

WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code: development and review process, September 2023 Report highlights and key topics for Middle East Region

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Health Standards Commission

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17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



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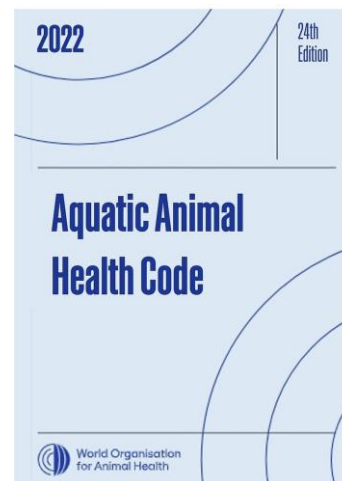
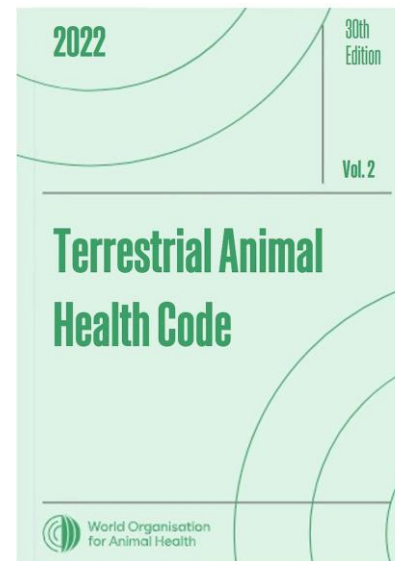
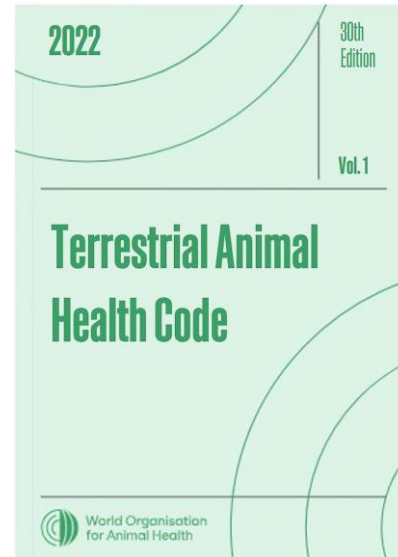
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8. Next steps
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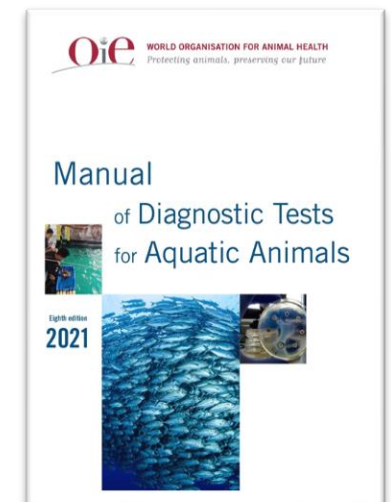
1. Overview of WOAAH international standards

