



93GS/Adm-12/En

Original: English

May 2026

**Report of WOAHA Regional Commissions meetings held during
the 93rd General Session**

[Administrative Working Document]



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Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa

Session 1 (virtual)

The Regional Commission for Africa met by videoconference on 5 May 2026, at 1:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 81 participants, including Delegates and Alternate Delegates from 22 Members of the Commission, observers and representatives from 10 international and regional organisations, as well as WOAHA Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Tunisia, and Uganda.

International/regional organisations: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres: Ecole Inter-Etats de Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaire (EISMV) Senegal, Centre National de Veille Zoosanitaire (CNVZ) Tunisia, Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) Egypt, Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute (OVRI), Ecole Nationale des Services Vétérinaires (ENSV) France, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" (IZS Teramo), Italy

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 Congo, accompanied by Dr Neo Mapitse, Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa.

1 **Adoption of the agenda**

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

2 **Preparation of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Uganda in February 2027**

Dr Anna Rose Ademun Okurut, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Uganda, provided details on the organisation of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa. The Conference will take place at the Speke Resort Munyonyo, in Kampala, Uganda. The final dates will be confirmed with the Director General.

She mentioned that, although the venue will be the Conference Centre of the Speke Resort Munyonyo, which is 38 minutes from Entebbe international airport, several alternative hotel accommodation options have been identified. Participants were informed of the relevant logistics, including visa requirements, and were told that more details would be made available on the relevant website.

She assured the participants that all the details would be shared in a timely manner.

3 Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission:

“Promoting a sustainable and safe trade in animals and their products in Africa: state of play, health requirements and levers for improvement in the face of climate change.”

4 Selection of three 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)

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

- 1 Strengthening disease intelligence and early warning systems for ecosystems in collaboration with partners, to advance the One Health approach and ensure sustainability;
- 2 Global emergence of foot-and-mouth disease: current situation and prospects for control;
- 3 Promoting health surveillance for effective early detection of epidemic, environmental, or emerging threats, thereby enabling a rapid response.

5 Formal Recognition of the REMESA

Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance, presented an overview of the process undertaken to formalise the recognition of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA), with the objective of establishing a more sustainable and legally sound framework to strengthen the network’s institutional basis and enhance its attractiveness to donors and partners. He recalled that REMESA had been established in 2009 to strengthen cooperation on the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in the Mediterranean region and currently brings together 15 Members, supported by several technical subnetworks.

Dr Caya explained that an external legal assessment had been conducted to review the framework supporting REMESA activities, including financing arrangements through the WOAHA World Fund. The assessment concluded that, while the 2012 Cooperation Framework had enabled effective collaboration and allowed REMESA to operate successfully in practice, it lacked legal value and formal legal recognition by WOAHA and FAO. The assessment therefore recommended formalising the recognition of REMESA and selecting the most appropriate legal instruments available to both Organisations in order to ensure a sustainable and strengthened legal framework.

He further informed participants that the matter had been reviewed by the WOAHA Council on 3 March 2026 and by the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee on 29 April 2026. Both governance bodies recognised the need to strengthen the legal framework of REMESA and supported its formal recognition by WOAHA through a Resolution to be presented during the 93rd General Session. The Joint Permanent Committee also supported the development of complementary legal arrangements between WOAHA and FAO, while preserving the current structure and functioning of the network.

Finally, Dr Caya informed Delegates that the draft Resolution had already been shared with members of the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee and would be submitted to the WOAHA Council prior to its presentation for adoption during the Administrative Session of the 93rd General Session.

6 **WOAH's 8th Strategic Plan**

Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit, provided an update on the development, content, and next steps of WOA's 8th Strategic Plan. She explained that the Plan had been developed through an extensive and inclusive consultative process based on co-construction. She further informed participants that the Plan had been endorsed by the Council on 3 March 2026 and would be submitted for adoption during the General Session in May 2026.

Ms Wuensch highlighted that Members' feedback had played a central role in refining the Strategic Plan. She noted that more than 300 comments, including over 100 submitted by Members, had been reviewed and taken into consideration. Overall, the feedback received had been positive, with particular appreciation expressed for the consultative approach adopted throughout the process. She explained that revisions had focused on improving cohesion across the document, clarifying the distinction between strategic and operational elements, strengthening explanations regarding implementation, monitoring and costing, and further emphasising partnerships, collaboration and scientific robustness.

