

Introduction to WOAH

Desmond Rono
Project Officer

3rd September 2024
Nairobi, Kenya



Agenda

1. Who we are
2. Our governance structure
3. Our partners
4. Standards development





Who we are



Who we are

About us

The World Organisation for Animal Health is the global authority on animal health.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is the leading global authority on animal health, dedicated to improving animal health globally, ensuring a safer future for animals, humans, and the environment.

We work to ensure the health of animals and their environments across the world, recognising that animal health impacts everyone's health and that the safety of our future depends on it.

We help policy makers and governments create a future in which humans and animals benefit and support each other, for a more sustainable ecosystem balance, so that livelihoods are transformed, economies are boosted and the world is safer and healthier for everyone.

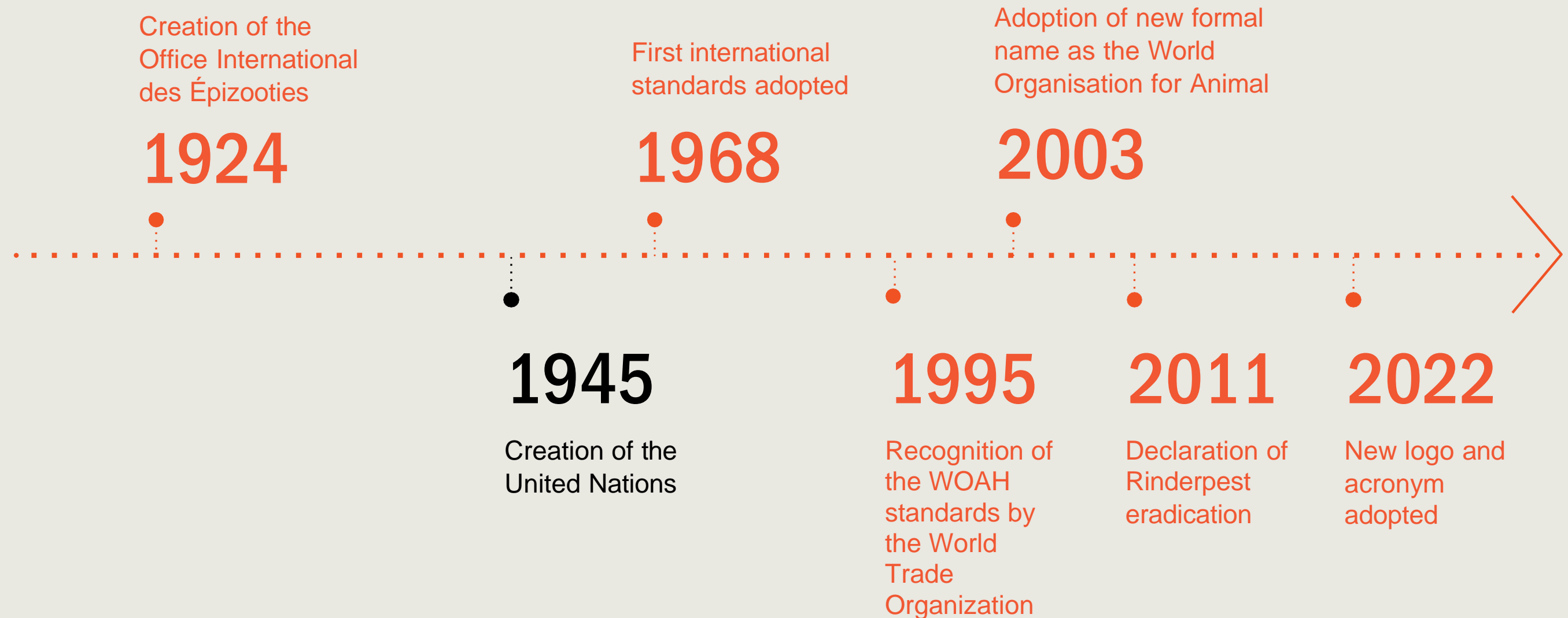
We do that by improving animal health, globally.



Who we are

Our history

We have been at the forefront of controlling animal diseases for almost 100 years. Since 1924, we have focused on monitoring and disseminating knowledge about animal diseases, as well as on how to use scientific data to limit the negative effects of animal diseases on society.

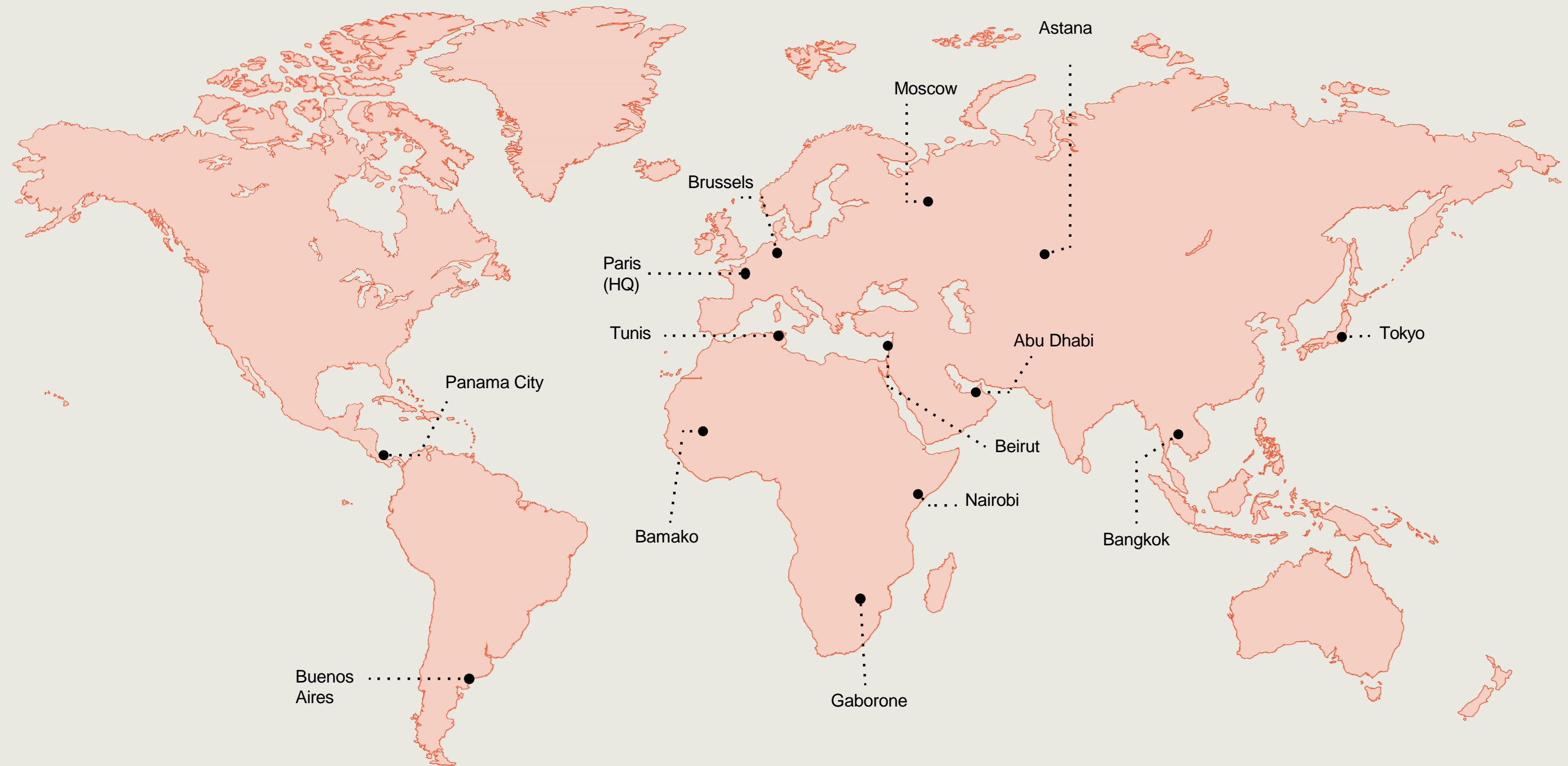




Who we are

Our global presence

We work with **183 countries and territories**, our Members, to protect the health of animals and ensuring that animal health standards are universally recognized and implemented.



