

92GS/Draft Report/En

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11 June 2025

**Draft Report**  
**92nd General Session**  
**Paris, 25–29 May 2025**

# Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa Session 1 (virtual)

The Regional Commission for Africa met by videoconference on 8 May 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 80 participants, including Delegates and/or Alternate Delegates from 38 Members of the Commission and representatives from 6 international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroun, Cape Verde, Central African (Rep.), Chad, Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Cote 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, 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), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) / IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) Centre, Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

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 **Outcomes of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 7 February 2025**

Dr Abderrahman El Abrak, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Morocco, summarised the main conclusions from the topics presented and discussed during the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa. The Conference was attended by 120 participants, including WOAHA Delegates, representatives of 37 Members of the Region, and senior officers from 12 regional and international organisations and institutions.

Dr El Abrak highlighted the following key points that the conference emphasised: 1) the need for Members to better coordinate among themselves, foster partnerships and engage with stakeholders to prevent, control and eradicate diseases; and 2) the importance of advocacy, visibility, and establishing clear frameworks and policies to improve animal health and welfare, ensure food safety, and secure trade.

Finally, he reminded the Delegates that two recommendations had been adopted by the Regional Commission regarding the two technical items of the Conference (Technical Item I: Control and eradication of CBPP in Africa: Challenges and Strategies for a CBPP Free Africa, and the Technical Item II: Veterinary Services and food safety: challenges and perspectives for policy development in the context of market unification on a continental scale). Both recommendations will be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for endorsement.

## 3 **Confirmation of the date and venue of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2027**

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*Final Report of the 92nd General Session*

Dr Rose Ademun, Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Uganda, asked the Regional Commission Delegates if any Members were interested in hosting the next Regional Conference.

Chad, Liberia, and Zimbabwe expressed an interest in hosting the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa in February 2027. Dr Ademun also said that her country would be interested in hosting the Conference.

The Regional and Sub Regional Representatives were requested to share detailed information on the financial responsibilities of the host country with the interested Members, so they could discuss the matter at national level and make a final decision before the next Regional Commission meeting.

The host country will be confirmed during the Regional Commission Meeting for Africa, which will be held in person during the General Session on Sunday, 25 May 2025.

4 **Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa**

Following a Zoom poll consultation, the Regional Commission selected the following technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission:

Impact of climate change on the emergence of vector-borne diseases:  
Challenges and prospects for control

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

Following a Zoom poll, the Regional Commission agreed to select a unique strategic topic of global interest to be addressed by the WOAHA through various means:

Current global situation of AMR in terrestrial and aquatic animals:  
challenges, perspectives and implications for Veterinary Services

6 **Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results**

Ms Stéphanie Frehel, Head of the Performance Management and Internal Control Unit, presented the key findings of the workshops held with the Regional Core Group (RCG) members during the first phase of the 8th WOAHA Strategic Plan development. She reported that the process had been designed to be inclusive and collaborative, with the aim of defining shared priorities for the next five years through strategic pillars and measurable outcomes. The workshops highlighted the key regional priorities expressed by RCG members from the five regions. For Africa, these included capacity building, prevention and control of animal diseases from a regional perspective, reform of veterinary training, Intra-African trade, climate change and AMR (emphasis on regional and interdisciplinary cooperation).

Ms Frehel explained that the following common strategic topics had been identified across the regions during the workshops: standard setting and safe trade; animal health and welfare services and systems; and the need for WOAHA to affirm its leadership on animal health. Enablers had also been identified, including collaboration partnerships, sustainability (in terms of resources and governance), and data and technology.

Ms Frehel provided details of the next steps and concluded by informing participants that the findings of the first phase will inform the development of the strategic axes and enablers of the 8th Strategic Plan to be presented by the Director General during the General Session. The findings will also inform the next phase of the plan's development. This phase will focus on the content of the axes and involve a larger number of Members through regional workshops conducted between 30 June and 2 July.