Regarding the structure of the Plan, Ms Wuensch explained that it was built around a Vision and Mission, supported by three Strategic Orientations and four Strategic Enablers. The Strategic Orientations focus on strengthening standard-setting, empowering Members to build robust animal health systems, and positioning animal health as central to addressing global challenges. The Strategic Enablers focus on governance and partnerships, leadership in animal health data, people, and performance and accountability.

In conclusion, Ms Wuensch informed participants that implementation of the Plan would be supported through structured roadmaps, monitoring mechanisms and a costing approach. She noted that the Plan largely consolidates existing activities while identifying priority initiatives. She further indicated that additional funding may be required, alongside the maintenance of current funding levels, supported by targeted resource mobilisation efforts and internal reprioritisation. Finally, she outlined the next steps, which include the formal adoption, publication and launch of the Plan, as well as the development of regional implementation roadmaps.

7 **Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly**

Dr Michael Botlhe Modisane, Regional Member, Chair of the GRC and Delegate of South Africa, presented the work of the Governance Review Committee (GRC) and its recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) at its 93rd General Session (2026). It was explained that the GRC had been established under Assembly Resolution No. 12 (2024) to review WOA's governance framework and provide recommendations to strengthen the Organisation's governance arrangements. The presentation highlighted that the GRC's work was informed by a comprehensive external review of WOA's governance and extensive Member engagement, including regional consultations, thereby ensuring an inclusive and Member-centred reform process. For the 93rd General Session, the GRC submitted a package of seven recommendations aimed at strengthening WOA's financial, institutional and regional governance.

Regarding financial governance, the GRC proposed three measures: (i) enhancing transparency of Member contributions and arrears through a public dashboard and improved reporting; (ii) launching a consultation process on options to transition to an objective, formula-based statutory contribution model; and (iii) clarifying and strengthening sanctions for Members in arrears through a more consistent and graduated framework. It was highlighted that these reforms were intended to improve financial sustainability, predictability, equity and accountability across the Organisation.

With respect to institutional and regional governance, four recommendations were proposed to modernise decision-making and representation in the Assembly and Regional Commissions. These included allowing Delegates to authorise delegation members to speak and vote at the

General Session, updating the functions of the Regional Commissions and Bureaus to strengthen regional input into policy, coordination and implementation of WOAHA activities, and revising Bureau composition and election processes to improve accountability and representation. Further reforms include adjusting the Council's Past President seat to an elected member position to support a more representative governance structure and introducing a risk-based framework for approving WOAHA's cooperation agreements to improve efficiency while maintaining appropriate oversight.

It was further explained that the GRC's work had been planned in two phases: Phase 1 focused on identifying governance reforms, while Phase 2 would address the necessary amendments to WOAHA's legal framework to implement reforms agreed by the Assembly in Phase 1. Although considerable progress had been achieved, it was noted that an extension of Phase 1 until May 2027 would be necessary to complete the review process, including further regional consultations.

Finally, it was highlighted that, under Resolution No. 4, the Assembly was invited to approve the seven recommendations and their implementation plans, initiate Member consultations on options to update WOAHA's statutory contribution model and take note of the extension of Phase 1 until May 2027. The recommendations in draft Resolution No. 4 were intended to support more effective, transparent, and sustainable governance of WOAHA in the years ahead.

Closed Session for Delegates Only

8 **Application for designation of the Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) in Giza, Egypt, as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Bacterial Animal Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance in the African Region**

Dr Hamed Mohamed Mousa Elaknas, Delegate of Egypt, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) in Giza as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Bacterial Animal Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance in the African Region.

Prof. Samah Eid, proposed expert for the Collaborating Centre, presented an overview of the Institute, including its activities, facilities, technical capacities and areas of expertise. She also informed Delegates that documentation and supporting information had been shared with Members in advance of the meeting.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

9 **Application for designation of the National School of Veterinary Medicine of Sidi Thabet, Tunisia, as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare**

Dr Wahib Mehri, Delegate of Tunisia, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the National School of Veterinary Medicine of Sidi Thabet in Tunisia as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare.

He briefly presented the school and its activities, noting that the relevant documentation and supporting information had been shared with the Delegates in advance of the meeting. He further informed participants that Prof. Ouajdi Souilem, Director of the Veterinary Research Institute of Tunisia, had been proposed as the expert leading the Collaborating Centre.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

10 **Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join WOAHA Council**

Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela chaired the discussion regarding the candidature for the position of member of the Council, to be put forward for election at the World Assembly.

