



World Organisation for Animal Health

18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East
Larnaca, Cyprus, 24-28 November 2025

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

Arrival of participants

MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2025

08:00 a.m.	Conference registration
09:00 a.m.	Opening ceremony
10:00 a.m.	Group Photo / Break
10:30 a.m.	Approval of the Programme Appointment of the Conference Committee (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and General Rapporteur) Appointment of session chairpersons and rapporteurs (Technical items)
10:45 a.m.	Keynote: WOA in the Middle East: Empowering Veterinary Services, increasing visibility and modernising WOA (Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran, WOA Director General)
11:15 a.m.	Discussion
11:45 a.m.	The Jurisdictions and Actions Framework of Cyprus' Veterinary Services to ensure animal welfare, animal health and public health (Dr Christodoulos Charalambous Pipis, WOA Delegate of Cyprus)
12:15 p.m.	Lunch break
1:15 p.m.	Technical item I: Improving capacity to implement assessment of socio-economic impacts of transboundary animal diseases (with focus on FMD and PPR) (Dr Theodore Knight-Jones, International Livestock Research Institute)
2:00 p.m.	Discussion
2:30 p.m.	Summaries of 1) regional animal health situation; and 2) reporting status (early warning, six-monthly and annual (Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department)
3:00 p.m.	Break <i>Preparation of Recommendation No. 1 by designated small group</i>
3:30 p.m.	Group work (World Café: How to improve disease reporting) (Dr Jenny Hutchison and Dr Peter Melens, Deputy Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department)
4:30 p.m.	Report back from Group work and discussion
5:00 p.m.	The Observatory thematic study: Use, challenges and impact of zoning (Dr Caroline Paquier, Senior Programme Manager - WOA Observatory)
5:30 p.m.	End of the day
7:00 p.m.	Reception hosted by the Host country

TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2025

- 9:00 a.m. Technical Item II: Strengthening multisectoral cooperation to implement a new vision of an alternative compensation policy that supports the stamping out policies for the control and eradication of high-priority animal diseases in emergencies and pandemics (Dr S. Savva and Dr G. Krasias, Animal Health and Welfare Division, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus).
- 9:45 a.m. Discussion
- 10:15 a.m. Break
Preparation of Recommendation No. 2 by designated small group
- 10:45 a.m. Strengthening Scientific Excellence of Middle East Region through WOAHA Reference Centres network - Overview and examples of RL and CC activities (moderated by Dr Ahmad Almajali, Regional Representative for the Middle East)
- 11:45 a.m. WOAHA Standards Setting Process panel discussion: Aquatic Code and Manual, Terrestrial Code and Manual and feedback on the standards training (Dr Etienne Bonbon, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission)
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Antimicrobial Resistance – everyone's matter, everyone's responsibility (Dr Javier Yugueros-Marcos, Head of the Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department) (virtual)
- 2:15 p.m. The economic impact of AMR in animal health: facts, figures and cost-effective interventions (Dr Marco Hafner, Principal Health Economist at RAND Europe) (virtual)
- 2:45 p.m. Investing in animal health systems: why and how? (Dr Javier Yugueros-Marcos, Head of the Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department) (virtual)
- 3:30 p.m. Break
- 4:00 p.m. Interactive session around the implementation of the 2024 UN Political Declaration on AMR – The power of collective intelligence (Dr Andrés García Campos, Senior Programme Manager, Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department)
Reduction of antimicrobial use: state of play (WOAHA) + country experience
Responsible use: state of play (WOAHA) + country experience
Implementation of vaccination strategies to reduce antimicrobial use: state of play (WOAHA) + country experience
- 5:45 p.m. Collective definition and agreement of a joint regional action plan for the successful implementation of the UN political declaration commitments made in animal health (Dr Andres Garcia Campos, Senior Programme Manager, Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department)
- 6:30 p.m. End of the session
- 7:00 p.m. Reception by WOAHA

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025

- 9:00 am The Role and value of an NGO in promoting the regional Animal Welfare activities (Ms Julia Havenstein, ICAFAW)
- 9:30 a.m. Discussions

10:00 a.m.	WOAH Wildlife Health Programme: Presentation, Q&A, Interactive session through Menti meter & Feedback (Dr Sophie Muset, Wildlife Health Programme Manager and ZOOSURSY Project Manager & Dr Faycal Meziani, Technical Expert, Regional Representation for the Middle East)
11:00 a.m.	Break
11:30 a.m.	One Health in Action: regional achievements (Dr Faycal Meziani)
12:00 p.m.	Discussions
12:30 p.m.	Climate Change and Animal Health – Emerging Risks and Regional Preparedness (Dr Chadia Wannous, WOAHS One Health Senior Specialist and Global Coordinator, Dr Madison Wimmers, Project Officer, Biological Threat Reduction, WOAHS Preparedness and Resilience Department, Dr Anastasios Matsikaris, Meteorological Officer, Department of Meteorology, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus)
1:05 p.m.	Discussions
1:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:30 p.m.	Empowering Veterinary Services: From Evidence to Action through PVS Pathway and Training Platform (Dr Valentyna Sharandak & Dr Rahul Srivastava, WOAHS Capacity Building Department)
4:00 pm	Break
4:30 p.m.	Discussion of the recommendations
5:30 p.m.	Side Event on Gender
6:30 p.m.	End of the day

THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2025

Technical and Cultural visit

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2025

9:00 a.m.	Progress update on the Governance Review Committee (Dr François Caya, WOAHS Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Governance)
9:45 a.m.	Follow up of the last Conference Recommendations (WOAHS Regional Representation for the Middle East and Sub Regional Representation for the Arabian Gulf)
10:15 a.m.	Updates on regional activities, recommendations, work plan 2026 (Dr Ahmad Almajali, Regional Representative for the Middle East and Dr Mohamed Alhosani, Sub-Regional Representative for the Arabian Gulf)
11:00 a.m.	Break
11:30 a.m.	Conference conclusions and Adoption of Recommendations
12:30 p.m.	Proposal of date and venue of the 19 th Conference of the WOAHS Regional Commission for the Middle East
12:45 p.m.	Closing Ceremony
1:00 p.m.	End of the Conference