

GS93

**World Organisation
for Animal Health
93rd General Session**

World Assembly

Paris, May 18-22, 2026

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**ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL
(between May 2025 and May 2026)**

Administrative Working Document



World Organisation
for Animal Health

1. Each year since the 75th General Session, the Council has reported on its activities to the Assembly. As decided by the Assembly at its 92nd General Session (2025), the minutes of the Council meetings as from October 2025 are published on the [WOAH website](#) to keep public the activities of the Council.
2. Since the 92nd General Session, the Council, chaired by the President of WOA, Dr Susana Guedes Pombo (Portugal), has met two times for regular meetings: from 7 to 9 October 2025 (face-to-face in Paris) and from 3 to 5 March 2026 (face-to-face in Paris).

At the meeting in October 2025, the Council:

3. Was informed by the President of the Council that Dr Dlamini had retired and stepped down from his position on the Council. The Council welcomed Dr Baba Soumaré, new Deputy Director General for Global Frameworks and Capacity Building.
4. Reviewed the outcomes of the 92nd General Session (2025). The Council discussed measures to improve participation and quorum and proposed that Regional and Sub-Regional Representations take into account a more proactive role in encouraging Delegates to attend plenary sessions.
5. Discussed the modalities for holding the 93rd General Session (2026), which would take place at a new venue, the “*Centre des nouvelles industries et technologies*” (CNIT) in the Paris area. The Council confirmed its support to the concept note for the 2026 Animal Health Forum, titled “Investing in Animal Health to Secure Everyone’s Future”, and acknowledged the importance of balancing technical and political dimensions while engaging Ministers and the private sector.
6. Received an update on the implementation of the new WOA organisational chart, which included the creation of a new Directorate for Global Frameworks and Capacity Building. The Council congratulated the Director General and appreciated the new structure as fit for purpose for the next Strategic Plan.
7. Reviewed the first draft of the 8th Strategic Plan (2027-2031), elaborated by the Secretariat and shared for review. The Council provided detailed feedback on the four orientations and enablers, and the Director General invited members to submit additional written comments. The Plan was scheduled to be presented for endorsement at the March 2026 Council meeting and for adoption by the Assembly at the 93rd General Session.
8. Discussed technical, administrative and institutional matters, including the 2025 mid-year review of budget expenditure, and an update on the Headquarters’ premises real estate study.

At the meeting in March 2026, the Council:

9. Focused on the preparation of the upcoming 93rd General Session (2026) and major institutional, financial, governance, and technical matters. Members reviewed and validated the draft provisional programme for the General Session to be held at the CNIT. The Council validated the composition of the Credentials Committee and the Sub-Commission for the Agenda. It also decided on the awardees for the Gold Medal and Meritorious Awards to be granted during the Opening Ceremony.
10. Reviewed and approved major administrative and financial working documents for the 93rd General Session, including the 2025 Regular Budget accounts, the adjustments to the 2026 Budgeted Work Programme, and the 2027 Budgeted Work Programme and Related Contributions Scale. The Council also approved an increase of the minimum contribution for category B members from €300K to €400K, to be submitted to the Assembly.

11. Approved technical working documents, including the designation of three new Reference Laboratories and the replacement of experts in five existing Reference Laboratories. It also approved a list of standards proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session covering both the Aquatic and Terrestrial Codes and Manuals.
12. Devoted significant attention to the report of the GRC Chairperson, Dr Botlhe Modisane (South Africa), on the GRC's work. The GRC had convened nine meetings between January 2025 and March 2026. The Council welcomed the GRC Report ([93GS/Adm-05](#)), including seven governance recommendations for consideration by the Assembly. The Council validated the updates to the GRC's work programme, extending Phase 1 of the governance review process until May 2027.
13. Endorsed the 8th Strategic Plan (2027–2031) for submission for adoption by the Assembly at the 93rd General Session. The Plan was developed through a full year of consultations with Members, stakeholders and staff, and reflects the strategic intersection between Members' needs and the Organisation's institutional capacity.

14. The President and Council members (within their respective regions), participated at the following Conferences of the Regional Commissions: 34th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 22 to 25 September 2025, and the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Larnaca, Cyprus, from 24 to 28 November 2025. Council members also maintained regular contact with Delegates in their respective regions to prepare and report on Council meetings.

15. The Council will meet in plenary session at WOAHA Headquarters (Paris, France) on 15 and 16 May 2026 to finalise the preparation of the 93rd General Session. In compliance with Resolution XVII of 28 May 2004 relating to the creation of a World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (the World Fund), the 19th meeting of the Management Committee of the World Fund, at which two members of the Council will participate, will take place on 15 May 2026 to examine and approve the activity and financial reports presented by the Headquarters.
16. The two auditors of the Council, Dr Wilmer Juarez (Nicaragua) and Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan) will meet the Directorate of Administration (Accounting Department) on 15 May 2026 to audit the accounts of WOAHA.

17. For the record, the composition of the Council as of May 2026 is shown in Annex I.

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL (MAY 2026)

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|---|----------------|
| Dr Susana Guedes Pombo (Portugal) | President |
| Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay) | Past President |
| Dr Fajer Sabah Al Salloom (Bahrain) | Vice-President |
| Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal) | member |
| Dr Wilmer Juarez (Nicaragua) | member |
| Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan) | member |
| Dr Mary Van Andel (New Zealand) | member |
| Dr Christine Middlemiss (United Kingdom) | member |