Dr N'lemba Mabela explained that the position had become vacant because the Delegate of Eswatini had retired.

Dr Abdou Ceesay, Delegate of Gambia, proposed the candidature of Dr Relebohile Lepheana, Delegate of Lesotho, for election to the WOAHA Council. The candidature was seconded by Dr Julius Chulu, Delegate of Malawi. Following an intervention by Dr Yao Akpo, Delegate of Benin, Dr Relebohile Lepheana confirmed acceptance of the nomination and expressed readiness to stand for election at the forthcoming World Assembly of Delegates.

Delegates of the Region agreed to propose Dr Relebohile Lepheana, Delegate of Lesotho, for the position of member of the Council.

11 **Update on the Regional Representation for Africa**

Dr François Caya provided Delegates with an update on the status of the WOAHA Regional Representation for Africa, including the evolving security situation in Bamako and its implications for the Organisation's operations. He explained that in light of the deteriorating security context, WOAHA could no longer fully guarantee the safety and security of staff working in the office. He further noted that the prevailing security constraints were increasingly limiting the Organisation's ability to conduct missions, convene meetings and deploy activities from Bamako under appropriate operational conditions. Consequently and following lengthy deliberations and a thorough review of developments in the security situation in Mali, the Council decided, at its March meeting, to close the WOAHA Regional Office for Africa.

Dr Caya informed Delegates that the transition process was expected to take approximately one year and would be carefully managed in order to ensure continuity of WOAHA's regional activities and sustained support to Members across Africa. He emphasised that WOAHA remains fully committed to the African region and to continuing its close collaboration with Members, while also underlining the important role of Mali within the Organisation and the region.

He further paid tribute to the staff of the Regional Representation, particularly Dr Karim Tounkara and his team, acknowledging their longstanding dedication, professionalism and leadership in advancing WOAHA's work, strengthening regional cooperation and supporting Members throughout the African region over many years.

The President of the Commission welcomed the briefing and acknowledged the difficult context in which the decision had been taken. He reiterated the Commission's appreciation for the remarkable work carried out by Dr Tounkara and the staff of the Regional Representation in Bamako and expressed gratitude for their commitment and service to the African region and to WOAHA.

12 **Brief announcements and closing**

Before closing the meeting, key messages were delivered encouraging Delegates to attend side events on the P3V project and "30 Years of Recognition of Animal Health Status", both scheduled for 20 May 2026, as well as to visit the Regional Kiosk, where the Africa region will showcase its contribution to strengthening Veterinary Services across the continent and the dedicated plenary session on Regional Highlights entitled "Strengthening Veterinary Services Worldwide: The role of WOAHA Regional Offices in supporting Members", scheduled for Friday 22 May 2026.

The meeting officially ended at 4:15 p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face-to-face)

The Regional Commission for Africa met face-to-face on 18 May 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CEST at *CNIT*. The meeting was attended by 38 Members of the Commission and nine observers.

Members of the Commission: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African (Rep.), Chad, Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Côte 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, Somalia, 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), Joint Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) / International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), International Wool Textile Organisation, West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Working Animals International.

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.

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**

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa, summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 5 May 2026, at 1:00 p.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, updates on the Governance Review Committee (GRC) and the WOAHA 8th Strategic Plan, the candidate proposed by the Regional Commission for the partial elections of the Council and the approval of the Collaborating Centre proposal, among others.

The Regional Commission endorsed the points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting.

3 **Report of the Bureau of the Regional Commission on activities undertaken since the last meeting and overview of planned strategic activities for the forthcoming year**

Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela presented the report on the activities of the Regional Core Group since June 2025. These included a series of virtual and in-person meetings held to advance regional coordination and implementation of key priorities.

The President highlighted the main issues addressed during these engagements, including the review of outcomes from the 26th Regional Conference, preparations for the 27th Regional Conference, the discussion on technical items, and the identification of strategic topics of global

relevance for WOA. He also mentioned the Governance-related matters, including the ongoing review of WOA governance structures and strategic planning processes, among others.

The Commission noted the planned priorities for 2027, including the organisation of the 27th Regional Conference, the election of a new Bureau during the 94th General Session (May 2027), and continued engagement in governance reform processes extending into 2027–2028.