WOAH international standards

Codes



Manuals



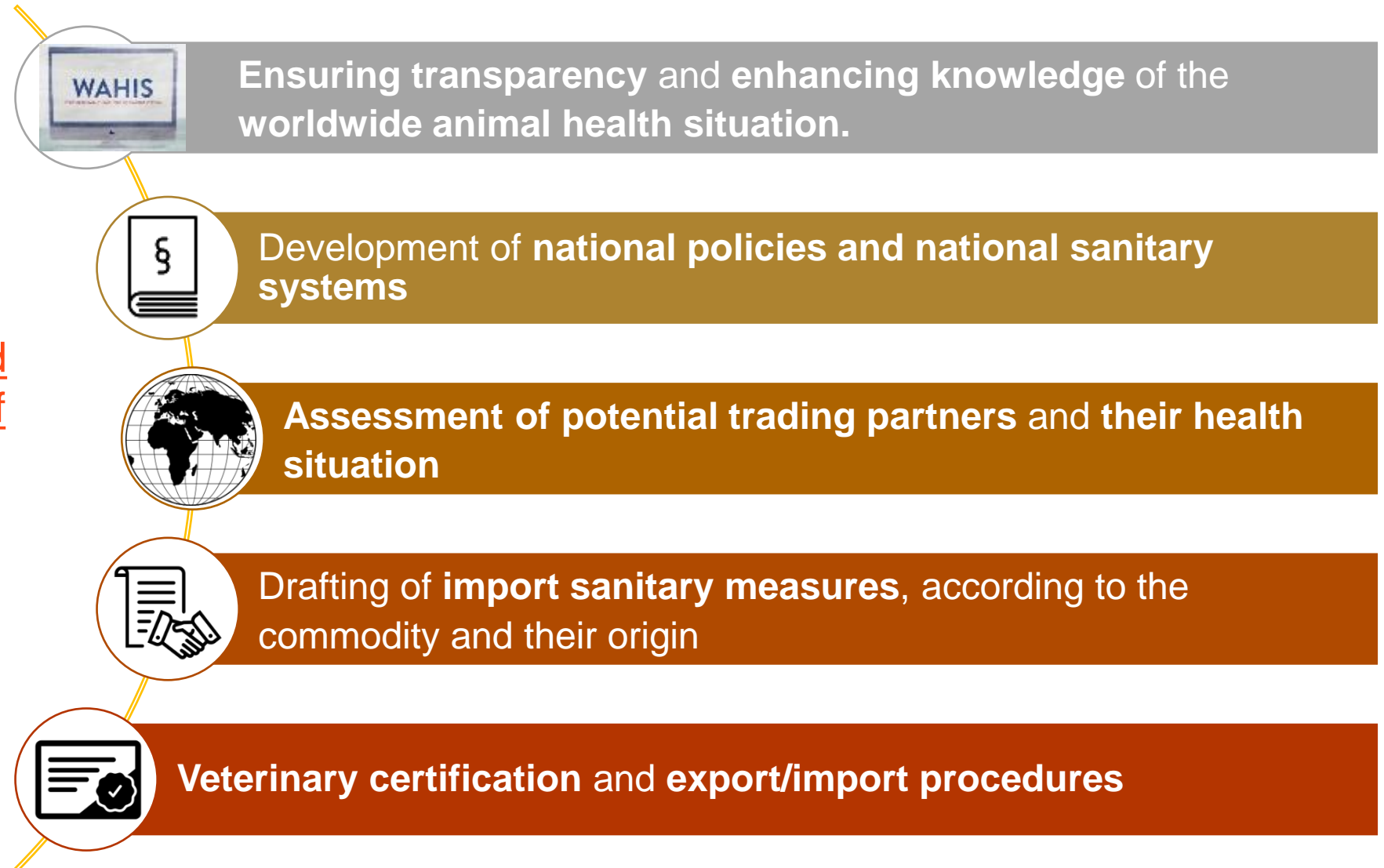


WOAH international standards, the reference for:

WOAH establishes standards for the improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide, including the prevention of disease spread through international trade of animals and animal products.



Recognised by the WTO SPS Agreement as the standard setting organisation for animal health and zoonoses.

