth Cookson, Delegate of Australia)
9:30 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.	Announcements from WOAHP
CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY	
9:35 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Partial elections: selection of two Members of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission as Vice Presidents (Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)
9:50 a.m.	Closing (Dr Baoxu Huang)

Session 2 (face-to-face)

Monday 18 May 2026

10:00 AM-12:30 PM (CEST), CNIT Forest, Paris, France

Room : Dragonnier 4

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 (People's Rep. of))
10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr Baoxu Huang)
10:15 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Advisory Group updates (ToR revision, membership, new chair) (Dr Carolyn Guy Chair of RAWS Advisory Group)
10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs): Review of regional experiences and way forward (Dr Masatsugu Okita, Council member and Delegate of Japan)
11:00 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC): a. Outcomes of the 10th meeting of the GRC (14-15 May 2026) b. GRC Resolution at the 93rd General Session (2026) (Draft Resolution No. 4) (Dr Beth Cookson, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Australia and HQ – GRC Secretariat)
11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Revision plan for the regional work plan framework in line with the 8 th Strategic Plan (Dr Masatsugu Okita)
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Regional initiative and collaboration to control AMR (Dr Pondpan Suwanthada, Regional AMR Project Officer)
12:00 a.m. – 12:10 a.m.	Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General – Standard Setting and Implementation)
12:10 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Discussion on regional positions for WOA General Session (Dr Mary van Andel, Council member and Delegate of New Zealand)
12:20 p.m. – 12:25 p.m.	Announcement of Regional Core Group (RCG) election (Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)
12:25 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Some additional announcements to the Commission (Dr Beth Cookson, Delegate of Australia)
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 7 May 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 94 participants, including Delegates and Alternate Delegates from 38 Members of the Commission, observers, and representatives from one international and regional organisation.

Members of the Commission: Albania, Andora, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, North Macedonia (Rep. of), Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: European Commission (EC)

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. In addition, Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance address participants with a welcome message.

1 Adoption of the Agenda

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

2 Preparation of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Riga, Latvia, from 21 to 25 September 2026

Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia, presented information regarding the organisation of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, scheduled to take place in Riga, Latvia, from 21 to 25 September 2026. A short video showcasing Latvian agriculture and cultural heritage was presented to participants.

Mr Armands Krauze, Minister for Agriculture of Latvia, addressed participants through a video message, inviting Members of the Regional Commission to attend the forthcoming Regional Conference in Latvia. In his remarks, he highlighted the importance of the One Health approach and emphasised the essential role of Veterinary Services in safeguarding animal health, public health and food safety.

Dr Balodis also presented the overall agenda of the conference and informed participants that invitation letters had been circulated to Delegates in April 2026. He further noted that information regarding accommodation options and visa requirement was available on the dedicated Conference website.

3 Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission:

“Emergency preparedness and response to Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Sheep pox and goat pox (SGP) in Europe”.

4 **Selection of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAH through various means (Scientific 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 WOAH through various means:

- 1 Updating strategies for combating zoonoses and transboundary animal diseases, including new approaches in the context of climate change;
- 2 Digitalisation of Veterinary Services reporting and modernisation of information systems in Members;
- 3 Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Sharing experiences, Shaping Global Action.

5 **Formal Recognition of the REMESA**

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance, presented an overview of the process undertaken to formalise the recognition of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA), with the aim of establishing a more sustainable and legally sound framework to strengthen the network's institutional basis and enhance its attractiveness to donors and partners. He recalled that REMESA was established in 2009 to strengthen cooperation on the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in the Mediterranean region and currently brings together 15 Members, supported by several technical subnetworks.

Dr Caya explained that an external legal assessment had been conducted to review the framework supporting REMESA activities, including financing arrangements through the WOAH World Fund. The assessment concluded that, while the 2012 Cooperation Framework had enabled effective collaboration and allowed REMESA to operate successfully in practice, it lacked legal value and formal legal recognition by WOAH and FAO. The assessment therefore recommended formalising the recognition of REMESA and selecting the most appropriate legal instruments available to both Organisations in order to ensure a sustainable and strengthened legal framework.

He further informed participants that the matter had been reviewed by the WOAH Council on 3 March 2026 and by the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee on 29 April 2026. Both governance bodies recognised the need to strengthen the legal framework of REMESA and supported its formal recognition by WOAH through a Resolution to be presented during the 93rd General Session. The Joint Permanent Committee also supported the development of complementary legal arrangements between WOAH and FAO, while preserving the current structure and functioning of the network.

Finally, Dr Caya informed Delegates that the draft Resolution had already been shared with the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee and would be submitted to the WOAH Council prior to its presentation for adoption during the Administrative Session of the 93rd General Session.

6 **WOAH's 8th Strategic Plan**

Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit, provided an update on the development, content, and next steps of WOAH's 8th Strategic Plan. She explained that the Plan had been developed through an extensive and inclusive consultative process based on co-construction. She further informed participants that the Plan had been endorsed by the Council on 3 March 2026 and would be submitted for adoption during the General Session in May 2026.

Ms Wuensch highlighted that Members' feedback had played a central role in refining the Strategic Plan. She noted that more than 300 comments, including over 100 submitted by Members, had been reviewed and taken into consideration. Overall, the feedback received had been positive, with particular appreciation expressed for the consultative approach adopted throughout the process. She explained that revisions had focused on improving cohesion across the document, clarifying the distinction between strategic and operational elements, strengthening

explanations regarding implementation, monitoring and costing, and further emphasising partnerships, collaboration and scientific robustness.

Regarding the structure of the Plan, Ms Wuensch explained that it was built around a Vision and Mission, supported by three Strategic Orientations and four Strategic Enablers. The Strategic Orientations focus on strengthening standard-setting, empowering Members to build robust animal health systems, and positioning animal health as central to addressing global challenges. The Strategic Enablers focus on governance and partnerships, leadership in animal health data, people, and performance and accountability.

In conclusion, Ms Wuensch informed participants that implementation of the Plan would be supported through structured roadmaps, monitoring mechanisms and a costing approach. She noted that the Plan largely consolidates existing activities while identifying priority initiatives. She further indicated that additional funding may be required, alongside the maintenance of current funding levels, supported by targeted resource mobilisation efforts and internal reprioritisation. Finally, she outlined the next steps, which include the formal adoption, publication and launch of the Plan, as well as the development of regional implementation roadmaps.

In response to additional requests for clarification, Dr François Caya confirmed that the implementation of the 8th Strategic Plan is not linked to an increase in statutory contributions. He emphasised the importance of clearly articulating WOA's strategic priorities, expected outcomes and added value when engaging with potential donors, in order to facilitate the mobilisation of voluntary contributions and better align external funding with the implementation of strategic activities under the Plan.