4 Governance Review Committee (GRC)

Dr Michael Botlhe Modisane, Regional Member of the GRC and Delegate of South Africa, updated the Regional Commission on the outcomes of the 10th meeting of the GRC, held at WOA Headquarters in Paris, on 14 and 15 May 2026.

Dr Miguel Martin, GRC Secretariat, then presented draft Resolution No. 4 on the GRC's report and recommendations to the 93rd General Session (2026), and highlighted updates made at the 10th GRC meeting and subsequently approved by the Council to enhance clarity and facilitate implementation of the Resolution.

Dr Michael Botlhe Modisane also informed the Commission of recent changes in the leadership of the GRC, including the appointment of the Delegate of Cyprus as Chair and the Delegate of Australia as Vice Chair, following his resignation as Chair of the Committee.

5 Regulatory strengthening: Tackling falsified drugs and over-the-counter sales

Dr Javier Yugueros-Marcos, Head of the Veterinary Products and Drug Resistance Department presented WOA's work on tackling substandard and falsified veterinary products. It was highlighted that strengthening the regulation of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) is essential to ensure those circulating are safe and effective. Weak regulatory systems create opportunities for irresponsible VMPs to circulate, inappropriate practices to occur (i.e., over-the-counter sales) and falsified and substandard VMPs to circulate. Consequences are risks to animal health, compromised food security, impacts on public health (i.e., zoonoses, AMR, food safety) and hampered trade.

Dr Yugueros-Marcos further noted that a fundamental prerequisite for strengthening VMPs regulation is the establishment of appropriate veterinary legislation, which should be aligned with WOA International Standards. WOA offers support via the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme and the One Health Legal Assessment Tool for AMR. Moreover, WOA is currently evaluating the Veterinary Medicines Regulatory Agency Self-Assessment Tool, a voluntary, Member-owned tool for systematic self-assessment of veterinary regulatory systems focused on learning.

Uncontrolled over-the-counter sales of VMPs can encourage farmers and animal owners to use medicines without proper veterinary guidance, leading to incorrect dosing, inappropriate treatment, and poor disease management. This can affect animal health outcomes and make it more difficult to ensure responsible use of veterinary medicines. Legislation & regulation have a role to play by including a clear classification system distinguishing prescription-only, and over-the-counter products, ensuring that high-risk medicines are supplied exclusively under veterinary supervision. Awareness among end users is also critical.

Weak regulatory systems and limited market surveillance create opportunities for falsified and substandard VMPs to circulate along the supply chain. These products can lead to treatment failure, economic losses for farmers, reduced trust in Veterinary Services and increased risks of AMR. While legislation can play a key role by incorporating robust enforcement provisions and addressing all stages of the product lifecycle, we must not forget the importance of strong coordination across all relevant sectors, including regulatory authorities, veterinary services, customs, and law enforcement, and the practical impact of VMP labelling, as a low-cost, high-impact regulatory tool that can support responsible use of VMPs.

To support Members, WOAAH is launching TRUVET system (Track and Report Unsafe VETerinary products), systematically collecting incident data, conducting risk analyses, and issuing global alerts through strong international collaboration. TRUVET team works closely with all WOAAH Members, Collaborating Centres, industry stakeholders, and international partners to prevent, detect, mitigate, and respond to the risks posed by substandard and falsified veterinary products.

The Commission discussed the fragmented mandates in the governance of veterinary medicinal products, affecting coordination. In response on WOAAH actions to address this fragmentation, the speaker emphasised the need to strengthen the leadership of Veterinary Services, ensuring compliance with WOAAH standards. The Commission called for WOAAH to facilitate inter-agency coordination.

The need to engage the private sector and farmers for harmonisation to better combat substandard and falsified products was raised, aimed at enhancing farmer inclusion.

The scarcity of veterinary medicinal products contributes to widespread self-medication practices increasing the risk of circulation and use of unregulated and substandard products.

The need to strengthen regulatory systems, as well as continued WOAAH advocacy to ensure that regulation is led by appropriately qualified veterinary authorities, was underlined.

Finally, concerns were raised regarding the quality of vaccines, including allegations that substandard vaccines may contribute to disease occurrence or spread in certain contexts. Participants emphasised that efforts to address substandard and falsified veterinary products (SFVP) should explicitly extend to vaccines. It was further noted that while vaccine production is generally well regulated, challenges persist in ensuring appropriate matching of vaccine strains to circulating field strains.

