



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Regional Training Seminar for WOAH National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories (cycle III)

8 - 10 July 2025, Gaborone, Botswana

WOAH IN BRIEF

Presented by

Moetapele Letshwenyo

Sub-Regional Representation for Southern



Co-funded by
the European Union



Counter Proliferation
& Arms Control Centre

Who we are

Our governance structure

Our financing structure

Our strategy

Supporting Veterinary Services

- a global authority on animal health;
- We do that by improving animal health, globally, through;



TRANSPARENCY

Management of animal health information



STANDARDS

Development of international standards and the monitoring of their implementation



CAPACITIES

Capacity building for animal health professionals

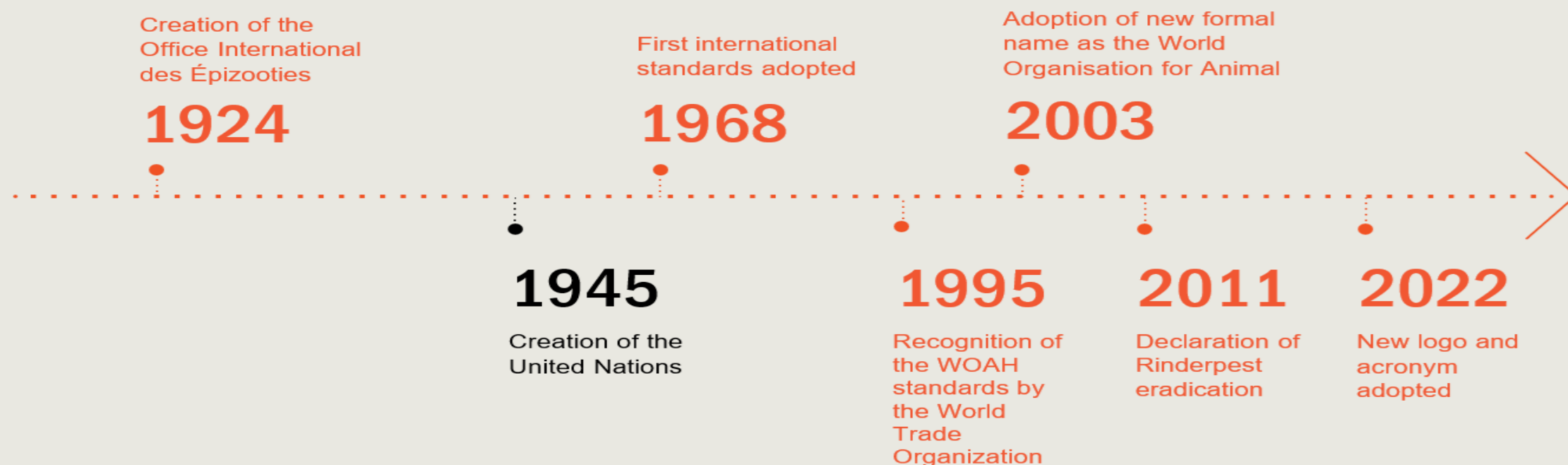


GLOBAL INITIATIVES

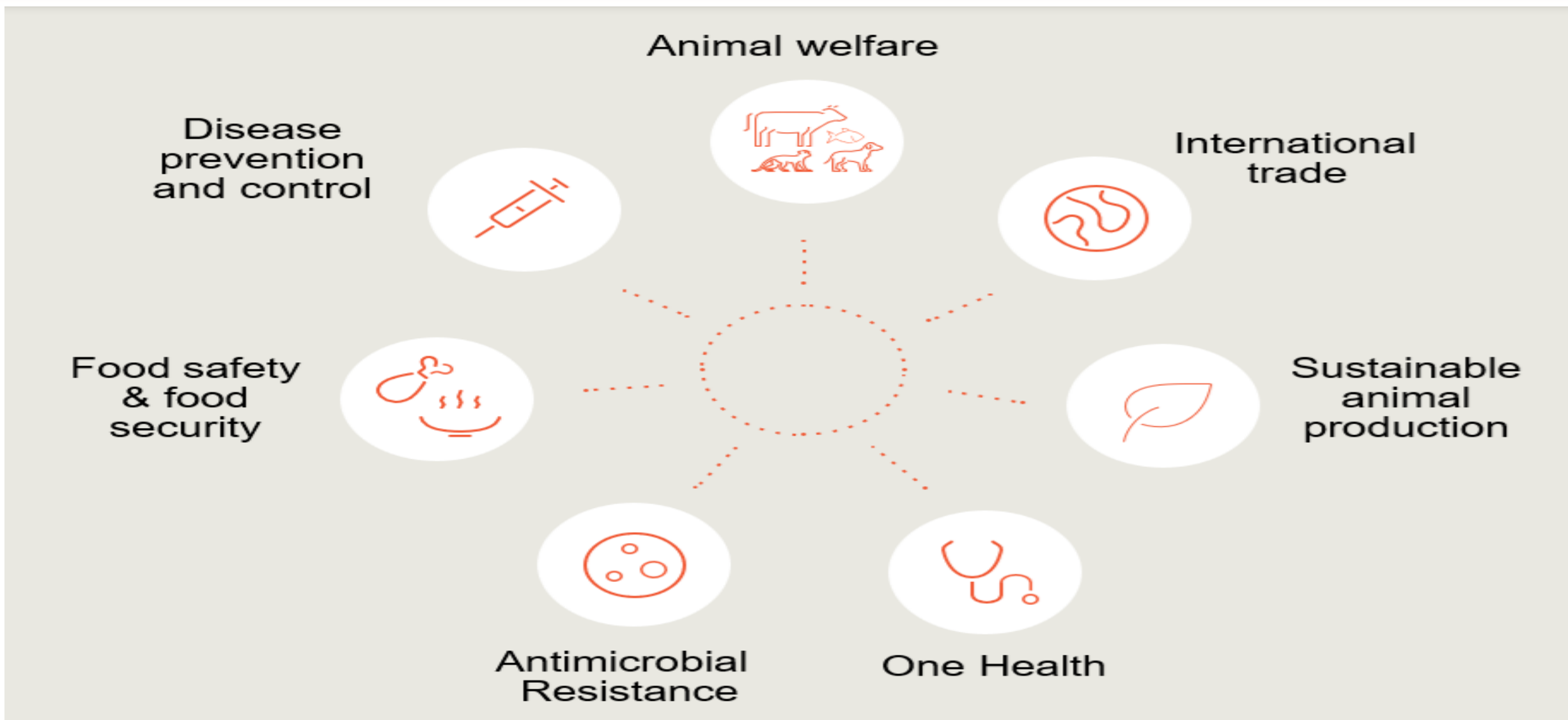
Development of global strategies and in country support to roll-out

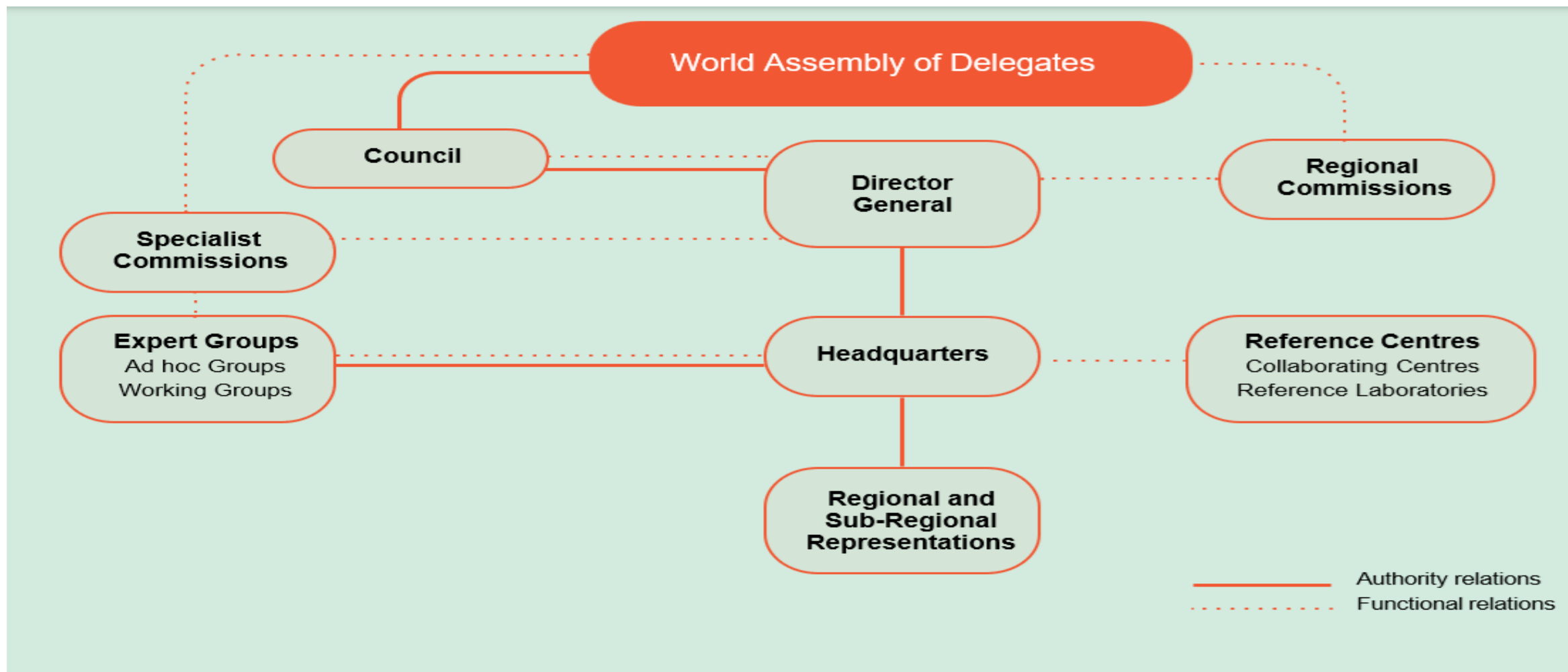
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