**7 Outcomes of the 12th GF-TAD Regional Steering Committee for Africa**

Dr Roland Dlamini, member of the Council and Delegate of Eswatini, presented the outcomes of the 12<sup>th</sup> GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Africa, which took place in Mbabane, Eswatini, from 11 to 13 March 2025.

Dr Dlamini stated that the main objective of the meeting was to review the implementation of the Regional Strategy and gather updates on priority transboundary animal diseases. He noted that the meeting featured lively discussions on emerging issues, such as High Pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), regional networks and activities, and the critical importance of strengthening Veterinary Services.

He concluded by presenting a summary of the key recommendations from the meeting.

**8 Outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of Standing Group of Experts (SGE) for African Swine Fever**

Dr Viola Chemis, WOAHA Programme Officer, updated the Regional Commission on the outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts (SGE) for African swine fever (ASF), held from 15 to 17 October 2024. The meeting focused on outbreak management, with the aim of understanding national capabilities and capacities for responding to ASF outbreaks.

Dr Chemis mentioned that ASF remains widely present in Africa, wherever pig production is practiced, and that cross-border trade plays an important role in virus transmission. The meeting emphasised that the common practice of total (classic) stamping out has had an adverse effect on human livelihoods, pig welfare, and the environment.

She concluded by reporting that the meeting group recommended adopting alternative culling approaches, such as partial and or selective culling. Other key recommendations included promoting market related incentives to enhance compliance during outbreak management, and intensifying biosecurity, compartmentalisation, stakeholder engagement, risk communication, and behaviour change initiatives.

**9 Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at 92 General Session and consultation on technical governance**

Dr Botho Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and Chair of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), presented an update outlining the Committee's ongoing work and initial recommendations.

He reported that the Committee had held three meetings to develop its work programme and formulate initial recommendations in response to Resolution No. 12 of 2024, which called for potential amendments to the WOAHA Basic Texts. It had been noted that the GRC would take into account the findings of the external analysis of WOAHA's institutional, technical, and financial governance (document 91GS/Adm-13), as well as other reform proposals identified by WOAHA Secretariat or by the Committee itself.

Dr Modisane also announced that the GRC's report to the 92nd General Session (92GS/Adm-06) sets out a two-phase work programme. Phase 1 involves assessing possible changes to WOAHA's governance structure and presenting recommendations to the Assembly in 2027. Phase 2 focuses on drafting the necessary legal texts to implement the Assembly's decisions. The programme also includes indicative timelines for consulting Delegates throughout the process. The report includes eight recommendations for governance reforms that can be implemented from May 2025 onwards without requiring amendments to the Basic Texts. Three of these require additional work and consultation, particularly with Regional and Specialist Commissions, before formal proposals can be submitted in 2027. These include potential changes to the appointment process for Specialist Commissions as well as enhancing transparency around Members' financial contributions and arrears. The remaining recommendations, which can be implemented by the Secretariat, aim to improve transparency, for example, creating a central repository of WOAHA experts and publishing Council meeting minutes.

Regarding Draft Resolution No. 5 for the 92nd General Session, he noted that it accurately reflects the conclusions of the GRC report and had been reviewed by GRC members. The resolution proposes that the Assembly take note of the GRC's work programme and the initial reforms to be implemented by the Secretariat, and approve that the GRC beginning to work on initial governance reforms, with a view to submitting a proposal to the Assembly at the 2027 General Session.

Dr Modisane finally informed participants that the GRC would begin examining potential improvements to WOA's technical governance at its upcoming meeting, scheduled for 23 - 24 May 2025. He reminded participants that background information papers had been made available on the WOA Delegate Portal, allowing Delegates to review the materials and share their feedback with their respective regional GRC members. The consultation will mainly focus on two key areas: first, whether to revise the appointment process for members of the Specialist Commissions, including the possible introduction of term limits and gender balance considerations; and second, whether to reorganise WOA's technical bodies structure by consolidating its working groups and ad hoc groups into a single type of technical body, governed by a unified process for establishment and members' appointment.

Dr Modisane concluded by reminding Delegates that they could provide input either during the meeting or via alternative channels agreed upon with their regional GRC representatives, such as email.