.....● Regional and subregional representations



Who we are

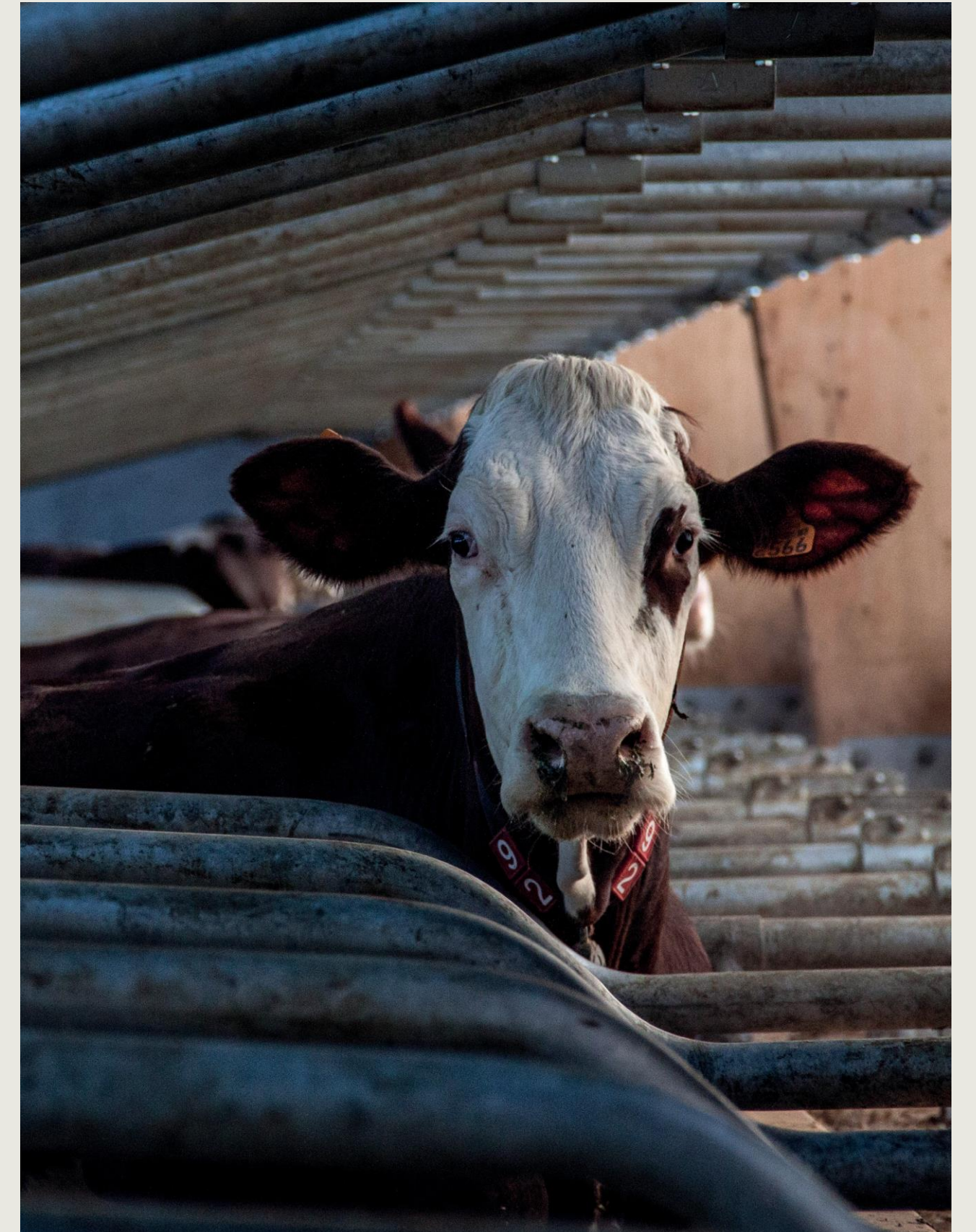
Our global presence

Our mission is to improve animal health globally, thereby ensuring a better future for all.

WOAH focuses on transparency in animal health information, building capacities in member countries, developing international standards, and fostering global initiatives to control and prevent animal diseases.

We believe that animal health is essential to our future.

**Animal health is our health.
It's everyone's health.**





Who we are

Our mission

We focus on:



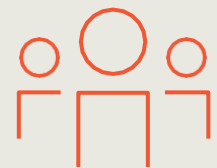
TRANSPARENCY

Management of animal health information



STANDARDS

Development of international standards and the monitoring of their implementation



CAPACITIES

Capacity building for animal health professionals



GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Development of global strategies and in country support to roll-out

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION



Who we are

Our work helps create a healthier world.

Our actions

We lead

global efforts to control animal diseases. In 2011, we succeeded in eradicating rinderpest. It is only the second disease to achieve this distinction after smallpox.

We ensure

the safe trade of animals and animal products across the world with our World Trade Organization recognised standards.