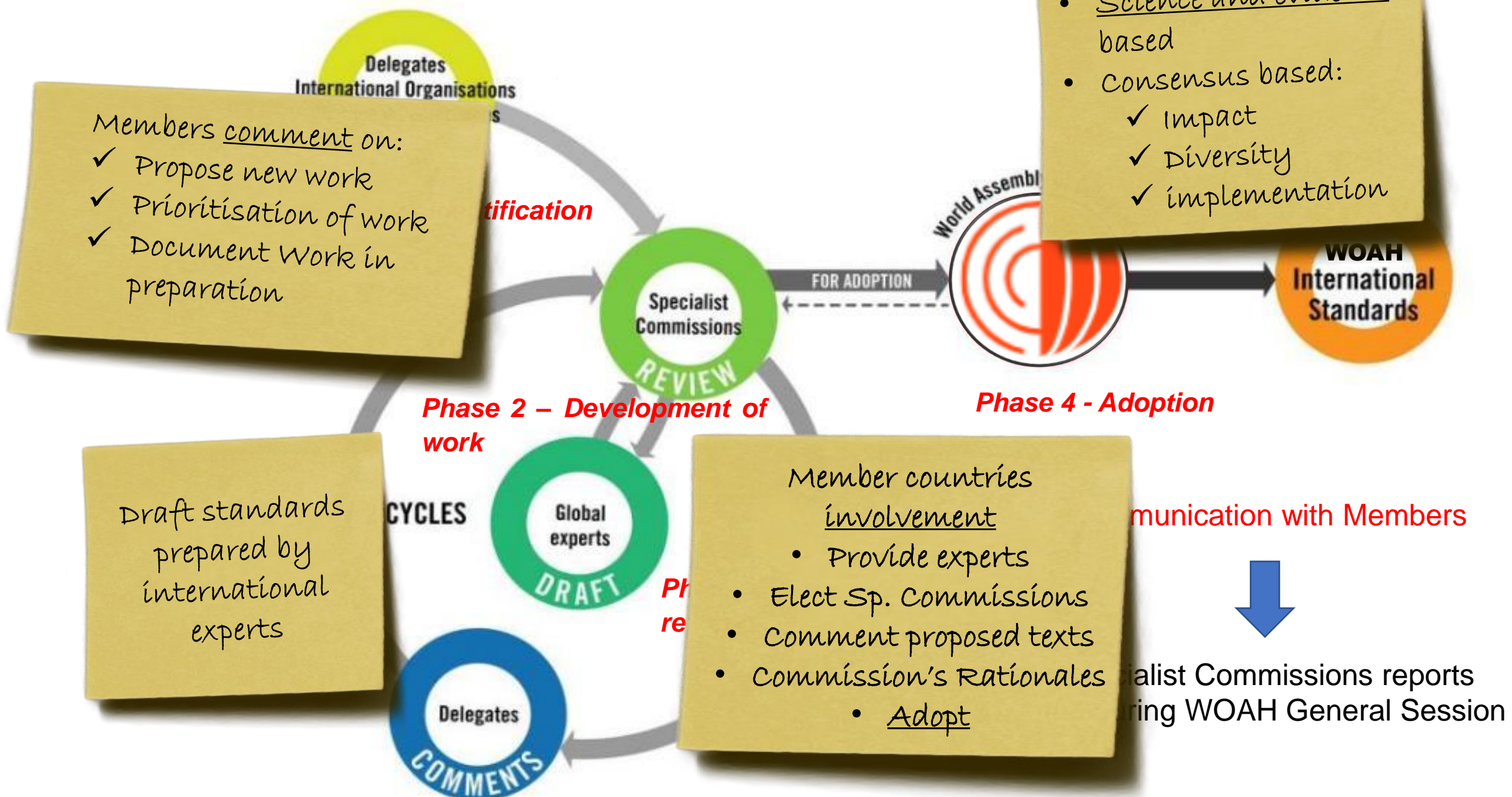


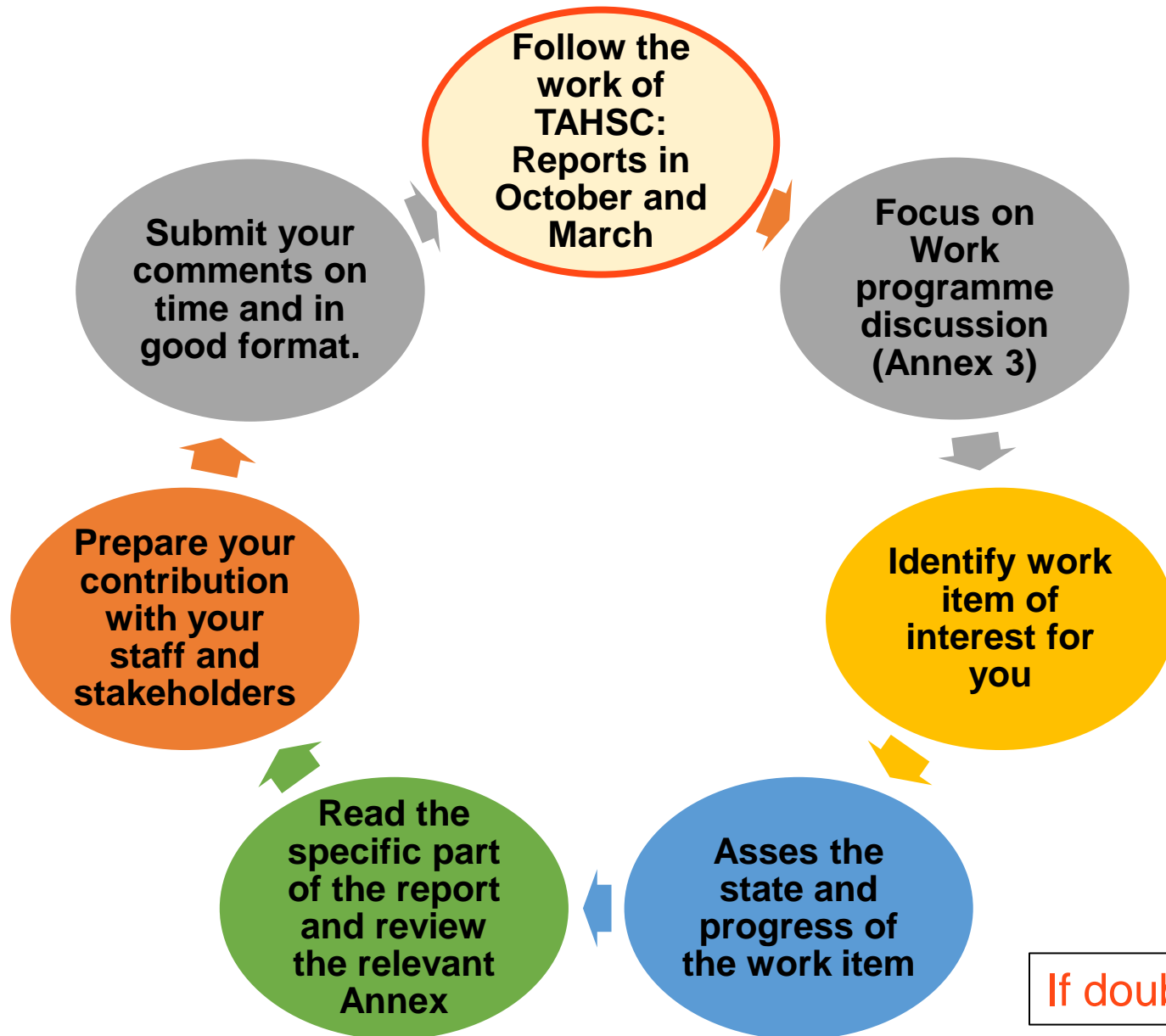


2. How Members take part in the development and revision of the *Terrestrial Code*?



WOAH Standards setting process





Key points:

- Appoint someone to support you
- Not all topics may be of the same interest
- Topics progress slowly but steadily
- Takes 2 to 4 years to adopt
- Intervene sooner rather than later
- All contributions help
- Do not wait until the General Session !