#### 10 **Benefits of WOA Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes**

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Coordination Manager, gave a brief explanation of the outcomes of the independent analysis of the benefits of WOA Membership. This project was launched to support Members' engagement and advocacy efforts, particularly at high political levels. She announced that the ten-month project, which ran from May 2023 to March 2024, was funded by the Australian government and conducted by an external consultancy firm selected through a consultation of suppliers' process. The initiative aimed to clarify the value of WOA Membership for both current and prospective Members, to inform advocacy activities. She noted that all deliverables had been completed on time, including a proposed advocacy framework designed to improve communication, clarify WOA's mandate, and support Delegates in promoting the organisation's benefits. Implementing this framework is expected to strengthen institutional identity and help national decision-makers better understand the return on investment of WOA Membership.

Ms Monsalve commented that the analysis, based on internal and external consultations, had identified key challenges, such as the difficulty of justifying Membership costs for less-resourced Members and the absence of communication tools tailored to policymakers. The findings also emphasised the importance for clearer communication about WOA's unique value compared to other international organisations.

She then summarised the project's recommendations, highlighting that the analysis had proposed several actions to enhance the visibility, understanding, and impact of WOA's value, mandate, and engagement. These included, among others, creating a dedicated Membership page, consolidating benefit listings (especially for less-resourced or non-trade-focused Members) and establishing systems that allow better follow-up of activities in order to measure impact more effectively. The project also emphasised the importance of clearly communicating WOA's role in co-funded initiatives. Clarifying WOA's mandate and addressing overlaps with other international organisations had also been recommended. Tailored engagement strategies, improved accessibility of capacity-building programmes, and a transparent, equitable financial contribution system had been identified as priorities for engaging Members more effectively. In terms of advocacy, the analysis called for a formal strategy targeting high-level decision-makers, supported by tailored tools and regular advocacy training for Delegates (the main WOA contact at national level) and WOA staff (WOA ambassadors). It also recommended stronger collaboration between HQ and regional offices to incorporate regional visions and expectations into the global strategies. Deliverable 3 proposed a medium- to long-term advocacy framework to empower Delegates, engage all WOA staff, shift communication to a Member-centric perspective, communicate WOA's value in a way that is tailored to each Member's unique

context, and use a language and a content that is tailored to political and financial decision-makers.

Ms Nathaly Monsalve emphasised that the purpose of this presentation was to provide preliminary feedback on the project results, primarily to keep Members informed of progress. She took the opportunity to express her appreciation for the valuable input received from all Members and non-Members that had been consulted for this project. She noted that the initial findings were consistent with the ongoing revision of the Basic Texts, particularly the recommendation to define WOA's mandate more clearly, and that they aligned closely with one of the Director General's key priorities: enhancing the Organisation's visibility.

Ms Monsalve concluded that the project has produced substantial material to support the implementation of the Director General's vision and meaningfully contribute to the development of the 8th Strategic Plan. The results will be presented to the Council during its September meeting along with more precise proposal for the next steps, which will be discussed and defined further.

**11 General Session kiosks and side events**

Ms Nathaly Monsalve provided information on the scheduled kiosks and side events during the General Session including WOA's Regions kiosk: Connecting expertise, building networks and fostering collaboration to strengthen Veterinary Services. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

**12 Organisation of the One Health Conference for the MENA zone, 14 and 15 June 2025, Tunisia**

Dr Wahib Mehri, Delegate of Tunisia, informed the Regional Commission about the One Health Conference for the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa), which the Tunisian government is organising, on 14 and 15 June 2025, with the financial support of the World Bank and the technical support of the Quadripartite.

He urged all North African Delegates to liaise with their respective Ministers of Agriculture to encourage participation and ensure the representation of national Veterinary Services at the event.

**13 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 25 May 2025, at 10: 00 a.m. CEST at the *Maison de la Chimie* in Paris. The meeting was attended by 31 Members of the Commission.