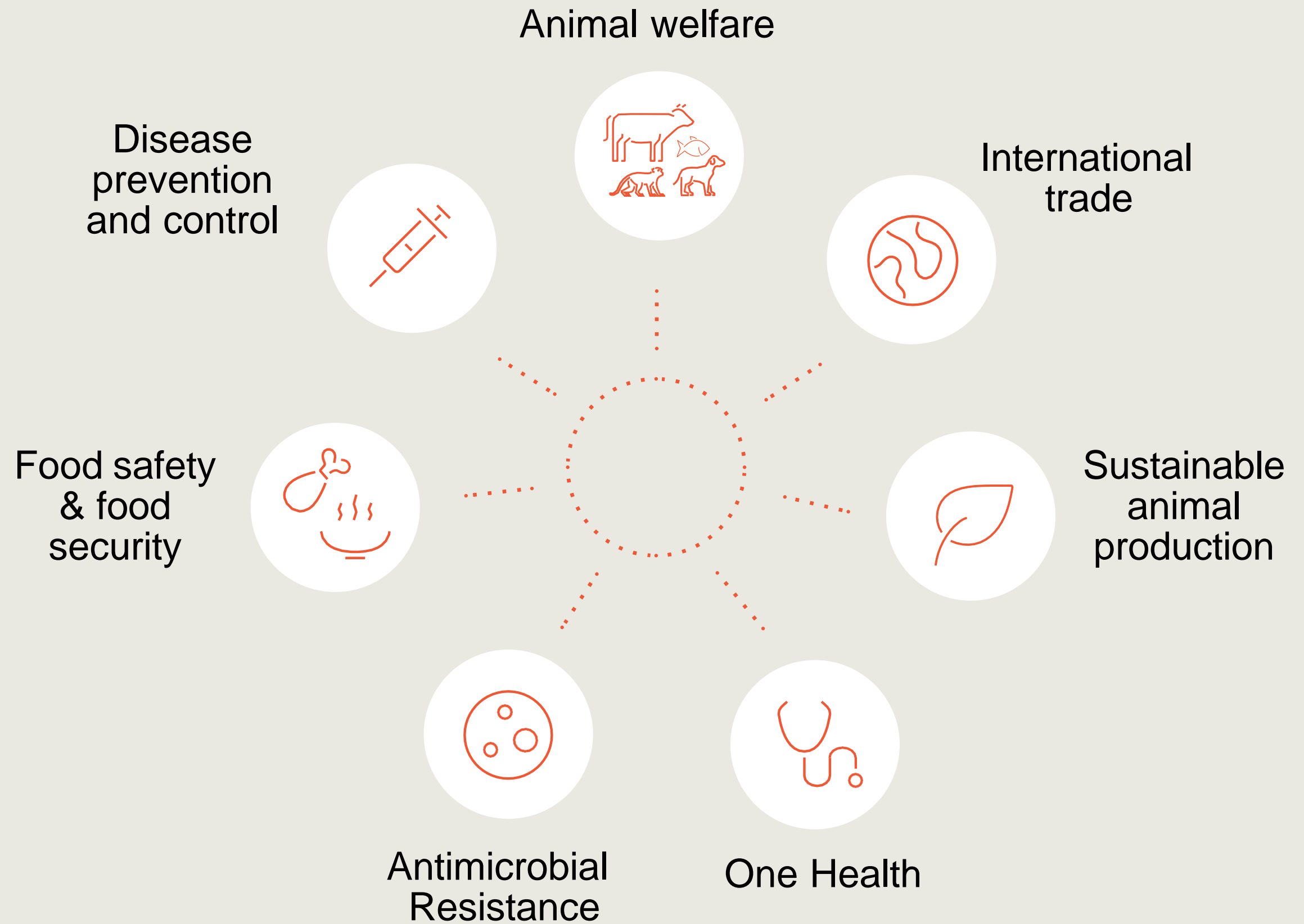
We collect

disease information from all our Members and make it publicly available through our World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).



Who we are

Our main working areas

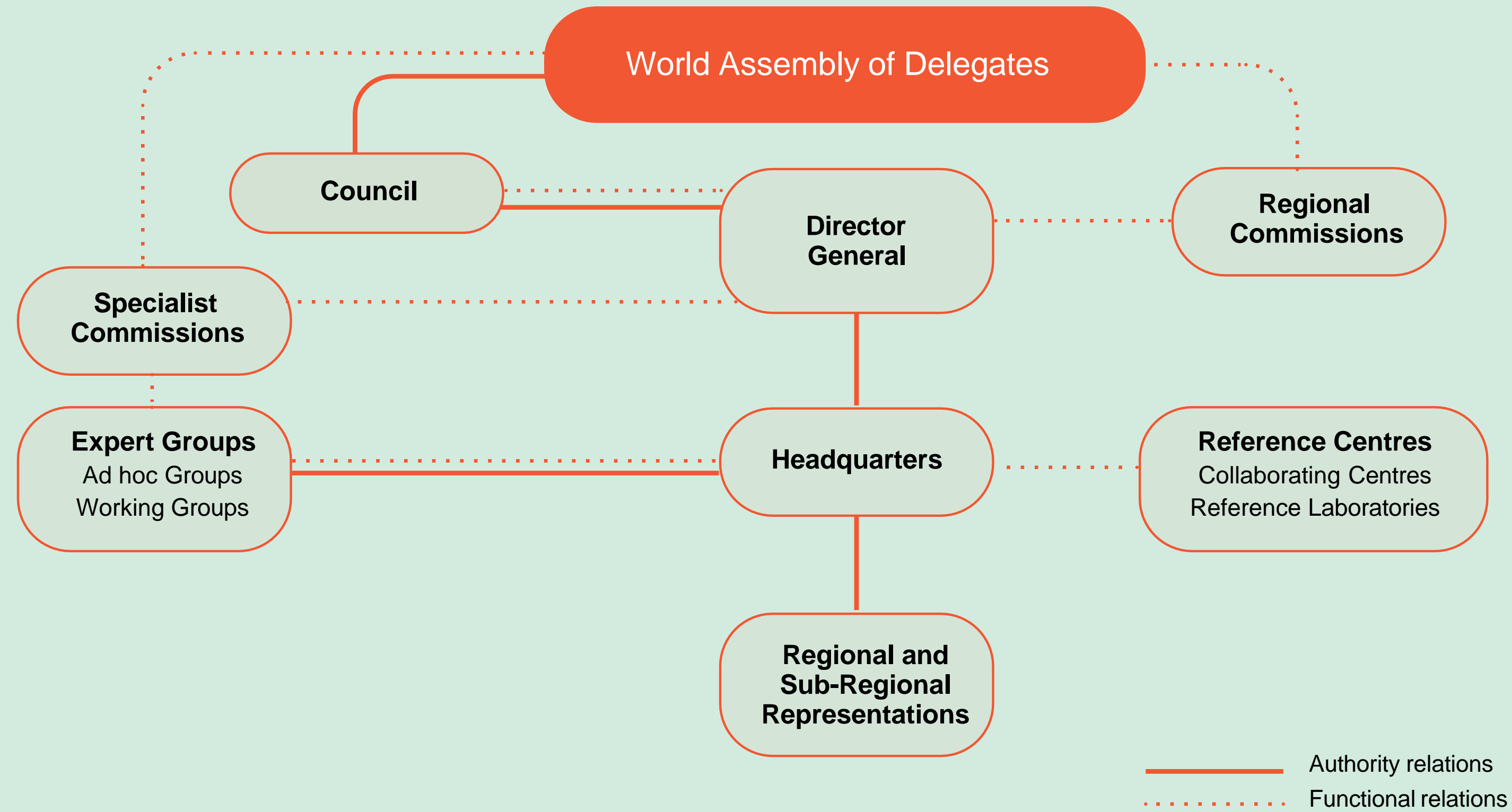




Our governance structure



Our governance structure





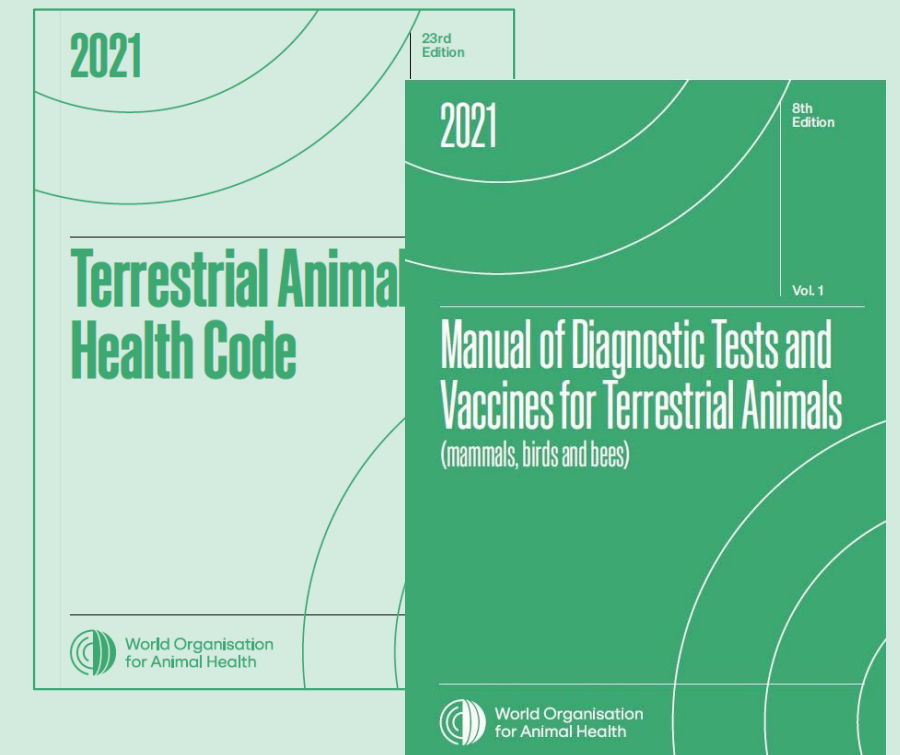
Our governance structure

World Assembly of Delegates

The highest authority of the Organisation

- Composed of all national Delegates
- Convenes at least once a year in May
- Adopts the standards published in the Codes and Manuals