If doubts, contact WOH Standards department



Commenting on TAHSC work

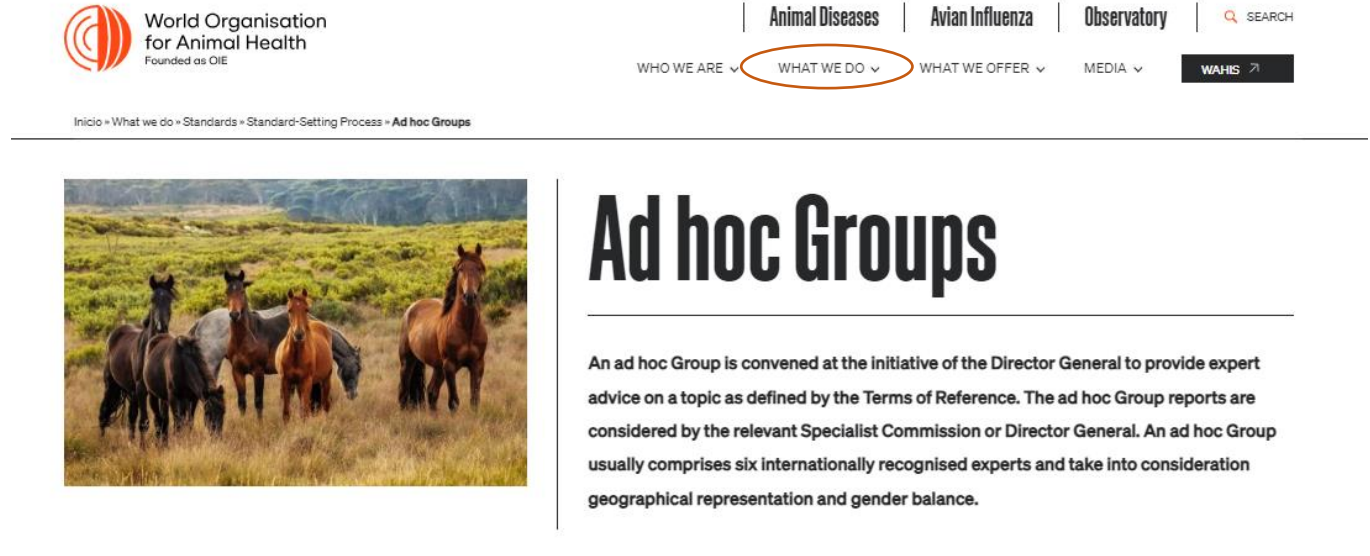
- On the draft texts
1. To propose additional or alternative science-based provisions to enrich or complement the proposed texts;
 2. To express evidence-based concerns on potential challenges for the implementation of the proposed texts under specific conditions or contexts (e.g., Members, regions, species), if possible, providing a proposal for improvement of the text;
 3. To provide new or different evidence that contradicts the proposed texts (which has not been previously addressed by Commissions or experts);
 4. Wording issues which could compromise the understanding or the meaning of the texts (in any of the three languages);
- On the work programme
1. To express needs for new work to be undertaken.
 2. To express needs to prioritise existing work items.
 3. To express points of interests for a specific work of priority order 3 and 4, as well as available information, evidence or expertise that could be taken into consideration for the development of the work.

Proposing experts

- Delegates may propose experts for planned *ad hoc* Groups.
- The schedule for upcoming *ad hoc* Group meetings is available on this page.
- Consult Commissions work programmes to identify potential future work

WHAT WE DO

- Standards
- Standard-Setting Process
- *Ad hoc* Groups



World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

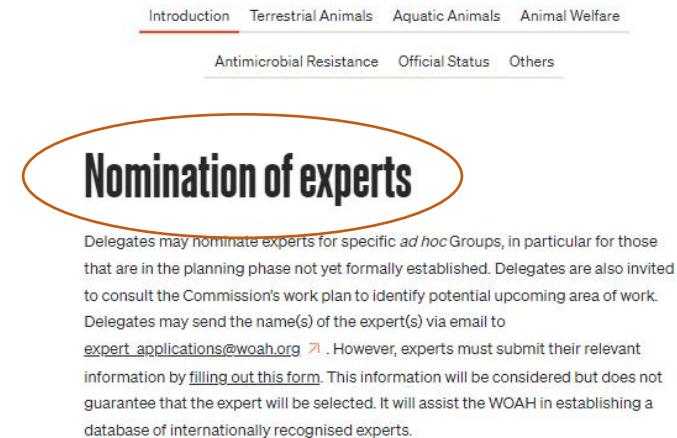
Animal Diseases | Avian Influenza | Observatory | SEARCH

WHO WE ARE | **WHAT WE DO** | WHAT WE OFFER | MEDIA | WAHIS

Inicio » What we do » Standards » Standard-Setting Process » Ad hoc Groups

Ad hoc Groups

An ad hoc Group is convened at the initiative of the Director General to provide expert advice on a topic as defined by the Terms of Reference. The ad hoc Group reports are considered by the relevant Specialist Commission or Director General. An ad hoc Group usually comprises six internationally recognised experts and take into consideration geographical representation and gender balance.



Introduction | Terrestrial Animals | Aquatic Animals | Animal Welfare

Antimicrobial Resistance | Official Status | Others

Nomination of experts

Delegates may nominate experts for specific *ad hoc* Groups, in particular for those that are in the planning phase not yet formally established. Delegates are also invited to consult the Commission's work plan to identify potential upcoming area of work. Delegates may send the name(s) of the expert(s) via email to expert_applications@woah.org. However, experts must submit their relevant information by [filling out this form](#). This information will be considered but does not guarantee that the expert will be selected. It will assist the WOA in establishing a database of internationally recognised experts.