6 Current status and recent developments of Foot and Mouth Disease in Southern Africa

Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, provided an update on the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) situation in the Southern African Development Community sub-region. Dr Letshwenyo highlighted that the sub-region has a large and diverse livestock population that is critical for food security, livelihoods and trade, with most animals reared under traditional smallholder production systems. However, transboundary animal diseases, particularly FMD, continue to pose a major threat to sustainable livestock production and market access. FMD is a highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals and has existed in Southern Africa since the 1930s, particularly involving Southern African Territories (SAT) serotypes associated with African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) populations, which serve as important reservoir hosts. The disease causes significant economic losses through reduced productivity of animals, costly control measures, movement restrictions and loss of export markets. Prior to 2016, several Members in the sub-region were officially recognised as FMD-free without vaccination or maintained extensive FMD-free zones. However, by the first quarter of 2026, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, South Africa had lost their FMD-free status. The impacts of FMD extend across the entire livestock value chain, affecting farmers, traders, slaughterhouses and rural livelihoods, while recovery from outbreaks is often slow, complex and resource intensive.

Dr Letshwenyo further emphasised that effective control of FMD requires strong surveillance systems, vaccination, biosecurity and movement management, supported by efficient Veterinary Services and strong regional collaboration. WOAAH continues to support Members through international standards, technical assistance and capacity building initiatives. Through the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), WOAAH and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) coordinate regional and global efforts to control FMD using tools such as the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD (PCP-FMD) and the Global FMD Control Strategy (2012–2027). Given the transboundary nature of FMD, a coordinated regional approach remains essential for safeguarding livestock industries, food security and international trade.

Delegates noted the limited availability of data and information on the FMD situation in West Africa, which constrains effective decision-making and response efforts. Challenges related to access and availability of vaccines, were also highlighted. The importance of strengthening partnerships to address vaccine supply gaps and improve access was underscored.

7 PPR Eradication in Africa: Update on the Pan African Programme and Progress of PRAPS Implementation

Dr Neo Mapitse, Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa presented an update on Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) eradication efforts in Africa, focusing on the implementation of the EU-Supported PPR Eradication from Africa Programme and progress under the Regional Support Project for Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS).

The Commission was informed that both initiatives are central to achieving PPR eradication by 2030. The Pan-African Programme, aligned with the FAO/WOAH Global Strategy and implemented across most of Africa (excluding the Maghreb), provides a coordinated framework. Supported by the European Union, Phase 1 was launched in February 2025 with EUR 8 million mobilised, while Phase 2 preparations (EUR 50 million grant and EUR 40 million blended financing) are ongoing. Led by AU-IBAR, the programme focuses on strengthening veterinary services, enhancing surveillance and diagnostics, improving vaccination, and promoting regional coordination in Africa, except North Africa (Maghreb region).

Implementation is coordinated through the Pan-African PPR Secretariat, with WOAH, FAO and the African Union Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC) as implementing partners. WOAH contribution is guided by its mandate on standards, disease notification, capacity building, and disease status recognition.

The Commission noted progress under Phase 1, including, strengthened institutional and technical capacities, including support to Members on notifications, mapping epidemiological systems, development of buffer zone strategies to protect PPR-free areas, strategic approaches for hard-to-reach and insecure areas and the establishment of project governance structures. Vaccination strategies have been developed and costed, with the emphasis on ensuring transition pathways towards cessation of vaccination and recognition of PPR-free status using WOAH standards.

The Commission was informed that PRAPS, a World Bank-funded programme, supports pastoralism in six Sahelian Members and contributes significantly to PPR control. WOAH provides technical coordination of the animal health component, focusing on harmonisation of vaccination strategies, strengthening epidemiological surveillance, improving veterinary services, including through the PVS Pathway among others.

Key achievements include vaccination of over 337 million small ruminants, harmonised seromonitoring, strengthened cross-border coordination and synchronised campaigns, and the alignment of national strategies with global and regional frameworks. Dr Mapitse highlighted some challenges including funding gaps for both programmes. The Commission was informed that lessons learned from PRAPS would be useful for the next phase of the EU Supported programme, noting that PRAPS was due to close in 2027.

The Commission welcomed the progress achieved under both initiatives and noted that the implementation architecture for the Pan-African Programme is now fully operational and acknowledged the acceleration of resource mobilisation efforts, including upcoming high-level engagements.

