

# WOAH in the Middle East: Empowering Veterinary Services, increasing visibility and modernising WOAH

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Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran  
Director General

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World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health  
Founded as OIE

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale  
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal  
Fundada como OIE



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1. WOAH's mission, value of WOAH membership and WOAH funding
2. Strategy and future modernisation of our Organisation
3. Advocacy: supporting Delegates' engagement



# WOAH's mission, value of WOAH membership and WOAH funding





# WOAH today: a collective asset

- 183 Members, one global, science-based Organisation
- Transparency is at the heart of what we do
- Our standards and decisions are grounded in science
- We support and build the capacity of all Members
- Our system depends on the active engagement of our Members
- We operate in an increasingly complex global context, where health threats are becoming more prevalent

# WOAH today: a global authority



... Regional and subregional representations





# Why does WOAH matter?

# Your organisation, your voice!



# TRANSPARENCY

## Animal Health Information management



## During 2025, we received from Middle East Members

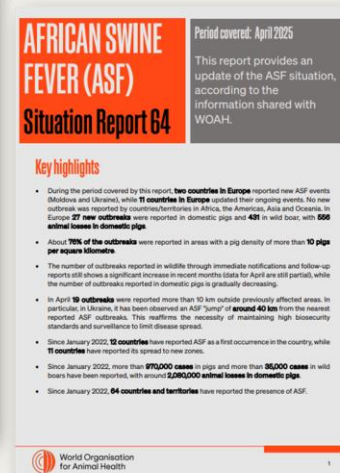
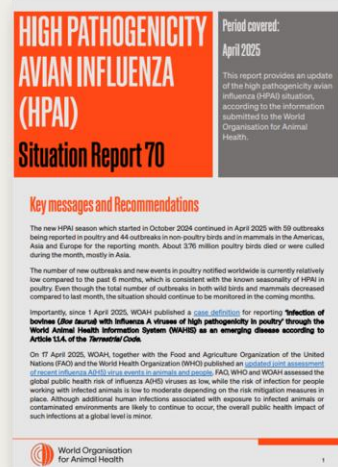
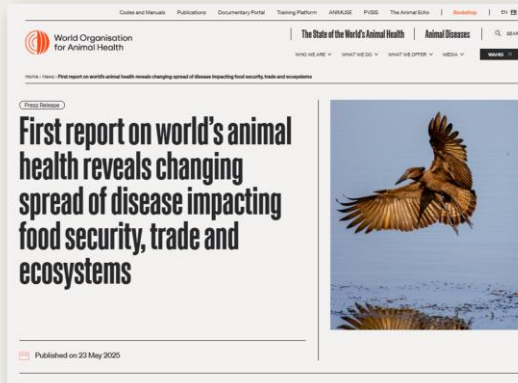
### Early warning module

5 immediate notifications

5 follow-up reports

### Monitoring module

43 six-monthly reports, 12 of which were for 2025  
14 annual reports, 9 of which were for 2024





## WOAH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- **Access**
- Transparency
- Engagement in development and implementation



- **6** new and **72** revised chapters of the ***Terrestrial Code, Terrestrial Manual, Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual*** were adopted at 2025 General Session.
- WOAH Standards Navigation Tool
  - It was updated to include new and revised texts adopted at 2025 GS and published on 5 September 2025.

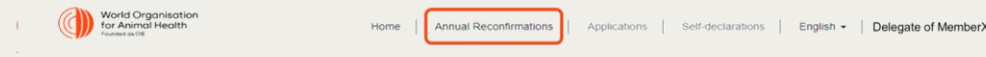




## OFFICIAL RECOGNITION & MAINTENANCE OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS

### 392 Official status / endorsed programmes by WOA

- 57% of Members have at least one recognition
  - 45% of Members of the Middle East Region (9 out of 20 Members)  
However, 7 out of 9 only have AHS-free status
- Streamlining process initiated from September 2024
- Ongoing development of the Disease Status Management Platform



### Welcome to WOA Disease Status Management Platform

The Disease Status Management Platform serves as a secure, centralised system for archiving, tracking, searching, and submitting all necessary documents related to the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status, and the self-declaration of disease freedom.



Annual reconfirmations of officially recognised disease status/endorsed control programmes

See all



Applications for official recognition of disease status/endorsement of control programmes

Under construction...



Self-declarations

Under construction...