7 Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly

Dr François Caya, presented the work of the Governance Review Committee (GRC) and its recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) at its 93rd General Session (2026). It was explained that the GRC had been established under Assembly Resolution No. 12 (2024) to review WOA's governance framework and provide recommendations to strengthen the Organisation's governance arrangements. The presentation highlighted that the GRC's work was informed by a comprehensive external review of WOA's governance and extensive Member engagement, including regional consultations, thereby ensuring an inclusive and Member-centred reform process. For the 93rd General Session, the GRC submitted a package of seven recommendations aimed at strengthening WOA's financial, institutional and regional governance.

Regarding financial governance, the GRC proposed three measures: (i) enhancing transparency of Member contributions and arrears through a public dashboard and improved reporting; (ii) launching a consultation process on options to transition to an objective, formula-based statutory contribution model; and (iii) clarifying and strengthening sanctions for Members in arrears through a more consistent and graduated framework. It was highlighted that these reforms were intended to improve financial sustainability, predictability, equity and accountability across the Organisation.

With respect to institutional and regional governance, four recommendations were proposed to modernise decision-making and representation in the Assembly and Regional Commissions. These included allowing Delegates to authorise delegation members to speak and vote at the General Session, updating the functions of the Regional Commissions and Bureaus to strengthen regional input into policy, coordination and implementation of WOA activities, and revising Bureau composition and election processes to improve accountability and representation. Further reforms include adjusting the Council's Past President seat to an elected member position to support a more representative governance structure and introducing a risk-based framework for approving WOA's cooperation agreements to improve efficiency while maintaining appropriate oversight.

It was further explained that the GRC's work had been planned in two phases: Phase 1 focused on identifying governance reforms, while Phase 2 would address the necessary amendments to

WOAH's legal framework to implement reforms agreed by the Assembly in Phase 1. Although considerable progress had been achieved, it was noted that an extension of Phase 1 until May 2027 would be necessary to complete the review process, including further regional consultations.

Finally, it was highlighted that, under Resolution No. 4, the Assembly was invited to approve the seven recommendations and their implementation plans, initiate Member consultations on options to update WOA's statutory contribution model and take note of the extension of Phase 1 until May 2027. The recommendations in draft Resolution No. 4 were intended to support more effective, transparent, and sustainable governance of WOA in the years ahead.

8 Regional Perspective on the Governance Review Committee (GRC)

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Europe, Delegate of Austria and regional member of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), complemented the presentation delivered by Dr Caya by providing an update on the ongoing governance review process and the positions developed within the Europe region on the proposed governance reforms.

He recalled that the work was being conducted under Phase 1 of the governance review process, which has now been extended until May 2027, and highlighted the significant workload and extensive consultations already undertaken by the GRC, Members and the WOA Secretariat.

Dr Herzog presented an overview of the governance topics currently under discussion, including issues related to the legal framework of WOA, the structure and functioning of technical bodies, institutional and regional governance arrangements, Council composition and responsibilities, and financial governance mechanisms. He highlighted several regional positions already developed by Members of the Region, including support for strengthening transparency, improving governance processes and reinforcing the strategic and executive role of the Council while maintaining strong links with the Regional Commissions and Members. He further noted the importance of ensuring balanced, proportionate and sustainable approaches in discussions related to statutory contributions, sanctions and financial governance, while recognising the different capacities of Members. He also highlighted the support expressed by the region for improved transparency regarding contributions and budget processes, as well as for proposals aimed at simplifying and streamlining governance arrangements.

Dr Herzog underlined the increasing complexity and scale of the governance review process and stressed the need for a more structured and coordinated regional working mechanism to facilitate meaningful participation by Members and experts. In this regard, he proposed the establishment of four thematic regional workstreams covering legal framework, technical governance, institutional and regional governance, and financial governance, operating under the coordination of the Regional Core Group. He encouraged Delegates and experts from the region to actively participate in these workstreams and consultation processes in preparation for the next phases of the governance reviews and the legal drafting processes foreseen through 2028.

During the discussion, participants expressed strong appreciation for the extensive work undertaken by the members of the GRC, in particular the representatives from Regional Commission for Europe, and recognised the increasing complexity and workload associated with the governance review process.

Participants also sought clarification regarding the role of regional consultations and whether the objective was to establish formal regional consensus positions or rather to provide regional views and feedback to inform the broader GRC discussions. In response, Dr Caya clarified that the objective of the consultations was not to develop binding regional consensus positions, but rather to gather views, identify concerns and highlight proposals that may not be acceptable to Members, while supporting informed participation in the governance review process. He further recalled that final decisions would remain under the authority of the World Assembly of Delegates.

Participants further discussed the need to improve coordination and support mechanisms within the region in order to facilitate more meaningful participation of Members and experts. The increasing technical, legal and financial complexity of the discussions was highlighted, together with the need to involve broader expertise, including legal and financial experts where relevant.

The discussion also emphasised the importance of reinforcing support mechanisms for regional consultations, including improved coordination by the Regional Representations and the establishment of practical working arrangements to collect, consolidate and circulate regional inputs.

Delegates welcomed the proposal to continue discussions on these issues during the upcoming GRC workshop and expressed support for enhanced regional participation in the different thematic workstreams.

9 Progress Update on Actions and Outcomes from the 20th Regional Core Group Meeting – Standard Setting Process and Regional Coordination

Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission for Europe, presented the outcomes of the 20th Meeting of the Regional Core Group for Europe (RCG 20), held online on 17 March 2026. The meeting focused on strengthening regional coordination and preparing for key WOAHA governance and regional activities planned for 2026.

The RCG endorsed its Annual Report for 2025, noting the adoption of revised Terms of Reference, the establishment of the new RCG composition for 2025–2027, and progress in strengthening the regional governance framework. Participants also reviewed the 2026 workplan, including preparations for the 93rd General Session and the 32nd Regional Conference for Europe. RCG was provided with an update on the work of the Governance Review Committee, including discussions related to the composition of the WOAHA Council, nomination and election procedures, and the role of RCGs in WOAHA governance. Discussions also addressed regional coordination on the WOAHA standard-setting process, with emphasis on improving subregional consultations and aligning regional positions on priority chapters.

He also outlined preparations for the technical items proposed for the 32nd Regional Conference, focusing on biosecurity measures for emerging and re-emerging transboundary animal diseases, as well as emergency preparedness related to Peste des Petits Ruminants and Sheep and Goat Pox.