1 Member = 1 Vote

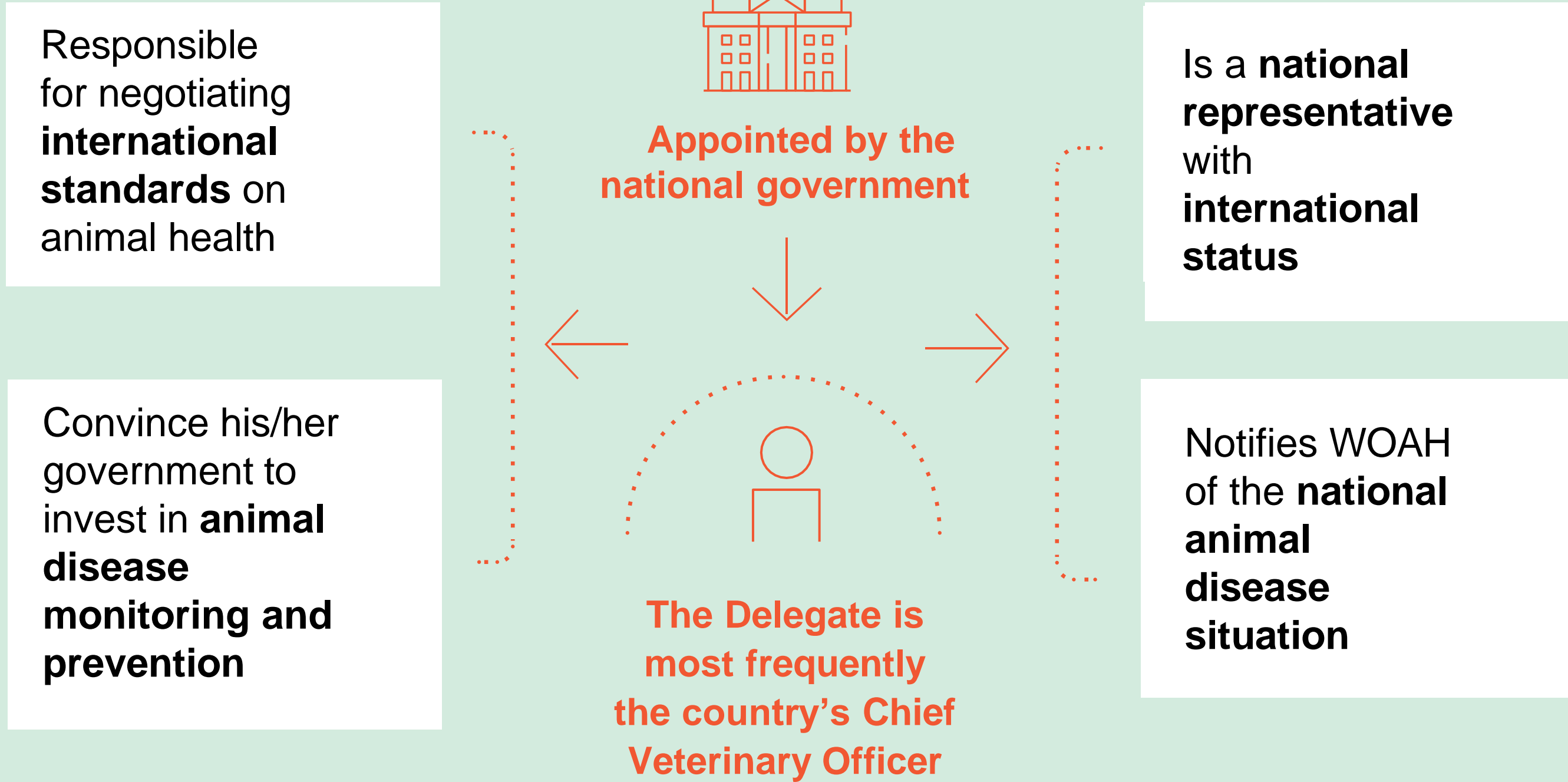




Our governance structure

The Delegate

National Representative to WOA





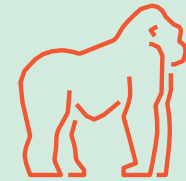
Our governance structure

National Focal Points

7 areas of expertise



Aquatic animals



Wildlife



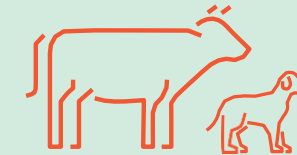
Animal disease notification



Veterinary Laboratories



Communication



Animal welfare



Veterinary products-AMR

Appointed by the Delegate

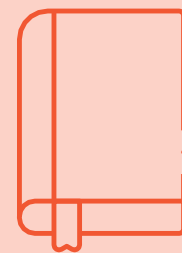


Our governance structure

National Focal Points

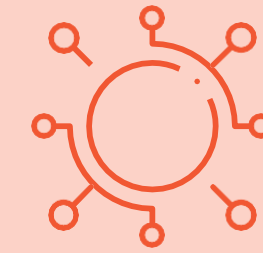
Assist the Delegate to:

- Comment on proposed draft standards
- Prepare and implement appropriate legislation



Technical contact points for WOA regional offices and Headquarters

- Under the authority of the Delegate



Information exchange and international networking





Our governance structure

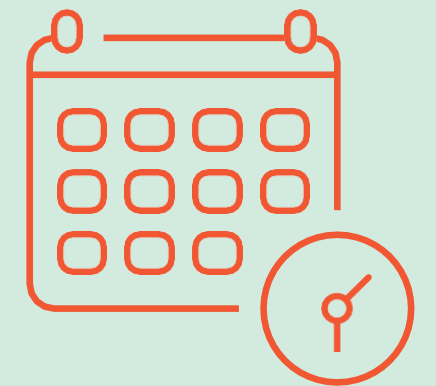
Council

Represents the World Assembly of Delegates

- Members elected by the World Assembly

Functions

- Examines the technical and administrative documents prepared by the Director General and submitted to each Member prior to the World Assembly of Delegates
- Approves provisional budget and monitors its implementation
- Represents the World Assembly of Delegates between General Sessions



