

REPORTS
of the Meetings of the WOAHA Regional Commissions
held during the 91st General Session

Paris, 27 May 2024

Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa

Session 1

The Regional Commission for Africa met by videoconference on 21 May 2024, at 1:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 84 participants, including Delegates from 29 Members of the Commission, 5 observers, and representatives from 16 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo (Rep. of the), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia.

Observers: Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations (CAAWO), Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), ReAct Africa.

International/regional organisations: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), African Union Panafrican Veterinary Vaccines Centre (AU-PANVAC), Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), Economic Commission for Livestock, Meat and Fisheries (CEBEVIRHA), European Commission (EC), Common Market for Eastern and South Africa (COMESA), Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), World Bank (WB), World Health Organization (WHO).

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

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

2. Analysis and evaluation of WOA's institutional, technical, and financial governance

Dr François Caya, WOA Chief of Staff, introduced Mr Eelco Szabo, a legal and governance consultant and part of a consortium mandated by WOA to undertake what is commonly referred to as the external review of the WOA Basic Texts.

Mr Szabo, who has extensive experience in legal and governance frameworks across various international organisations, presented the in-depth analysis and review of the governance structures and processes of the Organisation, reflected in the General Session working document [91GS/Adm-13](#) titled 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of WOAHA'. This external review, conducted over nine months, meticulously examined the foundational treaty, Basic Texts, numerous resolutions, and conducted interviews and workshops with members of WOAHA's governance bodies and relevant officials, including the Council. This comprehensive approach helped to understand the historical and current operational frameworks and identify areas for potential improvement in institutional, technical and financial governance.

Mr Szabo went on to provide an overview of the various focus areas detailed in the report and provided some relevant and concrete examples. Each focus area was analysed to recommend improvements that could enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of WOAHA's governance structures. For instance, institutional governance discussed could include revisiting the roles and responsibilities of WOAHA's governing bodies to ensure clarity and eliminate overlaps, while technical governance might focus on formalising procedures for standard-setting to ensure transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, the presentation emphasised the next steps in the governance review process, indicating the opportunity to be given to the Assembly during the upcoming General Session to explore the sustainability of current WOAHA's governance in future scenarios to be explored during the Forum 'Is WOAHA Ready for the Future?' Finally, Mr Szabo highlighted the importance of aligning WOAHA's governance structures with its current and future needs, suggesting that revisions to the Basic Texts and other governance documents may be necessary to address the evolving challenges in global animal health governance. As suggested in draft Resolution No. 12 'Revision of the WOAHA Basic Texts', this would involve a collective effort from all Members to engage in meaningful discussions and make informed decisions on the proposed changes, aiming for a governance framework that is robust, transparent and capable of meeting the Organisation's objectives effectively.

3. Confirmation of the venue and preparation of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in February 2025

Dr Alemayehu Mekonnen Anbessie, Senior Advisor Office of the State Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Resources Development Sector, on behalf of Dr Fikru Regassa, Delegate of Ethiopia, reiterated his country's offer to host the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa in February 2025.

He shared a brief history of the previous Conferences of the Regional Commission and reminded Members that at the last Conference held in Gaborone, Botswana, Ethiopia had expressed interest in hosting the next Conference of the Regional Commission.

Dr Alemayehu informed the meeting that, since then, Ethiopia has set up a national organising committee consisting of a high-level steering committee, joint coordination committee and six technical committees to ensure the success of the event.

He reported briefly on the various arrangements Ethiopia had made to start organising the conference, including the potential venue of the event. Dr Alemayehu assured the participants that all the details would be sent in a timely manner.

4. **Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission**

Following a zoom poll consultation, the Regional Commission selected the following Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission.

'Veterinary Services and food safety: challenges and perspectives for policy development in the context of market unification on a continental scale'

5. **Selection of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAH through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)**

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

1. Animal health policies as the main enabling tool for developing the capacities of the Veterinary Services
2. Wildlife: what skills for Veterinary Services?
3. Capacity building perspectives for the role of Veterinary Services in promoting food safety.