10 Announcements from WOAHA

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Head of the Regional Coordination Department, drew Delegates' attention to the regional kiosk, which will be available throughout the week of the 93rd General Session, as well as the dedicated plenary session on Regional Highlights entitled "Strengthening Veterinary Services Worldwide: The role of WOAHA Regional Offices in supporting Members", scheduled for Friday 22 May 2026. She invited all participants to visit the kiosk and attend the plenary session.

Then Dr Anna Maria Baka, from Status Department, highlighted a side event entitled "30 Years of Official Animal Health Status Recognition" scheduled to take place during at the 93rd General Session, on Wednesday 20 May 2026, from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m.

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance, provided an update on the status of the WOAHA Regional Representation for Africa and informed the Regional Commission for Europe of the recent decision to close the Organisation's office in Bamako, Mali, in light of the evolving security situation. He explained that this decision had been taken following careful consideration of staff safety and security, as well as the operational constraints affecting the organisation of activities and missions from Bamako, while ensuring continuity of WOAHA's activities and support to Members across the African region during the transition process. He also expressed appreciation for the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the staff of the Regional Representation in supporting and advancing WOAHA's work in the African region over the years.

11 Closing

The meeting officially ended at 13:20 CEST.

Session 2 (face-to-face)

The Regional Commission for Europe met face-to-face on 18 May 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CEST at CNIT. The meeting was attended by 33 Members of the Commission and four observers.

Members of the Commission: Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Moldova, North Macedonia (Rep. of), Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Türkiye, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan

Observers: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security (FESASS)

International/regional organisations: European Commission (EC), Council of the European Union, International Coalition for Animal Welfare (RSPCA-ICFAW).

The meeting was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia, accompanied by Dr Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative for Europe, who opened the meeting and welcomed participants.

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 7 May 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CEST, which was attended by 94 participants including Members and observers, 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, including the resolution on the formal recognition of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA) to be presented to the World Assembly for adoption, among others.

The President also reminded Members of the Regional Commission to register for the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Latvia in September 2026.

3 Governance Review Committee (GRC)

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice President of the Regional Commission, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Austria, updated the Regional Commission on the outcomes of the 10th meeting of the GRC, held at WOAAH Headquarters in Paris, on 14 and 15 May 2026.

Mr Rodney de Souza, GRC Secretariat, then presented the draft Resolution No. 4 on the GRC report and recommendations to the 93rd General Session (2026), and highlighted updates made at the 10th GRC meeting and subsequently approved by the Council to enhance clarity and facilitate implementation of the Resolution.

4 Update on the activities of the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Dr Galib Abdulaliyev, Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Azerbaijan, provided an update on the activities of the WOAAH Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe and the implementation of its 4th Action Plan (2024 - 2026). He informed Members about the outcomes of the 25th and 26th meetings of the Steering Group, which had reviewed ongoing activities,

assessed progress under the current Action Plan, and initiated the development of the 5th Action Plan (2027 - 2029).

Dr Abdulaliyev highlighted progress across the Platform's priority areas, including activities related to animal welfare during slaughter, dog population management, welfare during transport, welfare of working equids, and animal welfare in natural disasters. He referred to the development of e-learning modules, training activities, regional workshops, and self-assessment and monitoring tools supporting the implementation of WOAAH standards.

He further informed Members about the ongoing review of the Platform's monitoring and evaluation system and the preparations for an external evaluation of the Platform scheduled for 2026. In this context, recommendations aimed at strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning processes, reporting practices and impact assessment were presented.

Finally, Dr Abdulaliyev presented the roadmap for the development of the 5th Action Plan (2027 - 2029), including consultations with Members and partners during 2026. He also informed the Commission about the upcoming Regional Training Seminar for WOAAH National Focal Points on Animal Welfare to be held in Budapest, Hungary, in June - July 2026, as well as the side event "Investing in Animal Welfare: from Standards to Implementation", being organised during the 93rd WOAAH General Session.

5 ADIS-WAHIS reporting – the story so far

Dr Peter Melens, Deputy Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD) and Business Lead of the WAHIS Programme, and Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Policy Officer, of DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission, presented an update on the interconnection between the EU Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) and the WOAAH World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) as a tangible success since its launch in September 2024. Initially implemented through a pilot approach, the interconnection has matured into a fully operational and stable reporting pathway involving 44 participating countries and territories, confirming both its technical robustness and its operational relevance.

From January 2025 to March 2026, nearly 500 animal disease events corresponding to more than 17,900 outbreaks were successfully transmitted from ADIS to WAHIS, highlighting the scale and reliability of the interconnection. A key achievement has been the introduction of a single data entry point for Veterinary Services, significantly reducing duplicate reporting, data inconsistencies, and user workload. Members have reported notable efficiency gains, improved data quality, faster availability of validated information, and better alignment between EU and global animal health surveillance requirements.

The pilot phase also served as a stress test under real epidemiological conditions. While the increased reporting volume required additional coordination between ADIS and WAHIS support teams. It ultimately strengthened collaboration, clarified processes, and led to system adjustments that have improved performance. Resolution times for routine issues now average around 24 hours, with more complex cases addressed rapidly through close cooperation between European Commission and WOAAH teams, underpinned by dedicated financial and human resource investment.

Overall, the interconnection stands as a clear example of successful EU - WOAAH collaboration, delivering practical benefits to Members and contributing to more timely, coherent and transparent animal health information. Building on these achievements, participants were invited to actively contribute to a more detailed regional cost- benefit analysis at the Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Latvia, in September 2026. This next step will help jointly assess sustainability, resource implications and long-term value, ensuring the interconnection continues to evolve in line with user needs and regional priorities.

6 European Union: Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Europe; and update on EU activities

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, President of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Europe and Director of DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission, presented an update on activities carried out under the GF-TADs mechanism in Europe. He recalled that GF-TADs is a joint FAO and WOAHP initiative supporting the progressive control of transboundary animal diseases through regional cooperation and coordinated strategies.

Dr Van Goethem highlighted the outcomes of the 1st GF-TADs Europe Conference held in Belgrade, Serbia, in September 2025, which brought together representatives from 42 WOAHP Members, including veterinary authorities, international organisations and regional partners. The conference combined meetings of Standing Groups of Experts (SGEs) and focused on regional cooperation and coordinated approaches to priority transboundary animal diseases, including African Swine Fever (ASF), rabies, Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP).

He further informed participants about the outcomes of the 12th GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee meeting, including the review of the GF-TADs Action Plan 2025 - 2027 and discussions on strengthening regional coordination, surveillance, vaccination strategies, preparedness and information sharing.