3-year
Term

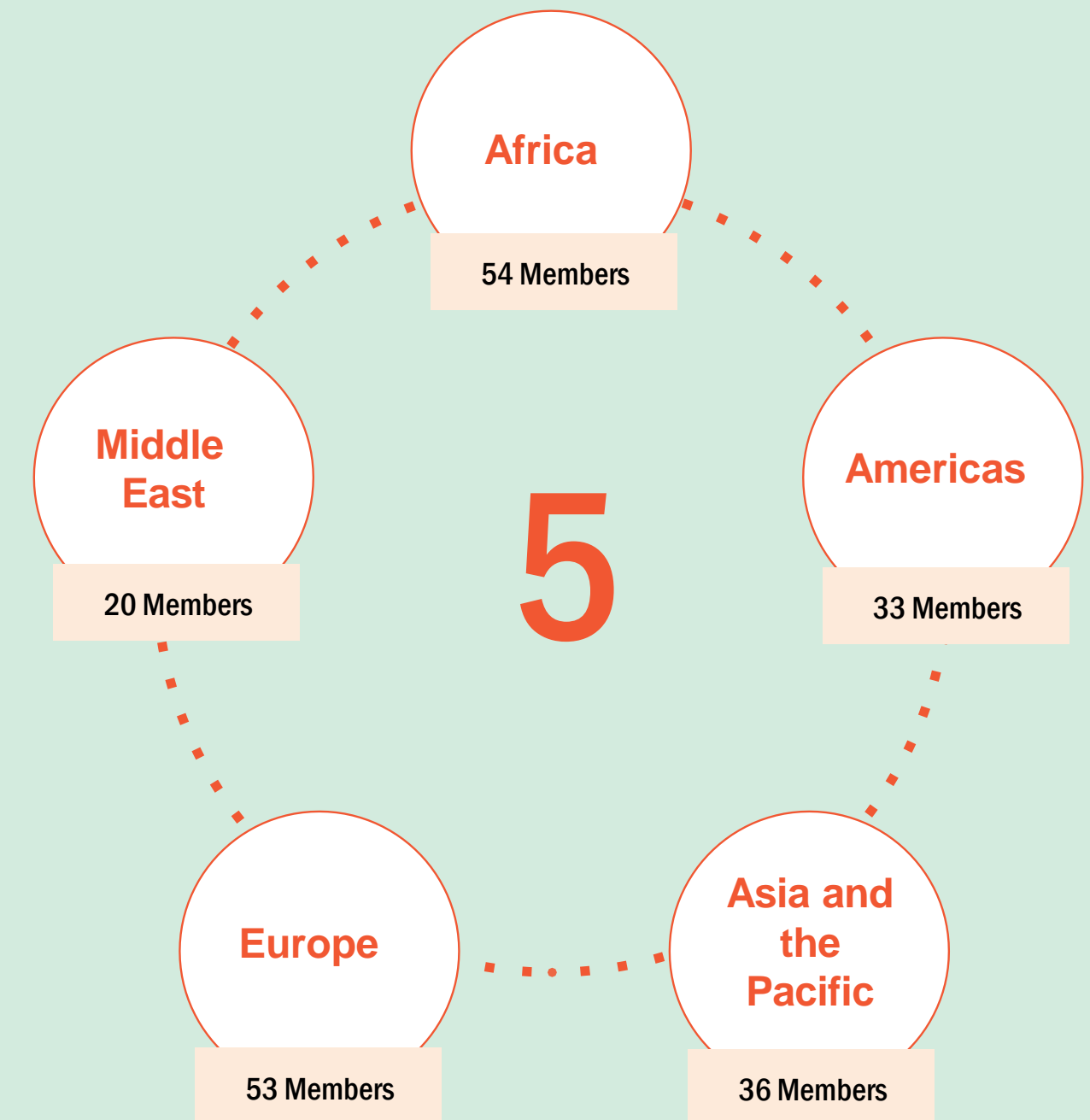


Our governance structure

Regional Commissions

Address specific local issues

- Can be fully considered as **regional institutions**
- Bureau composed of **4 Delegates** elected for a **3-year term** of office by the World Assembly
- Regional Commission Conferences
 - Every 2 years
 - In one of the countries of the region
- **Recommendations** submitted to the World Assembly for approval and implementation
- Meet annually during the World Assembly





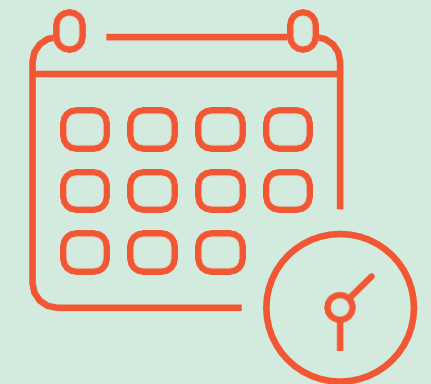
Our governance structure

Specialist Commissions

Elected by the World Assembly of Delegates

Functions

- Development of international standards
- Appointment of Reference Centres
- Evaluation of applications for official recognition of animal health status
- Provision of advice to the DG and the Assembly on topics pertaining to their mandate.
- Each Specialist Commission comprises six members.
- Each Commission meets twice a year to progress items on their respective work programmes.



3-year

Term



Our governance structure

Specialist Commissions



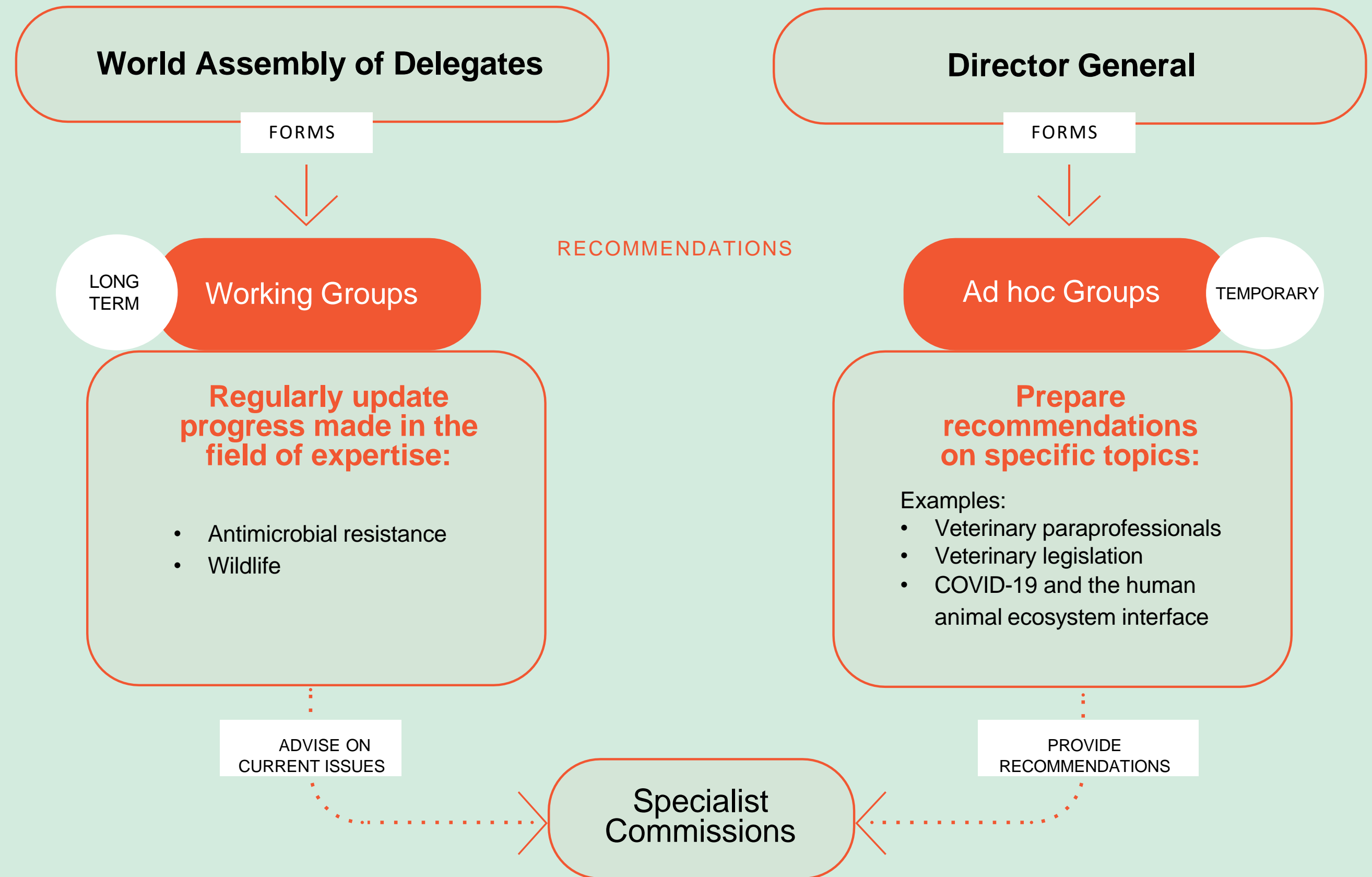
There is strong collaboration among all Commissions