## CAPACITY BUILDING: PVS AND TRAINING SYSTEM (2023-2025) as of 20 Nov 2025

### PVS Pathway Engagement

127

(10 in ME)

PVS Activities Conducted

36%

(16% in ME)

Overall Public PVS Reports

6/12 eligible

(50%)

Members in ME responded in the First PVS Self-Assessment Annual Report

### Training System

3.5k+

Users enrolled

200+

Experts involved in capacity building initiatives

40+

Collaborations and Partnerships

50+

eModules available and in development

\$5 million+

invested by WOAH in Members for capacity building of the Animal Health Services since 2021

\$885 million+

invested directly in 74 Members from the Pandemic Fund and monitoring PVS indicators

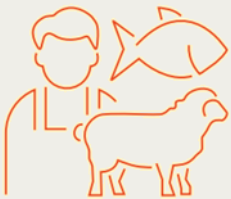
\$2.4 billion+

mobilised additionally for investment in Pandemic Preparedness & Response through the Pandemic Fund



## GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Development and support in the implementation of global strategies



## Disease Eradication

For reasons linked to animal and human health, controlling animal diseases is one of WOA's key objectives. Additional objectives are to preserve the subsistence of certain populations, to reduce poverty, and to support the economy and protect international trade.



## Aquatic animals

Aquatic animals play a key role in achieving a more prosperous and secure world, contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



## One Health

The "One Health" approach summarises a concept that has been known for more than a century; that human, animal and plant health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystems in which they exist. We envisage and implement it as a collaborative, whole of society, whole of government approach to understanding, anticipating and addressing risks to global health.



## Animal Welfare

Animal welfare is a complex and multi-faceted subject with scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, social, religious and political dimensions. It is attracting growing interest from civil society and is one of the priorities of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

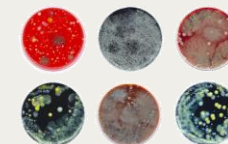


## Biological threat reduction



## Wildlife Health

Wildlife co-exists alongside humans and domestic animals. Wildlife populates ecosystems across the planet, whether it be in the seas, or roaming freely across forests and savannahs. Each species contributes to the balance of the ecosystem they live in. The health of wildlife is deeply entwined with the health of other animals, the environment and even humans. By protecting wildlife health, we safeguard biodiversity- and invest in a healthier, more sustainable future.



## Antimicrobial resistance

Imagine a world where infections and diseases in humans, animals and plants are impossible to treat. This worst-case scenario could become a reality as bacteria, viruses and parasites develop resistance to the drugs we use to fight them. Antimicrobial resistance, or AMR, has become one of the most pressing health issues of our time. Solutions exist and everyone has a role to play in the fight against this global threat.



Veterinary Services

TRAINING

## WOAH Disease Notification - WAHIS



Camels and Equines

# WOAH in the Middle East



FROM 27/04/2025 TO 30/04/2025  
Joint Workshop of the GF-TADs Middle East for...  
RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA



Veterinary education

AQIMNET

## Aquaculture Middle East Network

REGIONAL ONE HEALTH WORKSHOP

## Strengthening One Health Implementation through the Joint Plan of Action



Animal Welfare





## SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE AND EXCELLENCE

More than **800** experts worldwide

**270** Reference Laboratories covering **109** diseases  
or topics in **39** countries

**80** Collaborating Centres in **33** countries

**4 Collaborating Centres and 3 Reference  
Laboratories in the Middle East**



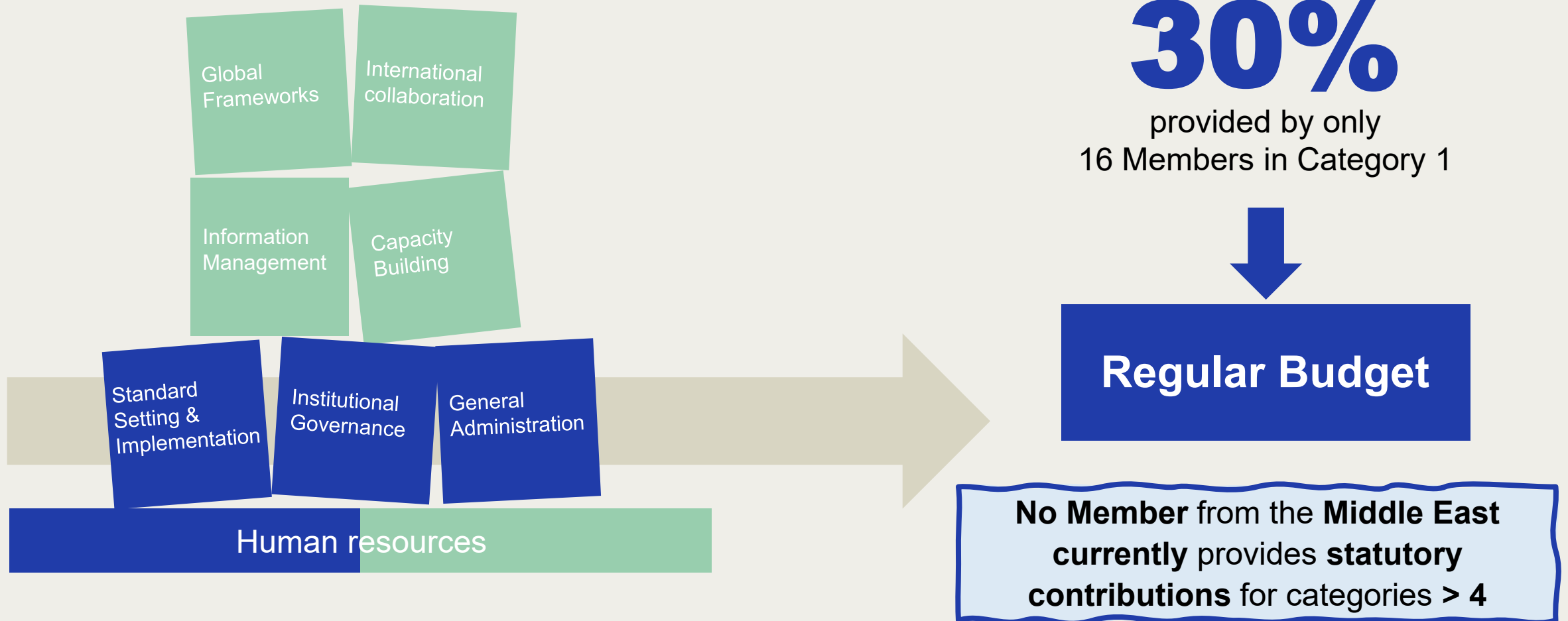
# Benefits of WOAH's membership for Middle East Members

- Safer trade and stronger market access
- A trusted global transparency system for early warning and decision making
- Guidance, expertise and regional networks for disease control
- Direct, accessible support to Members through the RR/SRR
- Global reference for Veterinary Services
- A secure platform for Members to exchange information, needs and challenges
- Access to a technical networking



# How is WOAH funded?

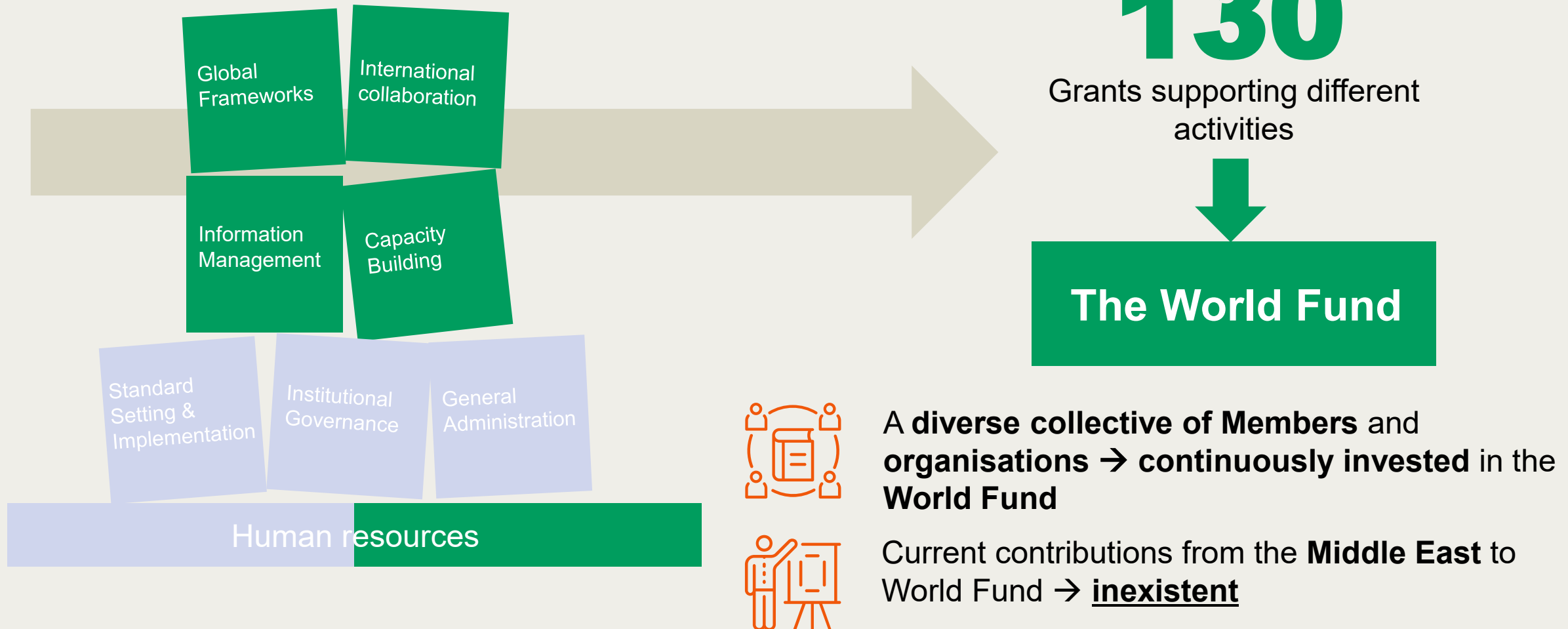
**Statutory contributions** are the only source of **sustainable and equitable funding**, but