We have been at the forefront of controlling animal diseases for over 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.









- The highest authority of the Organisation, composed of all national Delegates, convenes at least once a year in May to adopt the standards published in the Codes and Manuals
- 1 Member = 1 Vote

The Delegate

Responsible for negotiating **international standards** on animal health

Convince his/her government to invest in **animal disease monitoring and prevention**



Appointed by the national government

Is a **national representative** with **international status**



The Delegate is most frequently the country's Chief Veterinary Officer

Notifies WOA of the **national animal disease situation**

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



Aquatic animals



Wildlife



Animal disease notification



Veterinary Laboratories



Communication



Animal welfare



Veterinary products-AMR

Appointed by the Delegate

Council



President

Dr Susana
Pombo
(Portugal)



Past President

Dr Hugo
Federico
Idoyaga
Benítez
(Paraguay)



Vice- President

Dr Fajer Al
Salloom
(Bahrain)

Dr Roland Xolani
Dlamini (Eswatini)

Dr Mbargou Lo
(Senegal)

Dr Wilmer José
Suarez
(Nicaragua)

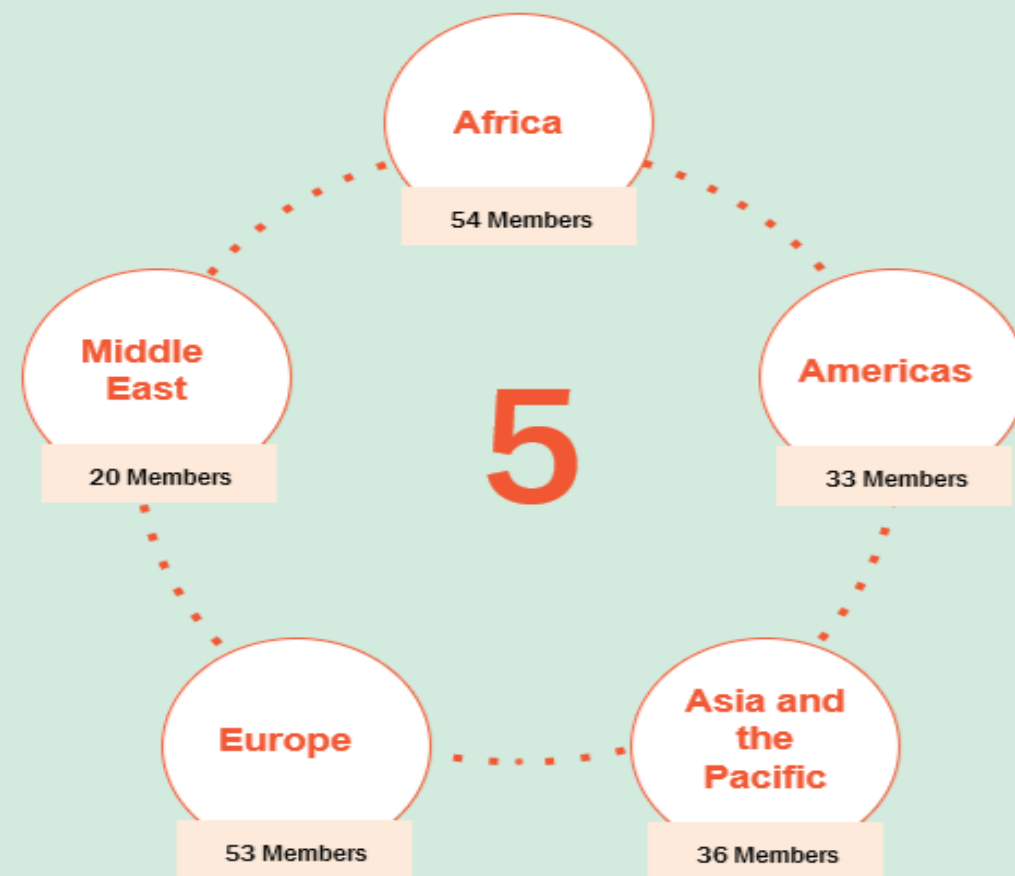
Dr Mary van Andel
(New Zealand)

Dr Masatsugu
Okita (Japan)

Dr Christine
Middlemiss
(United Kingdom)

Address specific local issues

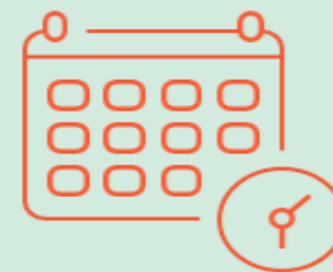
- Can be fully considered as **regional institutions**
- Bureau composed of **4 Delegates** elected for a **3-year term** of office by the World Assembly
- Regional Commission Conferences
 - Every 2 years
 - In one of the countries of the region
- **Recommendations** submitted to the World Assembly for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



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



**There is
strong
collaboration
among all
Commissions**

Terrestrial Animal Health
Standards Commission

**Code
Commission**

- Oversees amendments to the *Terrestrial Code*
- Oversees the work of relevant ad hoc Groups and Working Groups
- Advises the Director General on issues relevant to its work