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission</p> <p>Code Commission</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversees amendments to the <i>Terrestrial Code</i>• Oversees the work of relevant ad hoc Groups and Working Groups• Advises the Director General on issues relevant to its work |
| <p>Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases</p> <p>Scientific Commission</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assesses Member dossiers for the recognition of official animal health status and endorsement of official control programmes• Supports disease-specific strategies for disease surveillance, prevention and control• Oversees the work of relevant ad hoc Groups and Working Groups• Provides technical advice to the Code Commission, where relevant |
| <p>Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission</p> <p>Aquatic Animal Commission</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversees amendments to the Aquatic Code and the Aquatic Manual• Oversee the work of relevant ad hoc Groups• Proposes the designation of Reference Centres relevant to aquatic animal health and monitors their performance |
| <p>Biological Standards Commission</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversees amendments to the Terrestrial Manual• Proposes the designation of Reference Centres relevant to terrestrial animal health and monitors their performance• Provides technical advice to the Code Commission, where relevant |



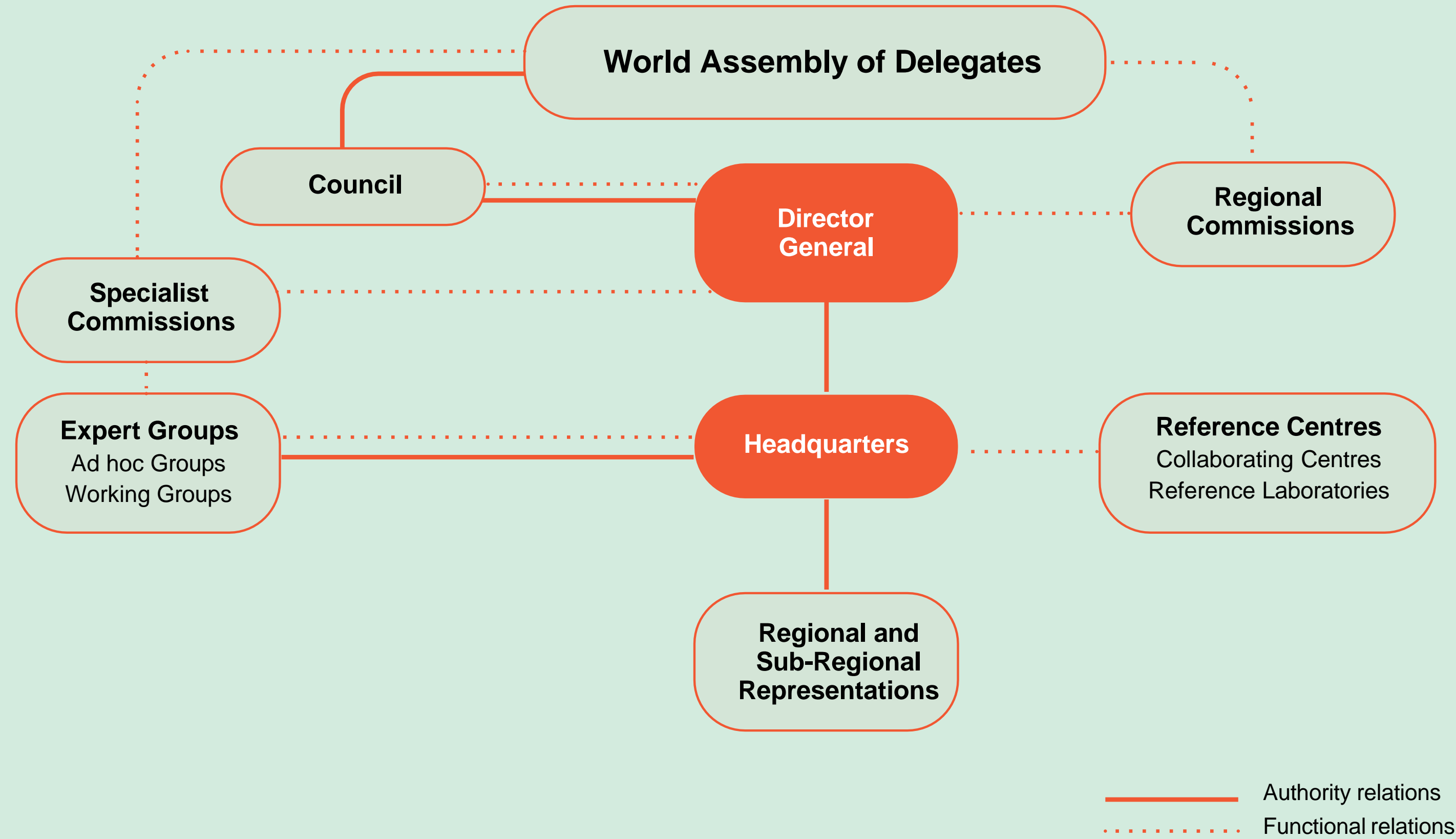
Our governance structure

Ad hoc and Working Groups





Our governance structure





Our governance structure

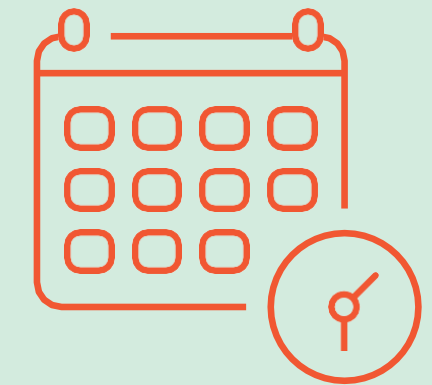
Director General

Since 1 August 2024



Dr Emmanuelle Soubeiyran

- Elected in May 2024 by the World Assembly of Delegates. Currently in her 1st term replacing Dr Monique Eloit who had been DG since 2015.
- Responsible for finalising the implementation of the Seventh Strategic Plan and leading the development of the next strategic plan.
- Supervising the activities of: WOAHA's HQ, Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.



5-year
Term



Our governance structure

Regional (RR) and Sub-Regional (SRR) Representations

- Under the direct authority of the Director General
- Collaborate closely with Regional Commissions





Our governance structure

Africa

Regional Representative

Dr Karim Tounkara
Bamako (Mali)

Sub-Regional Representatives

Southern Africa:

Dr Moetapele
Letshwenyo

North Africa:

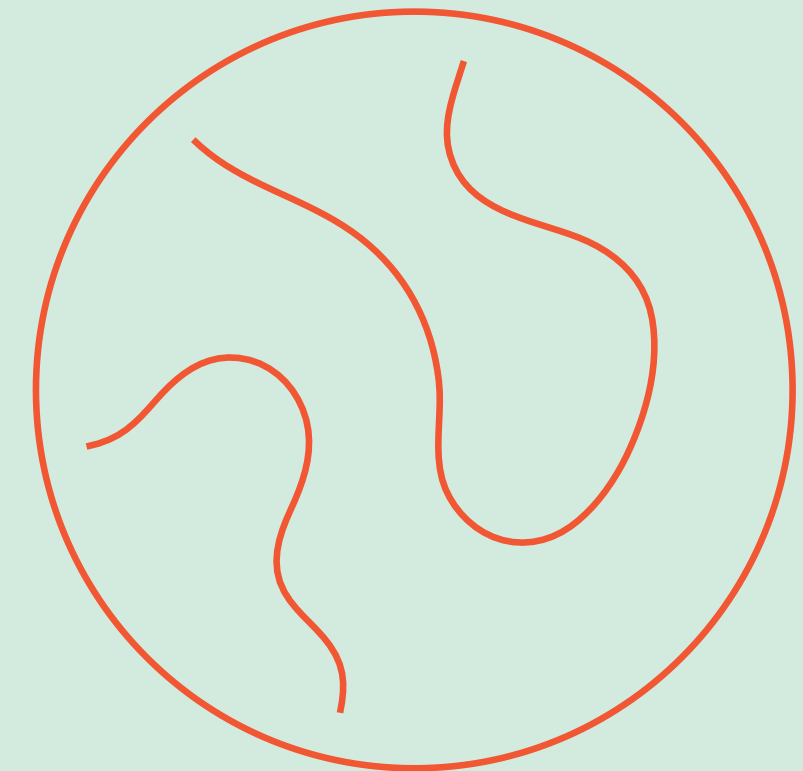
Dr Rachid
Bouguedour

Eastern Africa:

Dr Neo
Mapitse

rr-africa-woah.org

[@WOAH_Africa](https://twitter.com/WOAH_Africa)





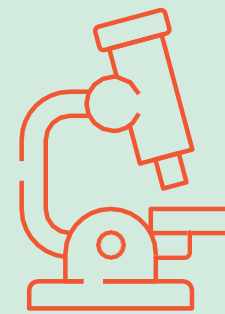
Our governance structure

Reference Centres



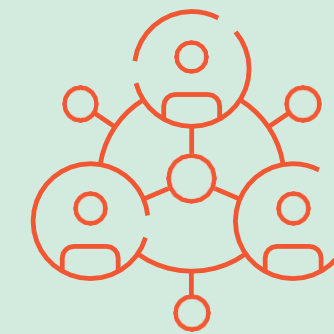
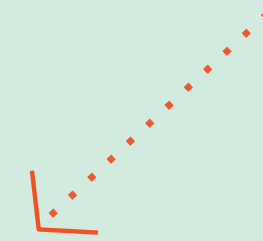
334

Reference Centres



266

Reference Laboratories



68

Collaborating Centres



Our governance structure

Reference Laboratories

Expert Centres for animal diseases

Under the responsibility of an expert:

- Develop, perform and validate **diagnostic tests**
- Store and distribute **reference reagents**
- Conduct laboratory **proficiency tests** of samples from other Members' laboratories
- Coordinate **technical and scientific studies**
- Organise **technical and scientific training** for Members

New Reference Laboratories are adopted through resolution by the World Assembly of Delegates at the General Session in May of each year.