# How is WOAH funded?

**Statutory contributions** are then complemented by **Voluntary contributions**





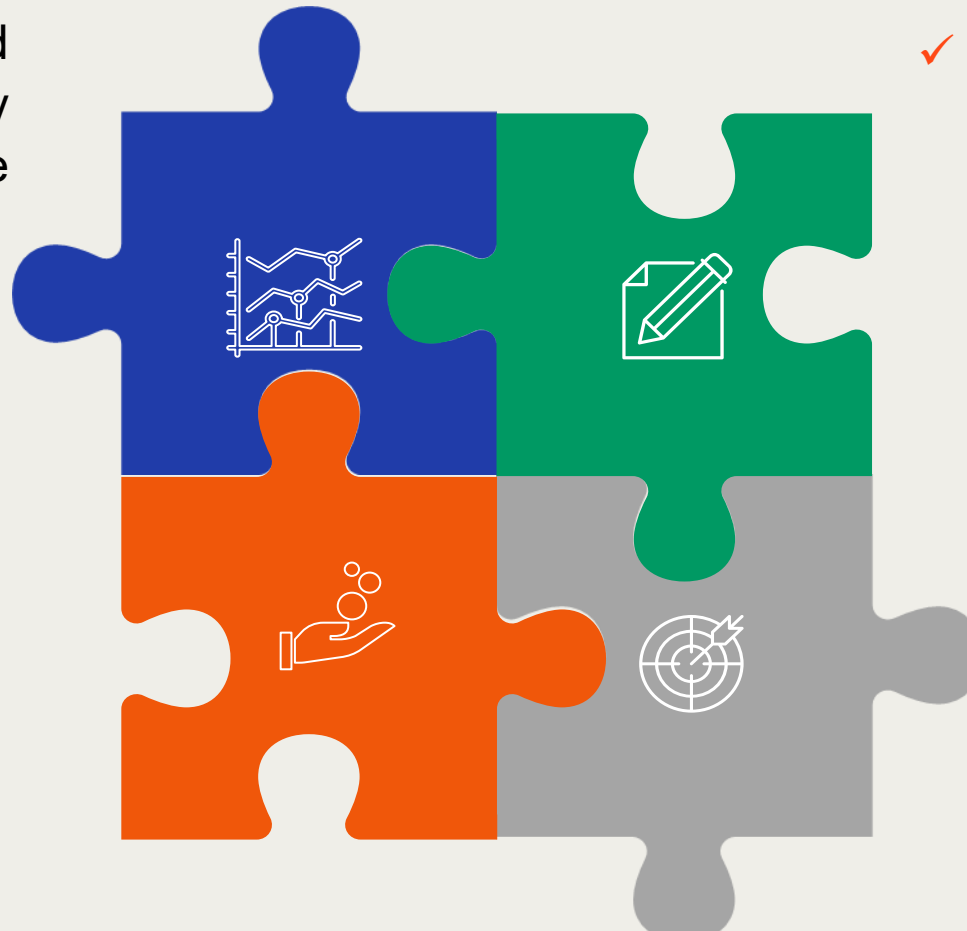


## How to partner with WOA

### Statutory contributions:

- ✓ ↑ to 295,025 EUR (**Cat. 1**)
- ✓ To empower WOA and ensure that it is sufficiently resourced to fulfil its mandate and service its Members.