Scientific Commission for
Animal Diseases

**Scientific
Commission**

- 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

Aquatic Animal Health
Standards Commission

**Aquatic Animal
Commission**

- 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

Biological
Standards
Commission

- 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

Director General

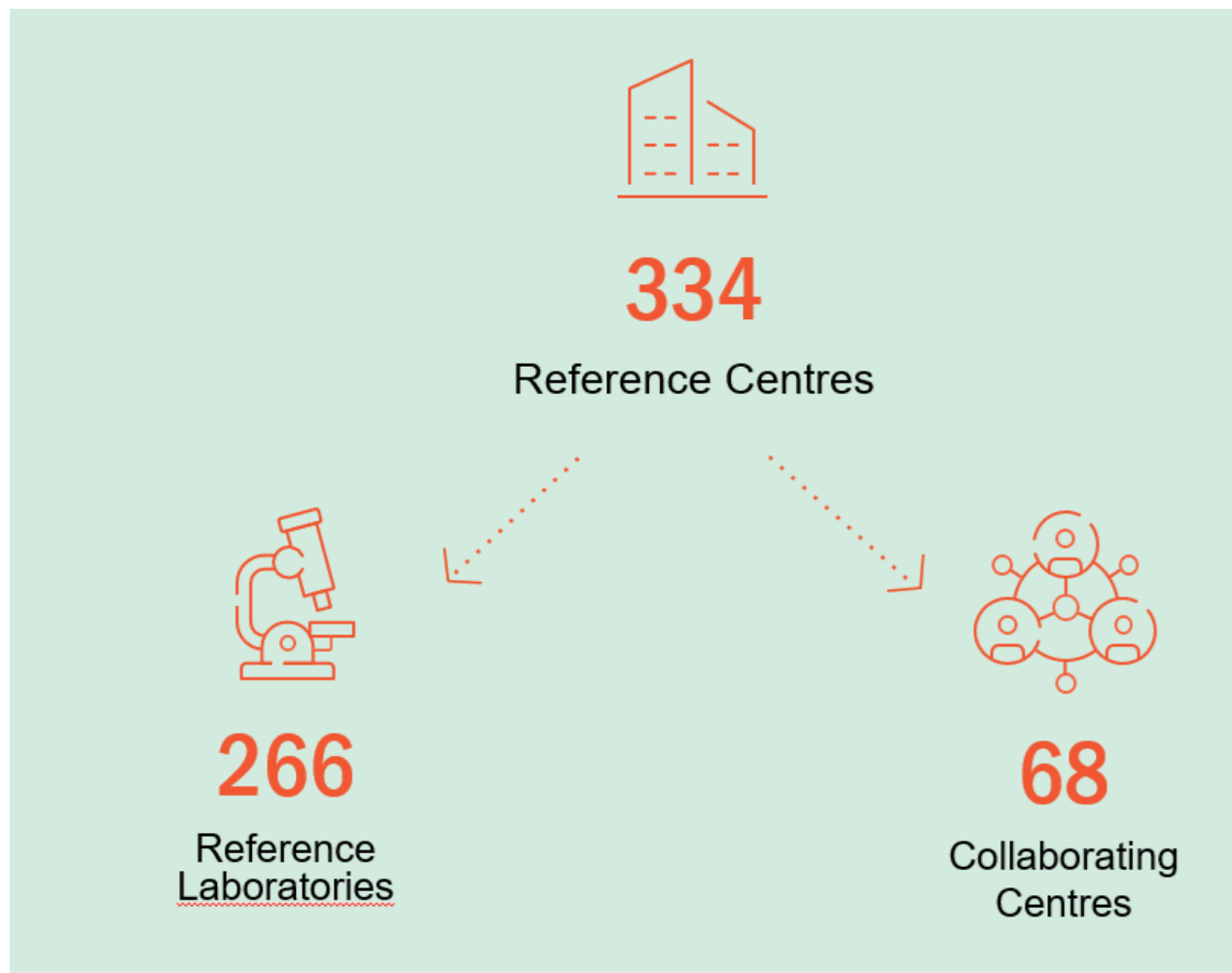


Dr Emmanuelle
Soubeyran

- Elected in May 2024 by the World Assembly of Delegates. Currently in her first term.
- Responsible for leading the implementation of WOA's Strategic Plan and supervising the activities of:
Headquarters, Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.



5-year
Term



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

Our financing structure

Statutory contributions

Divided into
6 categories chosen by
the countries

50% reduction for Members on
the United Nations' list of
'Least Developed Countries'

Extraordinary Contributions

Members can provide a one-
time contribution exceeding
their statutory category.

Voluntary contributions

World Animal Health
and Welfare Fund

Co-funding from
countries hosting
WOAH Offices

Specific donations

Provision of premises,
equipment and staff

Other income

Publications

Fees related to official
recognition of status
for certain diseases

Various services

We have 5 Strategic Objectives

S01 Scientific
expertise

S02 Data
governance

S03 Responding
to Members'
needs

S04 Collaboration
with partners

S05 Efficiency
and agility

Veterinarians and other animal health professionals are at the core of the animal health sector. We support them by:



Developing **suitable veterinary guidance** and ensuring its effective implementation in national animal health systems in accordance with WOAHA standards and with appropriate financial and human resources



Guaranteeing surveillance, early detection and rapid response to disease outbreaks through, the resources available to Veterinary Services, **a clear national chain of command and capacities for effective early diagnosis**

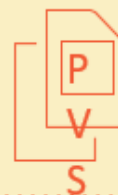


Promoting partnerships between public and private sectors

Farmers, private veterinarians, consumers



Providing initial and continuing veterinary education in accordance with guidelines



Encouraging the use of our PVS Tool

Evaluate country compliance with international standards



Conducting applied research programmes







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

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Thank you

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World
Organisation
for Animal
Health
Fondée en 1924

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale
Fondée en 1924

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal
Fundada en 1924