Adoption

1. In its February meeting the AAHSC, the BSC or the TAHSC proposes a set of new or revised standards that will be proposed for adoption at the upcoming General Session.
2. At the General Session, the relevant Commission President of the AAHSC, the BSC or the TAHSC presents the “new or revised standard” to the Assembly, for adoption.
3. The President responds to comments from the Members.
4. In response to comments, the Commission President may propose amendments with the primary aim of reaching a consensus, may propose to adopt the “new or revised standard” unchanged if consensus is clear, or may withdraw the proposal if consensus is not reached.
5. In rare cases, the Assembly can decide by a formal vote (2/3 majority).
6. If a text is not adopted the Commission reconsiders the work in the context of their work programmes.



Participation of Middle East Region

- Comments from Middle East region are less than other regions. There were no comments received for the last three Code Commission meetings (Sep22, Feb23, Sep23)
- Your comments are essential to ensure that the *Terrestrial Code* better reflects your region's contexts.
- When well justified, the comments are taken on board, as demonstrated by:
 - Modification of the work programme to include Crimea-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) – ongoing work on case definition – Manual chapter to be updated this year (23-24) – new Code chapter to be adopted in 2025 or 2026
 - Modification of the work programme to review chapters on bird diseases – global review to amend surveillance, trade and status requirements – work expected to begin 2024
 - Veterinary legislation related to antimicrobial resistance – revised chapter 6.10. for comments and adoption expected 2024



3. Introduction to the Code Commission

The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission), created in 1960, is responsible for overseeing developments of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (**the *Terrestrial Code***) and ensuring it reflects the latest current scientific development.



Members of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission)

Term: 2021 - 2024



President
Dr Etienne Bonbon
(France)



Vice-President
Dr Gaston Maria Funes
(Argentina)



Vice-President
Pr Salah Hammami
(Tunisia)



Member
Dr Lucio Ignacio Carbajo Goñi
(Spain)



Member
Dr Kiyokazu Murai
(Japan)



Member
Dr Bernardo Todeschini
(Brazil)

Where can I find the information on the work of the Code Commission?

Only for WOAAH Delegates: WOAAH Delegates Website

- Report and annexes in **MS Word Format**
- Use this format to comment

Publicly available

- Report and annexes in **PDF Format**
- Format easier to share

WHAT WE DO

→ Standards

→ Standard-Setting Process

The screenshot shows the WOAH website header with the logo and navigation menu. The 'WHAT WE DO' dropdown menu is open, displaying a list of items: 'Animal Health and Welfare', 'Standards', 'Global Initiatives', and 'Publications'. To the right, a secondary menu lists 'Codes and Manuals', 'Standard-Setting Process', and 'Observatory'. The 'Standards' and 'Standard-Setting Process' items are circled in orange, and arrows indicate a relationship between them. The background of the page features a blurred image of people in a meeting.



Where can I find complementary information on the topics discussed by the Code Commission?

The Code Commission refers in many instances to topics discussed by the SCAD, BSC, WGs or AHGs.

In such cases, the full rationale is described in the relevant report. **Members should read the report of the Code Commission in conjunction with these reports.**

All reports are available **on the WOAHA Website**

Specialists Commissions

The relevant [Specialist Commission](#) consider requests to develop new standards or review existing standards received from a range of stakeholders including from Members, partner international organisations, and its scientific network. These requests are reviewed, prioritized and included on its respective work plans.

Calendar of the upcoming Specialist Commission meetings

Commissions*	September 2022	February 2023
Terrestrial Code Commission	13-22	7-16
Biological Standards Commission	5-9	6-10
Scientific Commission	19-25	13-17
Aquatic Animals Commission	14-21	15-22

*Projected dates of the next meetings of the four Specialist Commissions



Ad hoc Groups and Working Groups

The *ad hoc* Groups and Working Groups may be requested to address specific topics to ensure that new or revised standards are based on the latest scientific evidence and knowledge. The views of the Members and partner international organisations are routinely sought through the circulation of draft and revised texts in the relevant Specialist Commission report.





4. Code Commission's work programme - State of play (September 2023)

The Code Commission's work programme outlines the current and planned work to be undertaken to develop and review *Terrestrial Code* standards.