Delegates highlighted the need to extend successful programme models, such as those implemented under PRAPS, to additional Members in order to ensure more comprehensive regional coverage and impact including coordinated efforts.

8 **Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions**

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General for Standard Setting and Implementation, provided an overview of the selection process for WOAHS Specialist Commissions for the 2027–2030 term. Dr Arroyo described the planned stages, from preparation of documentation and launch of an open call for experts on 6 July 2026, through screening of applications after closure of the call on 11 September 2026 and evaluation of eligible candidates by a Nomination Evaluation Committee, comprising external evaluators, a Council representative and WOAHS staff.

Suitable candidates would be proposed to the WOAHS Director General, followed by endorsement by the WOAHS Council and election of Commission members by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 94th General Session in May 2027.

Closed Session for Delegates Only

9 **Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join the WOAHS Council**

The President of the Regional Commission recalled that, during the virtual meeting of the Regional Commission, Members had already agreed to propose a candidate for the vacant position of member of the Council, following the retirement of the Delegate of Eswatini, as explained by Dr Mabela.

The President invited the Regional Commission to confirm this proposal during the present meeting. Delegates of the Region unanimously confirmed the proposal of Dr Relebohile Lepheana (Delegate of Lesotho) for election to the position of member of the Council.

10 **Closing**

Before closing Dr Mabela took the opportunity to reiterate the importance of Members paying their statutory contributions and noted that a significant number of Members in the Region were in arrears which negatively impacted their voting rights.

The meeting officially ended at 12:51 p.m. CEST.

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

Session 1 (virtual)

5 May 2026

(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 Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
1:05 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Preparation of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Uganda, in February 2027 (Dr Rose Ademun, Vice- President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Uganda)
1:20 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.	Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Abderrahman El-Abrak, Vice-President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Morocco)
1:35 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	Selection of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHP through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Abderrahman El-Abrak)
1:50 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Formal Recognition of the REMESA (Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance)
2:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	WOAH's 8 th Strategic Plan (Ms Camilla Wuensch, Acting Head of the Performance Management Unit)
2:20 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC), report and recommendations proposed for adoption by the General Assembly (Dr Michael Botlhe Modisane, Chair and regional member of the GRC, Delegate of South Africa)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

3:05 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Application for designation of the Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI) in Giza, Egypt, as a new WOAHP Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Bacterial Animal Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance in the African Region (Dr Hamed Elaknas, Delegate of Egypt)
3:20 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.	Application for designation of the National School of Veterinary Medicine of Sidi Thabet, Tunisia, as a new WOAHP Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare (Dr Wahib Mehri, Delegate of Tunisia)
3:35 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join WOAHP Council (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
3:50 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Update on the Regional Representation for Africa (Dr François Caya)
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Brief announcements and closing (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
4:15 p.m.	End of the meeting

Session 2 (face-to-face)

Monday 18 May 2026

10:00 AM-12:30 PM (CEST), CNIT Forest, Paris, France

Room : Dragonnier 6

Agenda

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
10:05 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Summary of the main points discussed and agreed during the virtual meeting (Dr Rachid Bouguedour, Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa)
10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Report of the Bureau of the Regional Commission on activities undertaken since the last meeting and overview of planned strategic activities for the forthcoming year (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
10:30 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Governance Review Committee (GRC) (Dr Michael Botlhe Modisane, regional member of the GRC and Delegate of South Africa and HQ – GRC Secretariat): a. Outcomes of the 10th meeting of the GRC (14-15 May 2026) b. GRC Resolution at the 93rd General Session (2026) (Draft Resolution No. 4)
10:55 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Regulatory strengthening: Tackling falsified drugs and over-the-counter sales (Dr Javier Yugueros-Marcos, Head of the Veterinary Products and Drug Resistance Department)
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Current status and recent developments of Foot and Mouth Disease in Southern Africa (Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa)
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	PPR Eradication in Africa: Update on the Pan African Programme and Progress of PRAPS Implementation (Dr Neo Mapitse, Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa)
11:45 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.	Information on the future procedure for the election of Members of Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General – Standard Setting and Implementation)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11:55 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.	Partial elections: Selection of a Member of the Regional Commission for Africa to join the WOAHA Council (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
12:30 p.m.	Closing (Dr Honore Robert N'lemba Mabela)