Dr Van Goethem also referred to follow-up activities undertaken under the GF-TADs framework, including the establishment of the Standing Group of Experts on PPR and SGP in Europe and global technical webinars on the ASF situation in Spain. He highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen regional cooperation, support capacity building and improve data collection and sharing for priority transboundary animal diseases through the ADEWB II project.

In addition, Dr Bernard Van Goethem presented an overview of the main European Commission activities related to the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases within the European Union. He highlighted key EU initiatives, including preparedness measures, scientific support, laboratory networks, vaccination banks, emergency interventions, surveillance, border controls, training and international cooperation under the GF-TADs framework.

Dr Van Goethem provided an update on the epidemiological situation of several priority animal diseases in the European Union, ASF, FMD, HPAI, LSD, PPR, rabies, and SGP. He highlighted recent outbreaks, disease trends and measures implemented by Member States and the European Commission to support disease prevention, control and eradication.

With regard to ASF, he referred to the continued spread of the disease in wild boar and domestic pigs in several Member States, as well as the implementation of surveillance, regionalisation and emergency response measures. He also informed participants about the FMD outbreaks reported in Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Cyprus and Greece, and the coordinated response measures implemented at EU level, including vaccination support and deployment of EU Veterinary Emergency Teams (EUVET).

Dr Van Goethem further presented updates on HPAI, LSD and PPR, highlighting the importance of vaccination, biosecurity, surveillance and regional coordination in disease management. He also referred to ongoing EU support for rabies vaccination and surveillance programmes, as well as measures related to SGP in affected Member States.

7 Information on the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) Epidemic Intelligence Report

Dr Gilles Guillot, Head of the Data Integration and Analytics Department, informed the Regional Commission about the development of a weekly epidemic intelligence situation report on LSD, which includes official information on the epidemiological situation of the disease as well as unofficial information gathered from media sources.

He explained that the report was currently shared internally within WOAAH and informed Members of the proposal to make it available more broadly to Regional Commissions in order to support situational awareness and regional coordination.

8 Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, WOAAH Deputy Director General for Standard Setting and Implementation provided an overview of the selection process for WOAAH Specialist Commissions for the 2027-2030 term. Dr Arroyo described the planned stages from preparation of documentation and launch of an open call for experts on 6 July 2026, through screening of applications after closure of the call on 11 September 2026 and evaluation of eligible candidates by a Nomination Evaluation Committee, comprising external evaluators, a Council representative and WOAAH staff.

Suitable candidates will be put forward to the WOAAH Director General, followed by endorsement by the WOAAH Council, and election of Commission members by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 94th General Session in May 2027.

9 Discussions

Dr Maris Balodis asked whether participants wished to raise any additional topics. As no further comments or issues were raised from the floor, he thanked all participants for their attendance

10 Closing

The meeting officially ended at 11:55 a.m. CEST.

**MEETINGS OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Session 1 (virtual)

7 May 2026

(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.	Opening Remarks (Dr Budimir Plavsic, WOAHA Regional Representative of Europe, Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Latvia)
10:05 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Maris Balodis)
10:10 a.m. – 10:25 p.m.	Preparation of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Riga, Latvia, from 21 to 25 September 2026 (Dr Maris Balodis)
10:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 32nd Conference of the Regional Commission (Dr Keti Margariti, Secretary General of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Albania)
10:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Selection of three 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 Galib Hummat Abdulaliyev, Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Azerbaijan)
10:55 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	Formal Recognition of the REMESA (Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance)
11:10 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	WOAHA's 8th Strategic Plan (Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit)
11:40 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly (Dr François Caya)
12:25 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.	Regional Perspective on the Governance Review Committee (Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice President of the Regional Commission, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Austria)
12:40 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.	Progress Update on Actions and Outcomes from the 20th Regional Core Group Meeting - Standard-Setting Process and Regional Coordination (Dr Maris Balodis)
12:55 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Announcements from WOAHA
1:00 p.m.	Closing (Dr Maris Balodis)

Session 2 (face-to-face)

Monday 18 May 2026

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CEST), CNIT Forest, Paris, France

Room : Sequoia

Agenda

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Opening Remarks (Dr Budimir Plavsic, WOAHA Regional Representative for Europe and Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Latvia)
10:05 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr. Maris Balodis)
10:10 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr. Maris Balodis)
10:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC): a. Outcomes of the 10th meeting of the GRC (14-15 May 2026) b. GRC Resolution at the 93rd General Session (2026) (Draft Resolution No. 4) (Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice President of the Regional Commission, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Austria and HQ – GRC Secretariat)
10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	Update on the activities of the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (Dr Galib Abdulaliyev, Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Azerbaijan)
11:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	ADIS-WAHIS reporting – the story so far (Dr. Peter Melens, Deputy Head of WAHIAD and Business Lead of the WAHIS Programme and Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Policy Officer, of DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission)
11:30 a.m. – 11:50 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)
11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Information on the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) Epidemic Intelligence Report 5 (Dr Gilles Guillot, Head of the Data Integration and Analytics Department)
12:00 p.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General – Standard Setting and Implementation)
12:10 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Discussions
12:20 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 6 May 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 48 participants, including Delegates and Alternate Delegates from 12 Members of the Commission, observers, and representatives from three Regional and International Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Türkiye, and United Arab Emirates.

International/regional organisations: Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Eu-FMD), World Health Organisation (WHO).

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), Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, Reference Laboratory for Glanders, Camel Pox, Brucellosis, and MERS (CVRL), Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR), Collaborating Centre for Fish Health Management in the Middle East, Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology and Risk Assessment of Aquatic Animal Diseases in Europe (NVI), and Animals Angels.

The Meeting was chaired by Dr Sanad Alharbi, President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia, accompanied by Dr Ahmad Al Majali, Regional Representative for the Middle East. In addition, Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance address participants with a welcome message.

1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

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

2 **Outcomes of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission held in November 2025, in Larnaca, Cyprus**

The President of the Regional Commission summarised the main conclusions of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Larnaca, Cyprus, in November 2025. He highlighted the active participation and constructive discussions that took place throughout the Conference, which focused on strengthening Veterinary Services, enhancing regional cooperation, and addressing key animal health and One Health priorities in the region.

Dr Alharbi noted that the Technical Item I, dedicated to improving the capacity to assess the socio-economic impacts of transboundary animal diseases, particularly Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), resulted in recommendations aimed at strengthening multisectoral collaboration, improving epidemiological and socio-economic data management systems, enhancing surveillance and laboratory capacities, and increasing regional expertise in animal health economics. Particular emphasis was placed on the use of evidence-based approaches and advocacy tools to support investment in disease prevention and control programmes.