**Voluntary contributions:** Fund specific projects aligned with regional goals



### Extraordinary contributions:

- ✓ 300k or 500k EUR for 2024
- ✓ concerned Members shall be exempt from their statutory contribution for the year in question

### Advocacy & Engagement:

- ✓ Engage with ministries & stakeholders
- ✓ Articulate the benefits of WOA investment
- ✓ Strengthen collective efforts



# Strategy and future modernisation of our Organisation





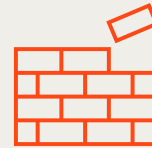
# 8<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan



A pathway for WOAH to **support Members** navigate the animal health landscape and **respond to today's global challenges**.



A **shared vision and framework for action** for 2027-2031, **co-constructed** with Members, staff and other stakeholders.



Developed at **an ideal time**: alongside the GRC and building on 100 years of coordination, collaboration and collective commitment to animal health and welfare.



Provides **overarching strategic directions** to be translated into global and regional roadmaps/action plans.



Developed following a **phased approach**, involving Members each step of the way.



Includes a **monitoring framework** and **estimated cost** to effectively manage its implementation



**Broad strategic directions** (three orientations and four enablers) presented at the 2025 General Session.



# 8<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan

**Our mission:** improve animal health globally, thereby ensuring a better future for all.

**Our Vision:** affirm our leadership and the critical role of animal health and welfare in addressing global challenges; empower national Veterinary Services and networks; lead WOA towards agility, innovation and inclusivity – guided by principles of scientific excellence, good governance & transparency, innovation, solidarity & collaboration.

**Strategic orientation one:**  
Develop global standards, adaptable and applicable to all Members.

**Strategic orientation two:**  
Empower Members towards robust animal health and welfare systems and veterinary public health.

**Strategic orientation three:**  
Position animal health as central to tackling global challenges.

**Enabler One:** Governance and partnerships for sustainability

**Enabler Two:** Leadership in animal health data

**Enabler Three:** People at the centre of WOA

**Enabler Four:** Performance and accountability





# Orientations specific objectives

## **Develop global standards, adaptable and applicable to all Members:**

1. Reinforce the inclusion of Members in the standard-setting process and enhance our understanding of barriers to implementation
2. Continue to reinforce the scientific base of expertise.
3. Promote implementation through capacity-building, advocacy and mediation support.

## **Empower Members towards robust animal health and welfare systems and veterinary public health:**

1. Empower Members to reinforce their animal health systems and access funding.
2. Facilitate Members' access to knowledge and foster collaboration.
3. Reinforce preparedness and crisis management capacity.

## **Position animal health as central to tackling global challenges:**

1. Elevate animal health and welfare as a global priority in tackling global challenges, through targeted advocacy with decision-makers and strategic communication.
2. Support Members in communicating on priority challenges to have an impact on stakeholders and improve animal health and welfare worldwide.