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Chad, Congo (Rep. of) ,Congo (Dem. Rep. of) , Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

International and regional partners were also present, including ENSV (Lyon), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), among others.

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 Chair invited the Commission Members to adopt the agenda with a modification in the order of the first two presentations.

The revised [agenda](#) was unanimously adopted.

### 2 **Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May)**

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and member of the Governance Review Committee (GRC), provided an update on the GRC meeting held on 23 and 24 May 2025. The meeting focused on technical governance. He commented that the meeting had emphasised the importance of maintaining robust and transparent Specialist Commissions that report directly to the Assembly, paying particular attention to scientific expertise, regional representation, and gender balance. The GRC discussed widely on the process for the appointment of Specialist Commission's members and measures to improve transparency and participation, including developing a repository of external experts, and clarifying expert workload expectations.

Finally, Dr Modisane urged the region to gather feedback from all Members on the different documents, so that comments could be submitted on the region's behalf.

### 3 **Activities of the Regional Quadripartite Secretariat**

Dr Lillian Wambua gave an overview of the governance structures of the regional secretariat and the Africa Regional Coordination Group. She emphasised the critical importance of collaboration at national, regional and global levels. She also discussed regional Quadripartite activities. She emphasised the regional secretariat's role in providing technical support to the regional executive and coordinating the regional implementation of the One Health approach. The secretariat also supports the adaptation of the One Health global framework at regional and country levels in collaboration with the global secretariat.

### 4 **Application from Kenya for WOA to designate the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi as a WOA Collaborating Centre for One Health**

Dr Allan Azegzele, Delegate of Kenya, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the designation of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi as a WOA Collaborating Centre for One Health.

He emphasised ILRI's expertise and its capacity to fulfil the centre's responsibilities, confirming that all relevant information had been provided to the Delegates in advance.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.



5 **Outcomes of the Continental Conference “Towards a More Resilient Workforce for Africa 2024”**

Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department, reported on the Africa Continental Conference on Veterinary Workforce Development : Spotlight on partnerships, youth and gender engagement, held in Nairobi in November 2024, noting the gender imbalance among the 187 participants, and relayed key recommendations from Members:

- Strengthening the legal framework, investing in education, promoting gender balance, improving collaboration among veterinary professionals, supporting youth and technology development.

She highlighted that WOAHA continues to support Members through PVS missions to build more resilient and responsive Veterinary Services. Ms Alessandrini called for continued commitment to sustainable development, engagement, and forward-looking action.

6 **Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting**

Dr Rose Ademun, Vice- President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Uganda, shared a summary of the online meeting held on 8 May 2025, which was attended by 38 Members of the region and during which key topics were discussed such as :

- The Technical Item I (with questionnaire), which will be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission under the title: " Impact of climate change on the emergence of vector-borne diseases: Challenges and prospects for control".
  - Outcomes of the 12th GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee (RSC) held in Eswatini in March 2025.
  - Outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of SGE for African Swine Fever (ASF) held online in October 2024.
  - Update on work programme and initial recommendations of the Governance Review Committee for adoption at the 92nd General Session.
  - Benefits of WOAHA Membership - independent analysis, preliminary results of the project.
- During the virtual meeting, Members from four countries interested in hosting the next Regional Conference agreed to consult and make a final decision during the face-to-face meeting.

The Regional Commission finally confirmed that the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa will be held in Uganda in February 2027.

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

Dr N'lemba Mabela, chaired the discussion regarding the proposal of candidates for the position of Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa, who will be put forward for election at the World Assembly.

Dr N'lemba Mabela explained that the position was vacant because the Delegate from Nigeria have withdrawn.

Delegates of the Region agreed to propose Dr Abdou Ceesay (Gambia) for the position of Secretary General of the Regional Commission.



## 8 **Reflection of Statutory Contributions – Experience sharing**

During the session, several Members shared a variety of national experiences and strategies for paying contributions to WOAAH. The discussion allowed some key insights:

Firstly, Delegates emphasised the importance of proactive advocacy in order to highlight the value of WOAAH membership. Engaging with relevant ministries through diplomatic channels was also identified as essential. One Member shared a compelling advocacy approach involving posing the question, 'What would we lose if WOAAH didn't exist?', which is a powerful way to communicate the organisation's relevance to policymakers.