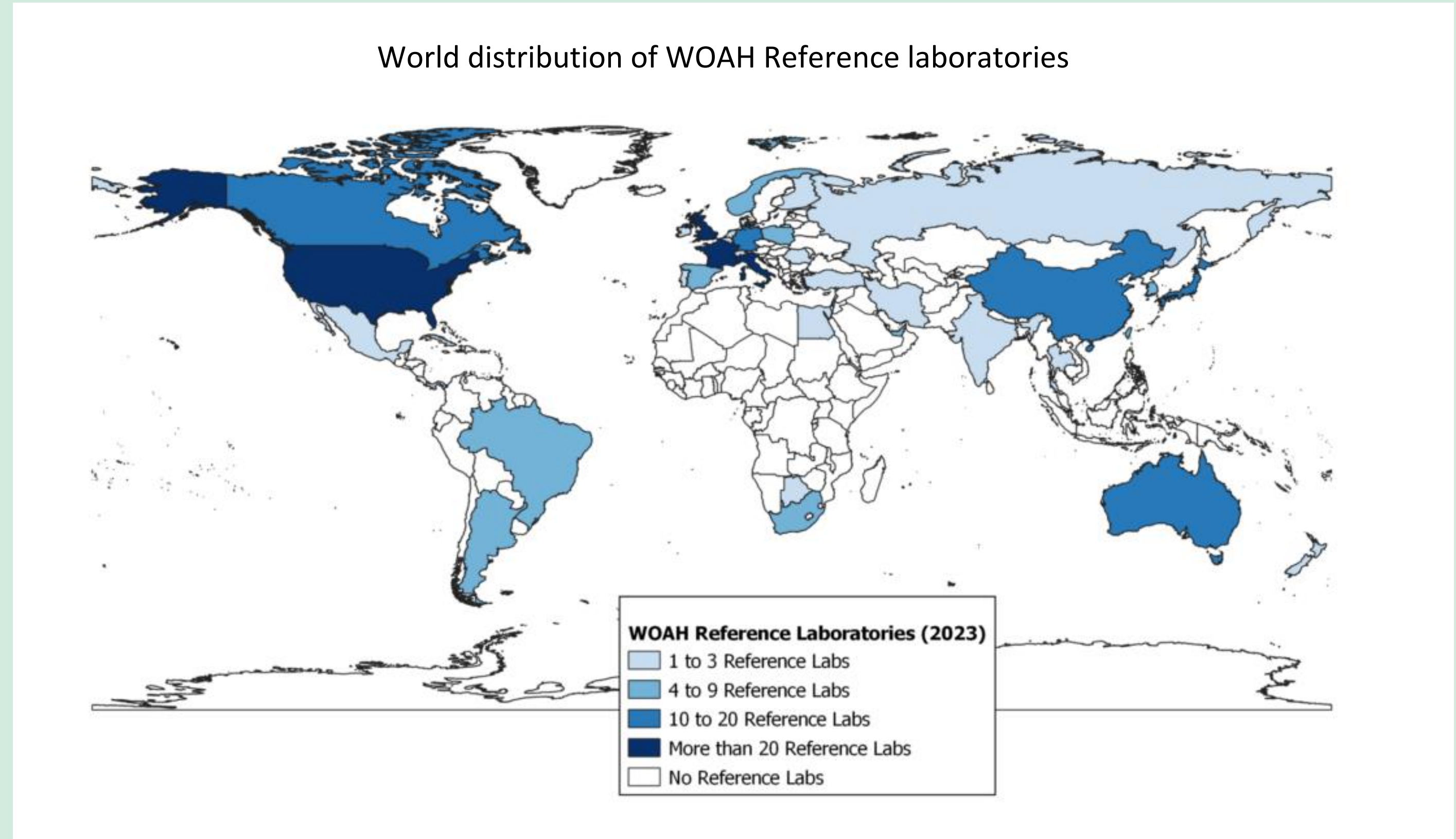




Our governance structure

Reference Laboratories

270 Reference laboratories for **108** diseases in 39 countries





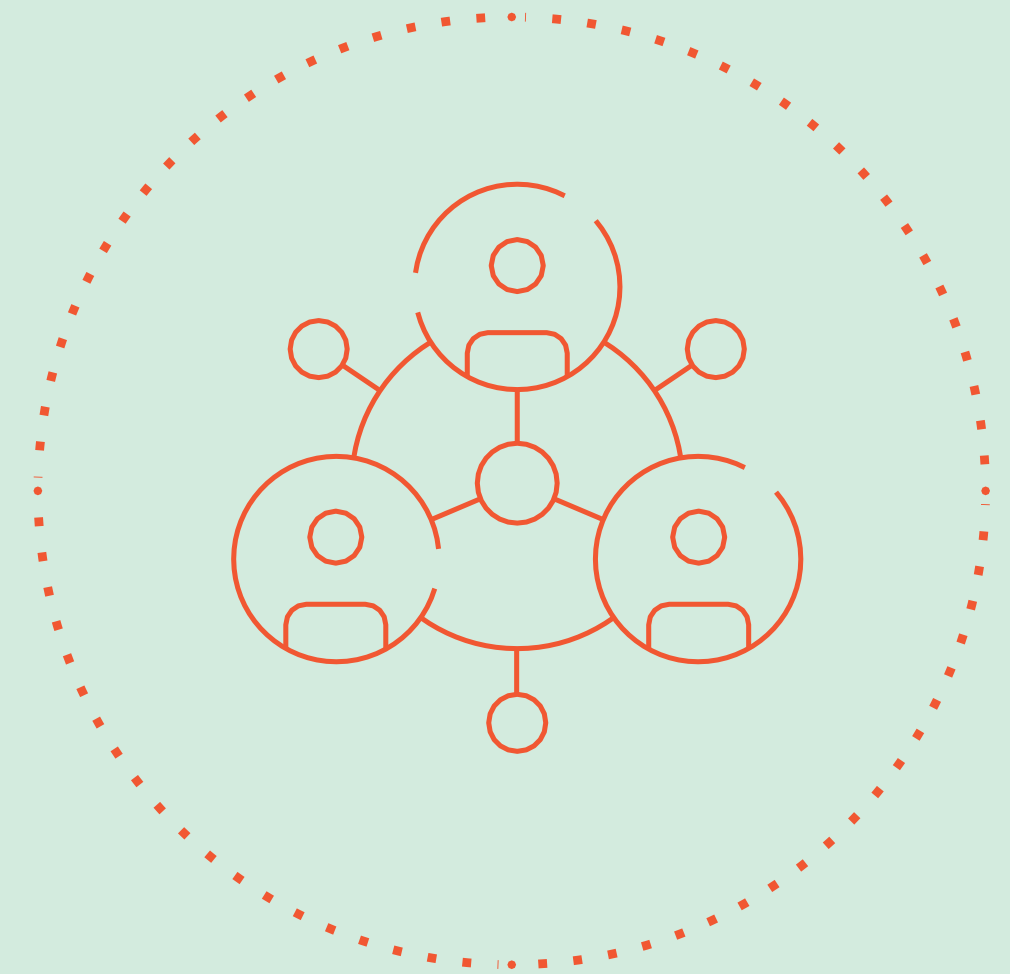
Our governance structure

Collaborating Centre

Centres of excellence on horizontal topics

- Designated for a **specific specialty within a focus area** relating to the management of general questions on animal health issues
- To provide services to WOAH, in particular within the region, in the **designated specialty**, in support of the implementation of policies
- Coordinate **scientific studies**
- Provide **technical training**
- Organise and host **scientific meetings** in collaboration with WOAH

New Collaborating Centres are adopted through resolution by the World Assembly of Delegates at the General Session in May of each year.





Our partners



Our partners

We work hard to build a robust network of **Members, partners, experts** and **global communities**. We rely on these important partnerships and acknowledge that we cannot operate and evolve without the continuous exchange of information and resources.

We partner with over **75 organisations** at the international and regional levels, and in the private sector.... in the fields of **health, environment, trade, wildlife** and more.





Development and Implementation of Standards



Development and Implementation of Standards

- International Standards: WOAH develops international standards that guide the safe trade of animals and animal products, disease control, and animal welfare.
- These standards are recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and are critical for ensuring global health security.
- Codes and Manuals: WOAH publishes Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes and Manuals, which contain the standards and guidelines for disease prevention, control, and safe trade.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: WOAH monitors the implementation of these standards through regular evaluations, and member countries are encouraged to comply with these standards to ensure global harmonisation.



Development and Implementation of Standards

- WOAHA's governance and standards are vital for maintaining global animal health, which is intrinsically linked to human health, food security, and sustainable development.
- The continued commitment of member countries to adhere to WOAHA standards and actively participate in its governance structures is essential for achieving a healthier, safer world for all

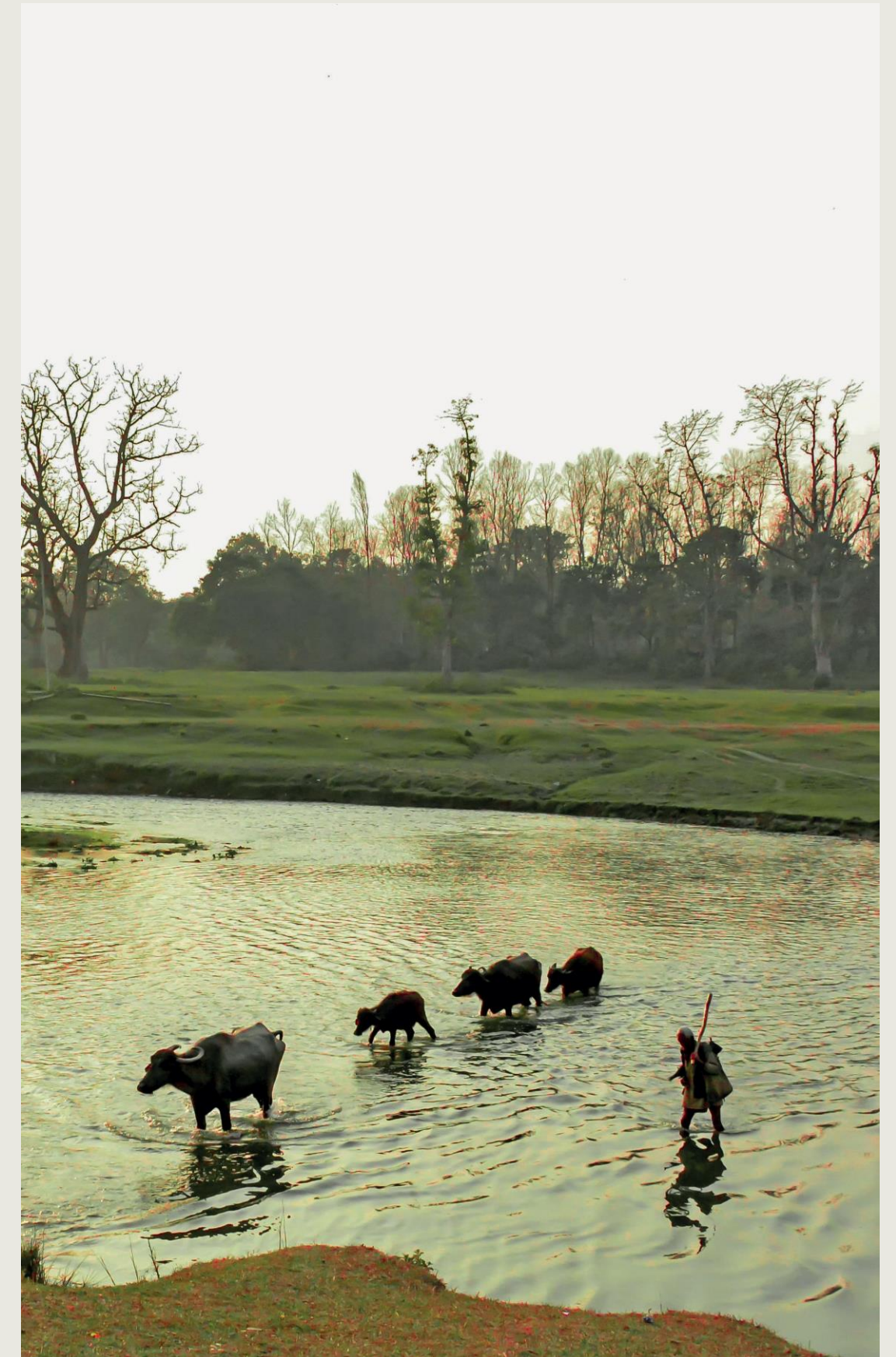


Learn more about us by visiting our website

www.woah.org




You can discover more about our mission and our core activities, such as:

- Our International Standards
- Technical and Professional guidance
- Communication campaigns and tools
- In-depth explanations of our activities and programmes
- The World Animal Health Information System





Follow us on social media

-  World Organisation for Animal Health
-  @WOAH @WOAHforMembers @WOAH_DG
-  @worldanimalhealth
-  World Organisation for Animal Health
-  World Organisation for Animal Health
-  World Organisation for Animal Health

Thank you

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France
T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

woah@woah.org
www.woah.org

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Flickr](#)



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health
Founded as OIE

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal
Fundada como OIE