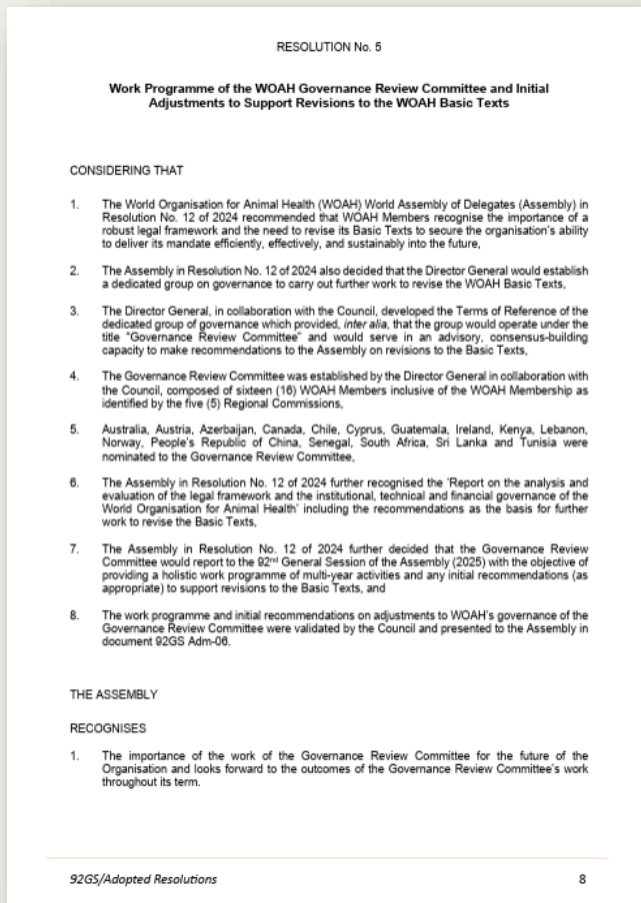
# Enablers specific objectives

## Governance and partnerships for sustainability:

1. Support the work of the GRC and implement the World Assembly's decisions on updates to WOAH's institutional, technical and financial governance
2. Strengthen WOAH's resource mobilisation for long-term sustainability.
3. Strengthen strategic partnerships.



# Governance Review Committee (GRC)



INSTITUTIONAL  
GOVERNANCE

TECHNICAL  
GOVERNANCE

FINANCIAL  
GOVERNANCE



# Enablers specific objectives

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## Leadership in animal health data:

1. Provide Members and other stakeholders with the data, analysis and insights they need to take evidence-based decisions on animal health and welfare.
2. Strengthen WOA data backend systems and policies.

## People at the centre of WOA:

1. Lead by example, promoting solidarity and fairness, and fostering an environment that encourages motivation and purpose.

## Performance and accountability:

1. Foster a culture of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL).
2. Formalise internal processes to enhance quality, accountability and transparency.





# In short: a plan to respond to today's challenges

- We operate in an environment of global challenges: (re)emerging diseases, biothreats, AMR, rising inequalities, geopolitical tensions, food insecurity, climate change and a veterinary profession under pressure, and more challenges.

*Within this context, the 8th Strategic Plan:*

- **Calls for reinforced collaboration and coordination** for deeper investment and impact.
- **Advocates for addressing disparities** between Members, recognising that no one can address animal health threats alone.
- **Demonstrates the value of investing** in animal health systems for its Members, society and the environment.
- Serves as a tool to **strategically mobilise resources** for WOAH and animal health & welfare more broadly.
- **Commits to continue improving**, innovating and making the best use of its networks of expertise, data and partnerships to guide and inform impactful decisions.



# Your thoughts



As we build our future  
together and face the  
challenges together



# Advocacy: supporting Members' engagement





# **Position Animal Health as central to tackling global challenges**

## **Why animal health must be elevated?**

- Critical for health security, food systems, trade and sustainable development
- Yet many Delegates struggle to reach high-level authorities and influence policy
- Investment in Veterinary Services and animal health system is a political imperative, not just a technical issue
- Delegates turnover and limited visibility can weaken national advocacy



# **Position Animal Health as central to tackling global challenges**

## **How can WOAH support its Members?**

- Global advocacy on your behalf in high-level political forums such as the G7, G20, COP and ministerial dialogues
- Strengthening Delegates' political influence through targeted advocacy tools and high-level policy briefs
- Support from Regional and Subregional Representations for national advocacy efforts





# **Position Animal Health as central to tackling global challenges**

## **Insights from the Membership Value Project:**

- The need for empowered Delegates with clearer pathways to influence national decision-makers
- Importance of regular two-way communication between WOAH and Members
- Shift towards Member-centric communication focusing on national priorities and constraints
- Recognition that advocacy must be tailored



# **Position Animal Health as central to tackling global challenges<sup>2</sup>**

## **Building a clear Advocacy Strategy:**

- WOAHA is developing a consolidated approach (aligned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan) to advocacy and communication that integrates:
  - Policy High-level political advocacy
  - (High-level political advocacy at national, regional and global levels)
  - Financial advocacy
  - Technical advocacy
  - Public communication
- This is designed to raise the profile of animal health, secure investment in Veterinary Services and support Members' engagement at national and regional levels



# Conclusion

- Animal health is central to global health, food security, trade and prosperity
- Strong Veterinary Services are essential and require political commitment
- WOAH offers a trusted, science-based platform and powerful global advocacy
- Members already benefit from standards, transparency, expertise and regional support
- These strengths must now be fully leveraged to address the challenges we face today
- Collective action and active Member engagement are key to building a more resilient future

# Thank you!

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Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran  
Director General

Larnaca, Cyprus,  
November 2025



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