In some cases, managing the contribution budget directly through Veterinary Services can enhance institutional independence and decision-making capacity. Members noted that presenting economic arguments can effectively demonstrate the return on investment from WOAAH's support for national animal health systems.

However, contributions remain a sensitive issue for some Members. Efforts are being made to ensure that ministries are fully informed about the scope of WOAAH's mandate, which includes disseminating animal health information, evaluation of the performance of the Veterinary Services (PVS Pathway), building the capacity of national Focal Points, holding Regional Conferences, donating vaccines, supporting disease control and granting official disease status. It was suggested that inviting ministers to attend the General Session would foster understanding and support.

Members were encouraged to find practical solutions for settling outstanding contributions. It was noted with concern that unpaid contributions could result in the loss of voting rights, which would limit regional representation in the decision of the Assembly. To ensure the region's voice is effectively heard in global decision-making processes, it was emphasised that broad participation is crucial.

Delegates were urged to strengthen their engagement with WOAAH, both financially and through active participation in the organisation's activities.

The relevance of external funding opportunities, such as the Pandemic Fund, was also highlighted. A proposal was put forward to hold a dedicated meeting with ministers responsible for livestock and animal health. The aim would be to advocate the importance of paying WOAAH's contributions and to develop a targeted communication strategy for decision-makers. Dr Karim Tounkara emphasised that the overarching goal is to improve contribution levels across the continent. To this end, the Regional Commission will engage with each Member to assess their specific situation and explore solutions based on solidarity.

## 9 **Closing**

The meeting officially ended at 12:30 p.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE  
WOAH REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**  
**Session 1 (virtual)**  
**8 May 2025**  
**(1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CEST)**

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**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 for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
1:05 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Outcomes of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 7 February 2025 (Dr Abderrahman El Abrak, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Morocco)
1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Confirmation of the date and venue of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2027 (Dr Rose Ademun, Vice- President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Uganda)
1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela)
1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.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 Mbargou Lo, Council member and Delegate of Senegal)
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results (Ms Stéphanie Frehel/Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management and Internal Control Unit)
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Outcomes of the 12 <sup>th</sup> GF-TAD Regional Steering Committee for Africa (Dr Roland Dlamini, Council member and Delegate of Eswatini)
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of SGE for African Swine Fever (Dr Viola Chemis, Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa)
2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at 92 General Session and consultation on technical governance (Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of South Africa)
3:30 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Benefits of WOAHA Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes (Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Department)
3:50 p.m.	Organisation of the One Health Conference for the MENA zone, 14 and 15 June 2025, Tunisia ( Dr Wahib Mehri, Delegate of Tunisia)
3:55 p.m.	Closing (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela)
4:00 p.m.	End of the meeting

**Session 2 (Presential)**  
**25 May 2025**  
**(10:00 to 12:30 pm Paris time)**

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**Draft Agenda**

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
10:05 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May) (Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of South Africa)
10:20 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	Activities of the Regional Quadripartite Secretariat (Dr Lillian Wambua, Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa)
10:35 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Application from Kenya for WOAHP to designate the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi as a WOAHP Collaborating Centre for One Health (Dr Allan Azegele, Delegate of Kenya)
11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Outcomes of the Continental Conference "Towards a More Resilient Workforce for Africa 2024" (Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department)
11:20 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr Rose Ademun, Vice- President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Uganda)
11:35 a.m. – 11:50 am	Partial elections: selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission as Secretary General (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela)
11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Reflection of Statutory Contributions – Experience sharing. Introduction by Dr N'lemba Mabela (Delegates of Senegal, Cameroon, Uganda, Morocco and South Africa)
12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	General discussions
12:30 p.m.	Closing (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela)

## Session 2 (face to face)

The Regional Commission for the Middle East met face to face on 25 May 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CEST at the *Maison de la Chimie* in Paris. The meeting was attended by 42 participants from 11 Members of the Commission:

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

Observers: ADAFSA Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases, and Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute.