Regarding Technical Item II, focused on strengthening multisectoral cooperation to support alternative compensation policies for the control and eradication of high-priority animal diseases, he highlighted recommendations encouraging Members to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for compensation mechanisms, improve coordination among public and private stakeholders, and promote transparent and sustainable approaches that support early disease reporting, biosecurity compliance and effective emergency response.

The President also highlighted the importance of the PVS Pathway as a critical tool for identifying gaps and mobilising resources. He encouraged Members to increase their engagement with PVS missions, as the resulting data is essential for informing targeted capacity building and supporting national advocacy efforts. He further noted the discussions held on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which led to the definition of a joint regional action plan supporting the implementation of the commitments contained in the 2024 United Nations Political Declaration on AMR, including strengthening surveillance, promoting prudent and responsible antimicrobial use, and supporting disease prevention through vaccination and biosecurity measures.

Finally, he noted that the Conference had also provided opportunities for technical and cultural visits, networking and exchanges among participants, further strengthening regional collaboration and cooperation.

3 Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2027

Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Vice President of the Council and Delegate of Bahrain, reiterated Bahrain's offer to host the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission. It will take place in November 2027 with the exact dates to be agreed at a later stage in consultation with the Director General.

She highlighted that the logistical framework includes the provision of international-standard conference facilities and a wide range of hotel accommodations for all delegations. To support the attendees, organised transport and full multilingual interpretation services will be provided. All planning will be conducted in close coordination with WOAHA to ensure the meeting's success.

The President, Dr Alharbi, expressed the Commission's great pleasure and appreciation for the opportunity to visit Bahrain during its 19th Conference.

4 Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission:

"Digital transformation in Veterinary Services: use of artificial intelligence, and Modern technologies in disease surveillance and control, traceability, livestock production and certification".

5 Selection of three 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)

The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAHA through various means:

- 1 Harmonisation and effectiveness of biosecurity measures for emerging and reemerging transboundary animal diseases;
- 2 Climate Change and Its Impact on Animal Disease Dynamics and Veterinary Preparedness;

- 3 The Resilience of Veterinary Services during wars and geopolitical emergencies, barriers, and the opportunities: highlighting the joint work and flexibility measures in animal health and animal welfare in the movement of pet animals between Members.

Dr Fajer Al Salloom emphasised the importance of receiving greater input and engagement from Delegates to ensure the topics discussed adequately reflect the priorities and interests of Members and of the region as a whole.

6 **Advancing Investment in Animal Health: Middle East Resource Mobilisation Strategy – Achievements and Next steps**

Dr Ahmad Al Majali, Regional Representative for the Middle East and Dr Nada Essaway, WOAHA Resource Mobilisation and Grants Management Officer, presented the Middle East Resource Mobilisation Strategy, which aims to promote a more strategic, coordinated and investment-oriented approach to supporting animal health in the region. They outlined the strategy's key objectives and expected outputs, including helping Members better understand the added value of investing in WOAHA, establishing long-term relationships with donors and partners, and developing narratives specifically tailored to the Middle East context in order to strengthen regional engagement and investment opportunities.

They also highlighted the regional context and challenges, including increasing vulnerabilities linked to transboundary animal diseases, food security, climate pressures and dependency on imports, while underlining the economic importance of strengthening animal health systems in the Middle East.

The presenters emphasised that the current level of regional investment remains insufficient to address existing and emerging challenges. In this regard, they noted that no Member in the Middle East currently contributes above category 4 in statutory contributions. They further underlined the limited availability of voluntary contributions and capacity building programmes tailored to the needs and gaps in the Middle East region, stressing the importance of strengthening regional engagement and investment in WOAHA's activities and priorities.

Dr Ahmad Al Majali stressed the importance of high-level advocacy, strategic networking and institutional engagement to increase political recognition of animal health as a strategic priority linked to trade, food security, public health and economic resilience. He further underlined the need to shift the narrative from financing the cost of disease outbreaks towards investing proactively in disease prevention, preparedness and resilient Veterinary Services

Dr Essaway explained that it should not be approached solely as an administrative or funding exercise, but rather as a broader political and strategic effort to position animal health more prominently within national and regional agendas. She highlighted the importance of developing sound investment-related policies and regulations, strengthening impact assessments and identifying barriers that may limit investment opportunities in the sector. She also noted that the immediate priority is to transform ongoing discussions, programme concepts and initial engagements into long-term partnerships and financial commitments.

The presentation also provided an overview of the operational phases of the strategy and ongoing initiatives, including the TRUST Programme and the WOAHA - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Capacity Building Programme, as well as proposals under development related to antimicrobial resistance and regional capacity building.

Dr Essaway highlighted the GCC as a strategic channel for presenting projects to Gulf Members and encouraging regional funding engagement. While a broader Capacity-Building programme was placed on hold at the end of 2025, a new regional priority has recently emerged concerning safe trade between the Horn of Africa and the Gulf region. In response, WOAHA initiated the TRUST Programme in 2026, a Capacity-Building initiative aimed at strengthening safe trade and food security between East Africa and Gulf Members. She noted that several technical consultations had been conducted to develop the programme, building on the findings of a feasibility study and ensuring that the proposed actions respond concretely to identified gaps and regional needs.

Dr Essawy concluded by inviting Delegates to support the strategy through strategic networking, including identifying key decision-makers among potential donors, advocating politically to secure stronger government buy-in, and increasing institutional awareness of WOA's added value and role across different sectors in order to strengthen the Organisation's influence and facilitate future investments.

During the discussions, Dr Fajer highlighted the importance of the upcoming high-level panel on investment in animal health during the 93rd General Session, noting that it represents an important opportunity to strengthen awareness among decision makers regarding the strategic value of investing in animal health and Veterinary Services.

7 Briefing on the Ambassadors' dialogue meeting held in Paris

Mr Pierre Emmanuel Cangah, WOA's Director of Cabinet, briefed participants on the Ambassadors' Dialogue Meeting organised by WOA's Headquarters. He explained that the initiative aimed to position animal health as a central component in addressing global challenges and to strengthen lasting cross-sectoral partnerships and diplomatic engagement with Members. In this context, the meeting sought to raise the institutional visibility of WOA, present the Organisation's 8th Strategic Plan (2026–2031) and the objectives for the 93rd General Session, while encouraging political support for animal health and reinforcing its integration into global discussions.