6. **Africa PPP Forum in the Veterinary Domain**

Dr Rahul Srivastava, WOAH Public Private Partnership Project Manager, presented a brief review of the Africa Public–Private Partnership (PPP) Forum in the veterinary domain.

He discussed the emerging policy and financial frameworks across the continent which advocate for the critical role of PPP in the veterinary domain. He also highlighted the challenges in visualising the potential of PPP in the veterinary domain at national, regional and continental levels due to the lack of understanding and a common platform for stakeholders. Despite WOAH's initiative of developing a PPP database, there is a need to comprehend the ongoing PPP activities and the potential for PPP development at different levels.

Therefore, understanding the potential of such a platform, WOAH and the African Union's Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) have conceptualised The Africa Public-Private Partnerships Forum in the Veterinary Domain (AF3P). It aims to create a continental platform for fostering dialogue, sharing innovative solutions, and promoting sustainable practices in partnership with public and private stakeholders in the veterinary domain, thereby benefiting the entire sector.

Dr Srivastava informed the meeting that the forum will be officially launched during the WOAH Continental Conference on 28 November 2024. He invited the Members attending the 91st General Session in Paris to the PPP side event, which will take place on 30 May from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in Room 251 of Maison de la Chimie.

7. **Towards a more resilient veterinary workforce for Africa (2024 Continental Conference)**

Dr Laibané Dieudonné Dahourou, WOAH Programme Officer, commented on the upcoming Veterinary Workforce Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 to 28 November 2024.

He stated that the 2024 Conference aims to share best practices for improving human and animal health in relation to workforce development. General information about the conference is available on the website. More than 200 participants are expected to attend the event, including veterinary authorities, veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals, associations and academia.

Dr Dahourou, explained that the conference would adopt parallel sessions covering various topics such as PPP, AMR, One Health, Gender, etc. Participants will be able to choose the sessions they wish to attend.

He concluded by thanking Agence française de développement (AFD), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GALVmed and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the primary funders of the conference.

8. Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Africa

Dr Viola Chemis, WOAHA Programme Officer, provided the Regional Commission with an update on GF-TADs activities in the region. These included meetings of the Standing Group of Experts (SGE) for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and African swine fever (ASF) which resulted in action work plans, roadmap meetings for foot and mouth (FMD) disease conducted for Eastern and Western Africa, an FMD risk analysis workshop through the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) approach.

Finally, Dr Chemis mentioned that the upcoming activities for 2024 will include a CBPP SGE meeting to be held in Lusaka in July 2024, a Regional Steering Committee meeting in Eswatini, in August 2024, and an ASF SGE meeting also in Eswatini, in August 2024.

9. 2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHA Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.

Mr Pairault reminded the Regional Commission that: 1) discussions regarding the financial sustainability of WOAHA regular budget started during the Council meeting in September 2021, mainly considering the impact of the digitalisation as well as the growing number and types of activities supported by WOAHA in order to respond to its Member's needs; 2) an extraordinary Council meeting held in December 2021 supported the proposal presented and was finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022, increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over the period 2023–2025, with a 15% increase adopted for 2023 and a 7.5% foreseen increase for 2024 and 2025; 3) an explanatory note was shared with Delegates explaining the rationale behind the increase proposed in 2022; 4) the high inflation rate and deteriorated economic situation led to a request and a vote at the 2023 General Session for a 15% increase for 2024 instead of the originally anticipated 7.5%.

The Director of Administration then detailed the key factors taken into account to support the evolution of the statutory contributions, namely: 1) a robust financial management and performance in 2023, enabling WOAHA to absorb increased costs; 2) the confirmation of decreasing inflation rate for 2024 and 2025 with a temporary favourable impact; 3) the new financial policy framework and commitment tracking tool leading to better budgetary planning and financial oversight; 4) a 2025 work programme supported by 60 quantitative indicators with an improved transparency and hopefully efficiency as well; 5) any request for increased contributions should also consider the 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of WOAHA' – see [91GS/Adm-13](#).