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 14 May 2025, 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 WOAHA through various means, among others.

### 3 **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, One Health Senior Specialist and Global Coordinator and Dr Faycal Meziani, Technical Expert from the Regional Representation for the Middle East, presented the objectives and framework of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (JPA), highlighting how it provides a global framework for enhancing multisectoral collaboration in preventing and mitigating health threats at the human-animal-environment interface.

Dr Meziani highlighted the regional achievements made through the Quadripartite (QPT) collaboration, including finalising the Regional One Health Action Plan, establishing the Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism and drafting the Joint Statement of Intent for Regional One Health Coordination. These strategic documents are currently undergoing final validation and endorsement and will be officially presented at the Regional One Health Conference in Tunis on 14–15 June 2025. Prior to this, an online signing ceremony for the Joint Statement will take place on Monday, 2 June 2025, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. CET, showcasing the region's leadership and dedication to the One Health approach.

### 4 **Implementation of Post Vaccination Monitoring studies for FMD and PPR in the region**

Dr Santina Grazioli, Director of IZS Brescia, and Dr Ahmad Al Majali, Regional Representative for the Middle East, informed participants why Post Vaccination Monitoring is necessary to optimise vaccination programmes and the use of limited resources to achieve expected results. Demonstrating the impact of vaccination programmes on disease helps justify the cost of vaccination and identify weaknesses in the programme to improve it. Monitoring vaccination programmes and population immunity are important components of the surveillance system for countries embarking on a vaccine-based foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) control programme (PCP stage 2 and 3).

To help countries monitor and design their Post Vaccination Monitoring, a group of experts supported by WOAHA and FAO published a guide setting out and explaining the different steps in the process and assisting with the evaluation of FMD vaccination regimen and programme performance. The results of the Post Vaccination Monitoring conducted in Syria in 2021 serve as an example of the information that can be obtained from this study.

Dr Al Majali highlighted that, despite vaccination efforts in the Middle East, PPR outbreaks are still being reported in some parts of the region, mainly due to bottlenecks in surveillance activities. Prevalence studies to assess PPRV antibodies and immunity status are crucial for PPR eradication. This includes post-vaccination evaluation (PVE) and sero-monitoring, which determine vaccine efficacy and vaccination effectiveness respectively. Dr Al Majali stressed the importance of including protocols for assessing the post-vaccination immune response (sero-monitoring) to evaluate overall vaccination effectiveness.

## **5 The Role of the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Camel Disease in Improving Camel Health Regionally and Inter-regionally**

Ms Asma Abdi Mohammed of the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases provided a presentation on the necessity of establishing a Collaborating Centre for camel diseases in the Middle East due to the lack of specialised facilities for diagnosing and responding to camel disease emergencies in the region. She noted that, in May 2022, the centre was recognised by the WOAHA and nominated as the world's first specialised WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases (WOAHA-CCD), hosted by Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. The centre provides consultancy and technical support to countries practising camel breeding worldwide, with the aim of filling the knowledge gap on camel diseases, diagnostic capacities, and epidemiological and research studies. The centre has developed and activated specialised, well-equipped diagnostic facilities, including a modern biobanking system and high biosafety level laboratories for the safe handling of high-risk pathogens. It also has advanced molecular and sequencing technologies for the epidemiological characterisation of pathogens. This will support local and national authorities, as well as international partners, in responding rapidly and in a timely manner to epidemic emergencies within the scope of the One Health approach.

Dr Kaltham Kayaf, Delegate of the UAE, added that the WOAHA Reference Laboratory CVRL in Dubai is engaged in the study of MERS-CoV, Pox and brucellosis.

## **6 Update on the activities of the Regional and Subregional Representation**

Dr Ahmad Al Majali and Dr Mohamed Alhosani provided updates on the activities carried out at the Regional and Subregional offices, respectively, including workshops, webinars, meetings and training sessions, as well as upcoming activities.