State of play

- Work programme currently includes **74** work items
 - **48** items are active (i.e. priority 1 or 2)
 - Many items are in coordination with other Specialist Commissions, mainly SCAD and BSC

At September 2023 meeting

- **20** texts circulated for comments and adoption in 2024
- **9** texts circulated for comments
- **4** new proposals/requests considered
- **14** new work items added
- **21** work items closed (most of which are items on texts adopted at the 90th GS)



3. Texts for comment and proposed for adoption in May 2024



Texts for comment and proposed for adoption in May 2024

20 annexes

1. **Glossary:** ‘animal product’, ‘biological product’, ‘commodity’, ‘death’, ‘euthanasia’, ‘germinal products’, ‘greaves’, ‘semen collection centre’, ‘slaughter’ and ‘stunning’
2. Chapter 1.3. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAHA (in track change)
3. Chapter 1.3. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAHA (clean text)
4. Chapter 4.6. General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres
5. Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen
6. **Chapter 6.10. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine**
7. **Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals**
8. **Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus**
9. Chapter 1.11. Application for official recognition by WOAHA of free status for foot and mouth disease
10. **Chapter 8.16. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus**



Texts for comment and proposed for adoption in May 2024

20 annexes

11. Chapter 8.18. Infection with *Trichinella* spp.
12. Chapter 8.X. Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q Fever)
- 13. Chapter 8.Z. Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi***
14. Chapter 11.5. Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *Mycoides* SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia)
15. Chapter 11.X. Infection with bovine pestiviruses (Bovine viral diarrhoea)
16. Chapter 12.1. Infection with African horse sickness virus
17. Chapter 13.2. Rabbit haemorrhagic disease
18. Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever virus
- 19. Chapter 16.Z. Infection with Camelpox virus**
20. Terminology: Use of terms 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Services'



4. Texts for comment



Texts for comment

9 annexes

1. Work programme
- 2. User's Guide**
3. Glossary: 'biosecurity', 'biosecurity plan', 'border post', 'container', 'point of exit', 'quarantine station', 'swill' and 'vehicle/vessel'
- 4. Chapter 4.X. Biosecurity**
- 5. Chapter 5.4. Measures and procedures applicable in the exportation of commodities**
- 6. Chapter 5.6. Measures and procedures applicable in the importation of commodities**
7. Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare
8. Chapter 8.Y. Infection with Nipah virus
9. Chapter 14.8. Scrapie



5. Other key items coming up in the Code Commission's Work Programme



- Standards on emergency management
- Revision of Chapter 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4. welfare of animals during transport by land, sea and air
- Revision of Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes
- Revision of equine encephalitis chapters
- Overall consideration of Section 10 Aves
- **New chapter on Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever**

New work agreed. Follow up of chapter on control programmes

Undergoing expert consultation. Global revision.

Undergoing expert consultation. Linked with Chapter 7.5. To be circulated soon.

Undergoing expert consultation for listing assessment (request from Americas Region)

New work agreed. To be launched in 2024.

**Undergoing expert consultation
(request from Middle East Region)**

Full work programme in Annex 3



6. Next steps

Next steps

When to comment?

How to comment?



Next steps

Comment

- Submit comments on the September report and its annexes before **29 December 2023**
- Comments should be sent to WOAH Standards Department at TCC.Secretariat@woah.org

February TAHSC meeting

- Date: 6 to 16 February 2024



How to submit comments

1. Through the WOHAI Delegates of Member Countries or Organisations with which WOHAI has a Cooperative Agreement;
2. In **Word** format (not in pdf format), in English, French or Spanish and clearly noting the relevant annex and/or item of the report;
3. Inserted within the annexes or report, under the text commented;
4. Propose specific text changes, supported by a rationale including scientific references, if relevant;
5. Proposed deletions should be shown using 'strikethrough' and additions using 'double underline' (please do not use the automatic 'track-changes' function provided by Word processing software);
6. The TAHSC strongly encourages Members to provide feedback on its work programme, including submitting **justified** proposals!



7. Take home messages

More active participation in WOAH Standards setting process is requested

- ✓ Follow and comment on TAHSC reports
- ✓ Proposal of experts for AHG meetings

Thank you

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