Mr Pairault closed by informing that based on the above factors, the 2025 contribution scale has been revised with a +6.9% increase – only applying the 2023 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Total Consumer Price Index (OECD – Total CPI) as per Resolution 15 of the 2018 General Session.

10. **Announcement by the Director General regarding the nomination of a new Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa**

Dr Monique Eloit, informed the Regional Commission that, following the termination of duties of Dr Samuel Wakhusama, she has decided to nominate Dr Neo Mapitse as the Sub-regional Representative for Eastern Africa starting on 1 September 2024.

Dr Eloit explained that her decision was based on Dr Mapitse's seniority, including his in-depth knowledge of the African region in terms of challenges, needs and expectations of Members and partners, as well as his knowledge of WOAHA activities, not only those carried out by the Nairobi office but also through the other offices, thanks to his current position as Head of Regional Activities Department. In addition, she emphasised that Dr Mapitse's previous positions as Head of WOAHA Status Department and Deputy Head of WAHIAD, two areas of key importance in the work of WOAHA, as well as his initial experience as Sub-regional Representative for Southern Africa, have given him a broader vision to properly comply with the requirements for the position of Sub-regional Representative and ensure responding to the needs of Members and maintain strong relations and cooperation with our regional partners, particularly with AU-IBAR.

The Regional Commission supported the Director General's decision.

11. **WOAHA Regions' kiosk**

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, WOAHA Regional Activities Coordination Manager of the Regional Activities Department (RAD), provided information on the scheduled Regional kiosk during the General Session aimed at showcasing the key activities conducted by WOAHA at regional level. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

12. **Elections of the Specialist Commissions**

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General of International Standards and Science, described the overall process for the election of WOAHA's Specialist Commissions, focusing on the selection process from the beginning, including the initial call for candidates, the evaluation process, the agreed list by the Council, and the final election process that will take place on Tuesday 28 May 2024 within the first administrative session of the General Session.

She highlighted the open call and evaluation of both the new candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, as well as the evaluation of the current Specialist Commissions member's performance through a standardised process based on the Performance Management Framework.

Dr Arroyo closed her intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

13. **Elections: voting modalities and quorum**

Mr Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAHA Legal Affairs Unit, briefly presented the voting modalities and reminded the assembled of the required quorum and majorities for the elections.

14. **Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions**

Dr Honoré N'lemba Mabela chaired the discussion regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Tuesday 28 May.

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Council:

Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini (Delegate of Eswatini)

Dr Mbargou Lo (Delegate of Senegal)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

President: Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela (Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)

Vice-President: Dr Anna Rose Ademun Okurut (Delegate of Uganda)

Vice-President: Dr Abderrahman El Abrak (Delegate of Morocco)

Secretary General: Dr Columba Teru Vakuru (Delegate of Nigeria)

Specialist Commissions:

The Regional Commission will support current members from the region in the different Specialist Commissions as follows:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Kevin Christison (South Africa)

Biologic Standards Commission

Dr Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Cote d'Ivoire) (as President)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Baptiste Kimbenga Dungu (South Africa/DR Congo)

Dr Misheck Mulumba (Zambia)

15. **Closing**

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

Session 2 (face to face)

The Regional Commission for Africa met face to face on 27 May 2024, at 8:30 a.m. CEST at the *Maison de la Chimie* in Paris. The meeting was attended by 32 Members of the Commission:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Central African Rep., Congo (Rep. of the), Congo (Dem. Rep. of), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan (Rep. of), Eswatini, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The President of the Regional Commission invited the Commission to observe a moment of silence for the late Delegate of Liberia Dr Joseph Anderson and noted the request for the Region to consider means of support by Delegates in such situations.

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

2. Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics)

The President of the Regional Commission summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 15 May 2024, at 7:00 a.m. CEST, allowing the Regional Commission to confirm the main points agreed, namely the technical item proposed for the forthcoming Regional Conference, the strategic topics proposed to be addressed by WOAHA through various means, the candidates proposed by the region to be presented to the World Assembly for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions.