## **7 Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May)**

Dr Christodoulos Pipis, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Cyprus, provided a brief overview of the discussions held during the meeting on 23 and 24 May.

He emphasised that, at the last physical GRC meeting, which took place in Paris on 23–24 May 2025, Codex and IPPC representatives presented an overview of the technical work of their respective Organisation to feed the GRC discussion on WOAHA's technical governance. He mentioned that, subsequently, the group reviewed the text alongside the proposals presented by the Secretariat regarding WOAHA's technical governance, as well as the proposed Resolution 5 text.

Dr Pipis added that, following discussion, the GRC had decided to proceed with two of the eight proposed texts on the technical governance review and had requested the Secretariat to prepare the relevant informative texts for dissemination and consultation with the Regional Commissions. Regarding future steps, the next two meetings will be held virtually in July and September, followed by an in-person meeting in November 2025. The GRC recommendations will be presented at the 2026 General Session for endorsement, after which the respective texts will be drafted and presented for approval at the 2027 General Session.

## **8 Closing**

The meeting officially ended at 12:30 p.m. CEST.

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

**14 May 2025**  
**(9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CEST)**

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**Agenda**

8:45 a.m.– 9:05 a.m.	Zoom check-in and connecting
9:05 a.m.– 9:10 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Sanad Alharbi, President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia)
9:10 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.	Preparation of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission, to be held in Larnaca, Cyprus, from 24 to 28 November 2025 (Dr Christodoulos Pipis, Vice President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Cyprus)
9:25 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.	Application from Egypt for WOAHA to designate the Animal Reproduction Research Institute (ARRI) in Giza as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Animal Reproductive, Neonatal and Udder Health in the Middle East (Dr Hamed Al Aknas, Delegate of Egypt).
9:40 a.m. – 09:55 a.m	Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Vice-President of the Council and Delegate of Bahrain)
9:55 a.m. – 10:10 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)
10:10 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	Regional Core Group Workshops for the Development of the 8th Strategic Plan: Methodology and Results (Ms Stéphanie Frehel/ Ms Camilla Wuensch, Performance Management and Internal Control Unit)
10:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m..	Recommendations and conclusions of the roadmaps meeting and workshops related to Priority Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) in the region (Dr Faycal Meziani, Technical Expert of the Regional Representation for the Middle East).
10:40 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Update on work programme and initial recommendations for adoption at 92nd General Session and consultation on technical governance (Dr Christodoulos Pipis, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Cyprus)
11:20 a.m.- 11:40 a.m.	Benefits of WOAHA Membership independent analysis : Project outcomes (Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Regional Activities Department)

**CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY**

11:40a.m.-11:50 a.m.	Application from Egypt for WOAHA to designate the Animal Reproduction Research Institute (ARRI) in Giza as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Animal Reproductive, Neonatal and Udder Health in the Middle East (Dr Hamed Al Aknas, Delegate of Egypt).
11:50 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.	Discussions and Closing

**Session 2 (face to face)**  
**25 May 2025**  
**(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)**

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**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. – 10:45 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 Chadia Wannous, One Health Senior Specialist and Global Coordinator and Dr Faycal Meziani Technical Expert, RRME)
10:45 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	Implementation of Post Vaccination Monitoring studies for FMD and PPR in the region (Dr Santina Grazioli, Director of IZS Brescia/Dr Ahmad Al Majali, Regional Representative for the Middle East).
11:05 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.	The Role of the WOAHC Collaborating Centre for Camel Disease in Improving Camel Health Regionally and Inter-regional (Ms. Asma Abdi Mohammed, WOAHC Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases, Abu Dhabi, UAE).
11:25 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Update on the activities of the Regional and Subregional Representation (Dr Ahmad Al Majali, Regional Representative and Dr Mohamed Alhosani, Subregional Representative)
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.	Update of the Governance Review Committee meeting on technical governance (23 - 24 May) (Dr Christodoulos Pipis, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of Cyprus)
12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Conclusions and Next Steps, Closing remarks