Mr Cangah highlighted the strong participation in the event, which brought together 108 participants representing 73 Embassies, including 31 Ambassadors. He noted that the programme included opening remarks by the Director General and a keynote presentation jointly delivered by the Director General and the Deputy Directors General. Discussions with Ambassadors focused on the strategic importance of animal health, particularly in relation to trade, food security, and the "One Health" approach as well as issues related to standards, transparency, and capacity building.

He further noted that the meeting had been very well received and had contributed to strengthening diplomatic relations between WOA and Members, increasing awareness of the Organisation's strategic directions, and establishing the foundations for a recurring diplomatic dialogue format. In this regard, participants agreed on the value of institutionalising the Ambassadors' meeting as an annual event and exploring the organisation of smaller thematic or regional meetings focused on technical and institutional topics.

Dr Fajer Al Salloom encouraged Members to invite their respective Embassies to participate in future editions of the Ambassadors' Dialogue meeting, noting the very positive feedback received following the previous session.

Dr Kaltham Ali Kayaf requested clarification regarding the Ministers' meeting during the 93rd General Session, to which Mr Cangah provided additional explanations and indicated that the relevant documentation would be shared.

Finally, Dr Caya informed participants that the Governance Review Committee (GRC) was currently discussing issues related to high-level representation within the Organisation, reflecting the increasingly cross-sectoral nature of WOA's governance and activities, including areas related to One Health, economics, and other global challenges.

8 Formal Recognition of the REMESA

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance, presented an overview of the process undertaken to formalise the recognition of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA), with the objective of establishing a more sustainable and legally sound framework to strengthen the network's institutional basis and enhance its attractiveness to donors and partners. He recalled that REMESA had been established in 2009 to strengthen cooperation on the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in the Mediterranean region and currently brings together 15 Members, supported by several technical subnetworks.

Dr Caya explained that an external legal assessment had been conducted to review the framework supporting REMESA activities, including financing arrangements through the WOA World Fund. The assessment concluded that, while the 2012 Cooperation Framework had enabled effective collaboration and allowed REMESA to operate successfully in practice, it lacked formal legal value and legal recognition by WOA and FAO. The assessment therefore recommended formalising the recognition of REMESA and selecting the most appropriate legal instruments available to both Organisations in order to ensure a sustainable and strengthened legal framework.

He further informed participants that the matter had been reviewed by the WOA Council on 3 March 2026 and by the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee on 29 April 2026. Both governance bodies recognised the need to strengthen the legal framework of REMESA and supported its formal recognition by WOA through a Resolution to be presented during the 93rd General Session. The Joint Permanent Committee also supported the development of complementary legal arrangements between WOA and FAO, while preserving the current structure and functioning of the network.

Finally, Dr Caya informed Delegates that the draft Resolution had already been shared with members of the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee and would be submitted to the WOA Council prior to its presentation for adoption during the Administrative Session of the 93rd General Session.

During the discussions, Dr El Essawy referred to the “TRUST” programme, which drawing on the experience of REMESA, includes a Task Force dedicated to regular exchanges between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and East Africa regions. Dr Al Salloom supported the points raised by Dr El Essawy.

Dr Caya emphasised the importance for the “TRUST” programme to build on the experience and lessons learned from REMESA, and encouraged Delegates from the region to express support for initiatives such as REMESA. He also highlighted the potential value of strengthening networks connecting the two regions.

9 WOA’s 8th Strategic Plan

Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit, provided an update on the development, content, and next steps of WOA’s 8th Strategic Plan. She explained that the Plan had been developed through an extensive and inclusive consultative process based on co-construction. She further informed participants that the Plan had been endorsed by the Council on 3 March 2026 and would be submitted for adoption during the General Session in May 2026.

Ms Wuensch highlighted that Members’ feedback had played a central role in refining the Strategic Plan. She noted that more than 300 comments, including over 100 submitted by Members, had been reviewed and taken into consideration. Overall, the feedback received had been positive, with particular appreciation expressed for the consultative approach adopted throughout the process. She explained that revisions had focused on improving cohesion across the document, clarifying the distinction between strategic and operational elements, strengthening explanations regarding implementation, monitoring and costing, and further emphasising partnerships, collaboration and scientific robustness.

Regarding the structure of the Plan, Ms Wuensch explained that it was built around a Vision and Mission, supported by three Strategic Orientations and four Strategic Enablers. The Strategic Orientations focus on strengthening standard-setting, empowering Members to build robust animal health systems, and positioning animal health as central to addressing global challenges. The Strategic Enablers focus on governance and partnerships, leadership in animal health data, people, and performance and accountability.

In conclusion, Ms Wuensch informed participants that implementation of the Plan would be supported through structured roadmaps, monitoring mechanisms and a costing approach. She noted that the Plan largely consolidates existing activities while identifying priority initiatives. She further indicated that additional funding may be required, alongside the maintenance of current

funding levels, supported by targeted resource mobilisation efforts and internal reprioritisation. Finally, she outlined the next steps, which include the formal adoption, publication and launch of the Plan, as well as the development of regional implementation roadmaps.

Dr Al Salloom sought clarification regarding the implementation of the regional roadmaps under WOA's 8th Strategic Plan, particularly whether the activities of the Regional Offices would incorporate actions related to the regional roadmaps. She also requested clarification on the monitoring arrangements for the roadmaps, including whether monitoring would take place at regional or national level and whether it would be led by Headquarters or the Regional Offices.

In response, Ms Camilla Wuensch explained that the monitoring framework for the Strategic Plan would be implemented at regional level and that both Headquarters and the Regional Offices would support the development, implementation and monitoring of the regional roadmaps. She further clarified that no monitoring mechanism at national level was foreseen under this framework and confirmed that the workplans and activities of the Regional Offices would incorporate actions related to the regional roadmaps.

Dr. Kaltham Ali Kayaf emphasised the importance of exploring more sustainable and structured approaches to resource mobilisation, notably through the development of "bankable projects" that could attract targeted funding and partnerships, rather than relying solely on direct funding requests from Members. In this context, she highlighted the need for WOA to develop more concrete, targeted bilateral projects with individual donor Members or partners, similar to how specific PVS activities are funded.

Ms Camilla Wuensch acknowledged these points and confirmed that the suggestions would be taken into consideration in the ongoing reflections regarding implementation support and resource mobilisation under the 8th Strategic Plan.