The Delegate of Togo and member of Council Dr Batawui Komla Batasse reminded the Commission regarding the ongoing work on the revision of the Basic Texts and that it is important for the Delegates to follow this work closely and submit their contributions.

The President of the Regional Commission thanked the Delegate of Togo for his contributions and for representing the Region well in Council.

3. WOAHA Incident Management System

Dr Madison Wimmers, Project Officer of WOAHA's Preparedness and Resilience Department presented the ongoing work to develop WOAHA Incident Management System (IMS) to enhance the organisation's technical response to incidents. An IMS encompasses policies, procedures and resources (including personnel) to effectively manage incidents, facilitating communication, control and decision-making during emergencies. This system will enable WOAHA to respond more efficiently to international and regional emergencies, supporting its Members within the organisation's scope and mandate. The initiative follows recommendations from the COVID-19 After Action Review and was mandated by the Members under the [Emergency Management Technical Item Resolution no. 28 \(General Session, 2022\)](#).

Ausvet Ltd has been contracted as the service provider for the IMS development. Dr Matthew Stone of Spade Solutions Ltd was also contracted to serve as an independent expert consultant to support WOAHA in reviewing the IMS deliverables. The development will proceed in phases: starting with scoping and design, followed by development, training, and concluding with testing through a simulation exercise and refinement. The IMS is scheduled for completion by May 2025, to be reported back to the Members during the 2025 General Session.

4. **Application from Tunisia for a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Field Epidemiology**

Professor Malek Zrelli, Councillor of the Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, and Alternate Delegate of Tunisia, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider Tunisia's National Animal Health Surveillance Centre (CNVZ) as a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Field Epidemiology.

He reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

5. **Closing**

The meeting officially ended at 10:00 a.m. CEST.

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

Session 1 (virtual)

**21 May 2024
(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 Honoré Robert N’lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- 1:05 p.m. – 1:35 p.m. Analysis and evaluation of WOA’s institutional, technical and financial governance (Dr François Caya, WOA’s Chief of staff and Mr Eelco Szabo, external consultant)
- 1.35 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Confirmation of the venue and preparation of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in February 2025 (Dr Fikru Regassa Gari, Delegate of Ethiopia)
- 1:45 p.m. – 1:55 p.m. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission (Dr Albertina Shilongo, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Namibia)
- 1:55 p.m. – 2:05 p.m. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOA through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Albertina Shilongo)
- 2:05 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Africa PPP Forum in the Veterinary Domain (Dr Rahul Srivastava, Public-Private Partnership Project Manager)
- 2:15 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. Towards a more resilient veterinary workforce for Africa (2024 Continental Conference) (Dr Laibané Dieudonné Dahourou, WOA Programme Officer)
- 2:25 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Africa (Dr Viola Chemis, WOA Programme officer)
- 2:35 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. 2025 Budgeted Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale (Mr Xavier Pairault, WOA Director of Administration)
- 2:45 p.m. – 2:55 p.m. Announcement by the Director General regarding the nomination of a new Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa (Dr Monique Eloit, WOA Director General)

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- 2:55 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. Elections of the Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General)

- 3:10 p.m.– 3:20 p.m. Elections: voting modalities and quorum (Dr François Caya and Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAHA Legal Affairs Unit)
- 3:20 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
- 3:50 p.m. Closing (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)

Session 2 (face to face)
Monday, 27 May 2024
(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)

Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- 8:35 a.m.– 9:05 a.m. Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics) (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
- 9:05 a.m.– 9:25 a.m. WOAHA Incident Management System (Ms Madison Wimmers, Project Officer, Preparedness and Resilience Department)
- 9:25 a.m.– 9:45 a.m. Application from Tunisia for a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Field Epidemiology (Dre Sana Kacem, Delegate of Tunisia)
- 9:45 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. Closing (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)