10 **Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly**

Dr Elias Ibrahim, Regional Member of the GRC and Delegate of Lebanon, presented the work of the Governance Review Committee (GRC) and its recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) at its 93rd General Session (2026). It was explained that the GRC had been established under Assembly Resolution No. 12 (2024) to review WOA's governance framework and provide recommendations to strengthen the Organisation's governance arrangements. The presentation highlighted that the GRC's work was informed by a comprehensive external review of WOA's governance and extensive Member engagement, including regional consultations, thereby ensuring an inclusive and Member-centred reform process. For the 93rd General Session, the GRC submitted a package of seven recommendations aimed at strengthening WOA's financial, institutional and regional governance.

Regarding financial governance, the GRC proposed three measures: (i) enhancing transparency of Member contributions and arrears through a public dashboard and improved reporting; (ii) launching a consultation process on options to transition to an objective, formula-based statutory contribution model; and (iii) clarifying and strengthening sanctions for Members in arrears through a more consistent and graduated framework. It was highlighted that these reforms were intended to improve financial sustainability, predictability, equity and accountability across the Organisation.

With respect to institutional and regional governance, four recommendations were proposed to modernise decision-making and representation in the Assembly and Regional Commissions. These included allowing Delegates to authorise delegation members to speak and vote at the General Session, updating the functions of the Regional Commissions and Bureaus to strengthen regional input into policy, coordination and implementation of WOA activities, and revising Bureau composition and election processes to improve accountability and representation. Further reforms include adjusting the Council's Past President seat to an elected member position to support a more representative governance structure and introducing a risk-based framework for approving WOA's cooperation agreements to improve efficiency while maintaining appropriate oversight.

It was further explained that the GRC's work had been planned in two phases: Phase 1 focused on identifying governance reforms, while Phase 2 would address the necessary amendments to WOA's legal framework to implement reforms agreed by the Assembly in Phase 1. Although considerable progress had been achieved, it was noted that an extension of Phase 1 until May 2027 would be necessary to complete the review process, including further regional consultations.

Finally, it was highlighted that, under Resolution No. 4, the Assembly was invited to approve the seven recommendations and their implementation plans, initiate Member consultations on options to update WOA's statutory contribution model and take note of the extension of Phase 1 until May 2027. The recommendations in draft Resolution No. 4 were intended to support more effective, transparent, and sustainable governance of WOA in the years ahead.

Dr Fajer Al Salloom requested clarification regarding the proposed replacement of the Past President seat within the Council structure. Dr Caya explained that the proposed governance framework aims to strengthen the representation of Members and regions within the Council, rather than focusing on the representation of individuals. He clarified that under the proposed approach, the seat currently associated with the Past President would be replaced by an elected Council member position aligned with the same regional representation, thereby ensuring continuity of regional representation within the Council structure.

Dr Al Salloom also expressed concerns regarding the complexity of the consultation documents and highlighted the need for additional opportunities for regional consultation. In response, Dr Caya informed participants that a dedicated workshop would be organised during the upcoming GRC10 meeting to facilitate further exchanges and clarification on the proposed reforms. He also thanked Dr Pipis and Dr Ibrahim for their valuable contributions and continued work as members of the GRC.

11 **Announcements from WOA**

Dr Min-Kyung Park, Head of the Status Department, highlighted a side event entitled "30 Years of Official Animal Health Status Recognition" scheduled to take place during at the 93rd General Session, on Wednesday 20 May 2026, from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m.

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance, provided an update on the status of the WOA Regional Representation for Africa and informed the Regional Commission for the Middle East of the recent decision to close the Organisation's office in Bamako, Mali, in light of the evolving security situation. He explained that this decision had been taken following careful consideration of staff safety and security, as well as the operational constraints affecting the organisation of activities and missions from Bamako, while ensuring continuity of WOA's activities and support to Members across the African region during the transition process. He also expressed appreciation for the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the staff of the Regional Representation in supporting and advancing WOA's work in the African region over the years.

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Head of the Regional Coordination Department, drew Delegates' attention to the regional kiosk, which will be available throughout the week of the 93rd General Session, as well as the dedicated plenary session on Regional Highlights entitled "Strengthening Veterinary Services Worldwide: The role of WOA Regional Offices in supporting Members", scheduled for Friday 22 May 2026. She invited all participants to visit the kiosk and attend the plenary session.

12 **Closing**

The meeting officially ended at 12:55 p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face-to-face)

The Regional Commission for the Middle East met face-to-face on 18 May 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CEST at *CNIT*. The meeting was attended by 51 participants, from 10 Members of the Commission and six observers.

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Republic of Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and United Arab Emirates.

Observers: WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Quality Management Systems, WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases (ADAFSA), *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie* (Italy), France, Palestinian Autonomous Authority and United Kingdom.

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 6 May 2026, 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 and the organisation of the Conference, as well as the strategic topics proposed to be addressed by WOAHA through various means, among others.

3 Governance Review Committee (GRC)

Dr Christodoulos Pipis, Regional Member of the GRC and Delegate of Cyprus, updated the Regional Commission on the outcomes of the 10th meeting of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), held at WOAHA Headquarters in Paris, on 14 and 15 May 2026.

Ms Josephine Dooley, GRC Secretariat, then presented draft Resolution No. 4 on the GRC's report and recommendations to the 93rd General Session (2026), and highlighted updates made at the 10th GRC meeting and subsequently approved by the Council to enhance clarity and facilitate implementation of the Resolution.

4 Updates on the situation of FMD SAT1 emergence in the Middle East:

Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD), provided an update on the recent emergence and reporting of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) SAT1 in the Middle East, with a strong emphasis on the role of WAHIS as a platform for official information sharing. Since the initial notification in May 2025, several events have been reported by Members in the Region, allowing analysis of the evolving situation through the Animal Disease Events Module (ADEM). This module provides detailed, near real-time information on outbreak dynamics, complementing six-monthly reports, which only become the definitive reference once published.

Dr Asma Abdi suggested the possibility for WAHIS to send notification reminders to Delegates to facilitate timely updates and continuous communication.

5 Middle East Networks:

1. Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET): Governance bodies, action plan and training activities:

Dr Fayçal Meziani, Technical expert at the WOAHA Regional Representation for the Middle East, presented the progress and regional impact of the Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET), the WOAHA regional platform supporting implementation of the Aquatic Animal Health Strategy in the Middle East. The presentation highlighted AQMENET's objectives to strengthen regional coordination, aquatic disease preparedness, laboratory collaboration, biosecurity, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) monitoring, and capacity building for sustainable aquaculture development.

Dr Fajer Al Salloom and Dr Nada Essawy requested details regarding the budget and the inclusion of other Members of the region in the Network's roadmap. Dr Meziani explained that while the 2022 -2028 work plan is already under implementation and includes a budget framework, expanding its membership will be considered.

2. Camels Middle East Network (CAMENET):

Dr Asma Abdi Mohammed, Biosecurity Affairs Division Director at the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA), presented a comprehensive overview of the network's achievements alongside its Strategic Goals and Action Plan for 2026. This strategic plan is structured around four primary pillars designed to mitigate transboundary threats and advance the camel sector. These core areas encompass disease diagnostics and laboratory standards, scientific development and welfare enhancement, One Health, public health, and societal impact, as well as risk assessment and emergency preparedness.

Discussions emphasised the importance of the CAMENET including Camel disease notification and AMR in its roadmap. Members also inquired about how to join this network.

Finally, Dr Almajali explained the procedures for applying to become a member of CAMENET.

6 Animal Health Emergency Management in the Middle East Region

Dr Keith Hamilton, Senior Programme Manager in the WOAHA Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Department, highlighted the fundamental concepts and evolving international standards for emergency management in Veterinary Services and public health emergency management, with a focus on biological threat reduction. He introduced the newly drafted Chapter of the Terrestrial Code, which defines emergency management as a continuous, non-linear cycle of organisation and resource coordination.

An interactive Mentimeter poll was conducted throughout the session to gather regional perspectives on the main challenges facing Veterinary Services in the Middle East.

Discussions focused on the principal drivers of veterinary emergencies, the impact of the geopolitical and security contexts on operational capacities, and the types of crises emerging from these situations. Participants also shared views on how WOAHA could best provide targeted support to Members under such circumstances.

7 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 presented the Joint Plan of Action (JPA) at the global level, while Dr Fayçal Meziani highlighted the regional implementation in the Middle East, and Dr Fajer Al Salloom shared the national experience and achievements from Bahrain.

The speakers highlighted that the JPA provides a coordinated framework to strengthen collaboration across sectors and levels, from global to regional and national implementation.

In the Middle East, significant progress has been achieved through strengthened regional coordination under the Quadripartite partnership, including the development of the Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism and the Regional One Health Action Plan (2025 - 2027). These initiatives have enhanced cross-sectoral collaboration, promoted regional dialogue on zoonoses, AMR, and preparedness, and reinforced Member engagement toward more integrated and resilient One Health systems. This multi-level approach ensures that global commitments are transformed into practical and sustainable regional and national actions with tangible impact for Members.

8 Update on the activities of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representation

Dr Ahmad Almajali Regional Representative for the Middle East and Dr Tariq Taha, Acting Representative for the Sub-Regional Representation for the Arabian Gulf, gave a joint presentation on the activities and priorities for the year 2025 as well as the strategic priorities for 2026. The presentation's central message was that stronger regional cooperation is essential to improve animal health systems, manage cross-border disease threats, and support more resilient Veterinary Services. Priority areas presented included strengthening regional governance, controlling transboundary animal diseases such as FMD and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), improving surveillance and disease reporting capacity, advancing One Health implementation, supporting aquatic animal health and aquaculture, promoting animal welfare and safe animal movement, and expanding technical knowledge-sharing through webinars and specialised meetings.

9 Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, WOAHA Deputy Director General for Standard Setting and Implementation provided an overview of the selection process for WOAHA Specialist Commissions for the 2027 - 2030 term. Dr Arroyo described the planned stages from preparation of documentation and launch of an open call for experts on 6 July 2026, through screening of applications after closure of the call on 11 September 2026 and evaluation of eligible candidates by a Nomination Evaluation Committee, comprising external evaluators, a Council representative and WOAHA staff.

Suitable candidates will be put forward to the WOAHA Director General, followed by endorsement by the WOAHA Council, and election of Commission members by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 94th General Session in May 2027.

10 Closing

The meeting officially ended at 12:45 p.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**
Session 1 (virtual)

6 May 2026

(10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. CEST)

Agenda

9:45 a.m.– 10:05 a.m.	Zoom check-in and connecting
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.	Outcomes of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission, held in November 2025, in Larnaca, Cyprus, (Dr Sanad Alharbi)
10:25 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2027 (Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Vice President of the Council and Delegate of Bahrain)
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Samah Al Sharif, Vice-President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Oman)
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 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)
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Advancing Investment in Animal Health: Middle East Resource Mobilisation Strategy – Achievements and Next Steps (Dr Ahmad Al Majali, Regional Representative for the Middle East and Nada Essaway, Resource Mobilisation and Grants Management Officer)
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Briefing on the Ambassadors' dialogue meeting held in Paris (Mr Pierre Emmanuel Cangah, WOAHA Director of Cabinet)
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Formal Recognition of the REMESA (Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance)
11:45 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.	WOAHA's 8 th Strategic Plan (Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit)
12:15 a.m.-12:55 p.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly (Dr Elias Ibrahim, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Lebanon)
12:55 P.m. 1:00 p.m.	Announcements from WOAHA
1:00 p.m.	Closing (Dr Sanad Alharbi)

Session 2 (face-to-face)

Monday, 18 May 2026

10:00 AM-12:30 PM (CEST), CNIT Forest, Paris, France

Room : Dragonnier 5

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. – 10:50 a.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC): a. Outcomes of the 10th meeting of the GRC (14-15 May 2026) (5 mins) b. GRC Resolution at the 93rd General Session (2026) (Draft Resolution No. 4) (20 mins) (Dr Christodoulos Pipis, Vice President of the Regional Commission, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Cyprus and GRC Secretariat)
10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	Updates on the situation of FMD SAT1 occurrence in the Middle East (Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of World Animal Health Information Department).
11:10 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.	Middle East Networks: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET): Governance bodies and action and training plans (Dr Faycal Meziani, Technical Expert, RRME-Dr Giorgia Angeloni, Research and International Cooperation Office, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sper. le delle Venezie)2. Camels Middle East Network (CAMENET) Dr Asma Abdi Mohammed Shah, Biosecurity Affairs Division Director, ADAFSA)
11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Animal Health Emergency Management in the Middle East Region (Dr Keith Hamilton, Senior Programme Manager, Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Department)
11:45 a.m. – 12:05 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 Fajer Al Salloom, Vice President of the Council, Delegate of Bahrain, Dr Chadia Wannous, One Health Senior Specialist and Global Coordinator and Dr Faycal Meziani, Technical Expert, RRME)
12:05 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Update on the activities of the Regional and Subregional Representation (Dr Ahmad Al Majali, Regional Representative for the Middle East and Dr Tariq Taha, Acting Subregional Representative for the Arabian Gulf)
12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General – Standard Setting and Implementation)
12:30 p.m.	Closing (Dr Sanad Alharbi)