

WOAH Standards Setting Process - Panel discussion

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Commission for Europe

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World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Code Commission's work programme
3. Biological Standards Commission's work programme
4. Accessing information on WOAH Standards Setting process

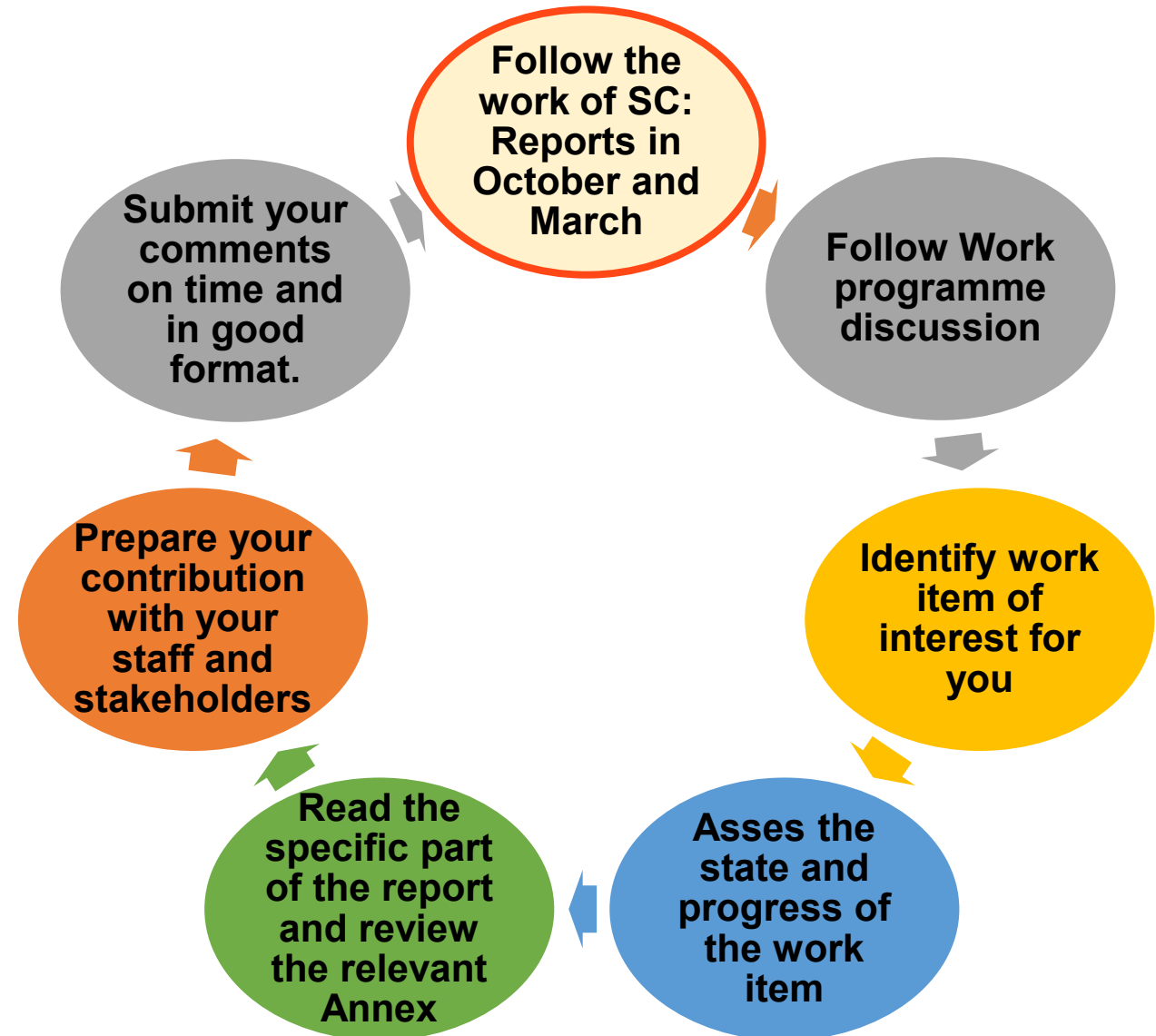


1. Introduction

Participation cycle

Key points:

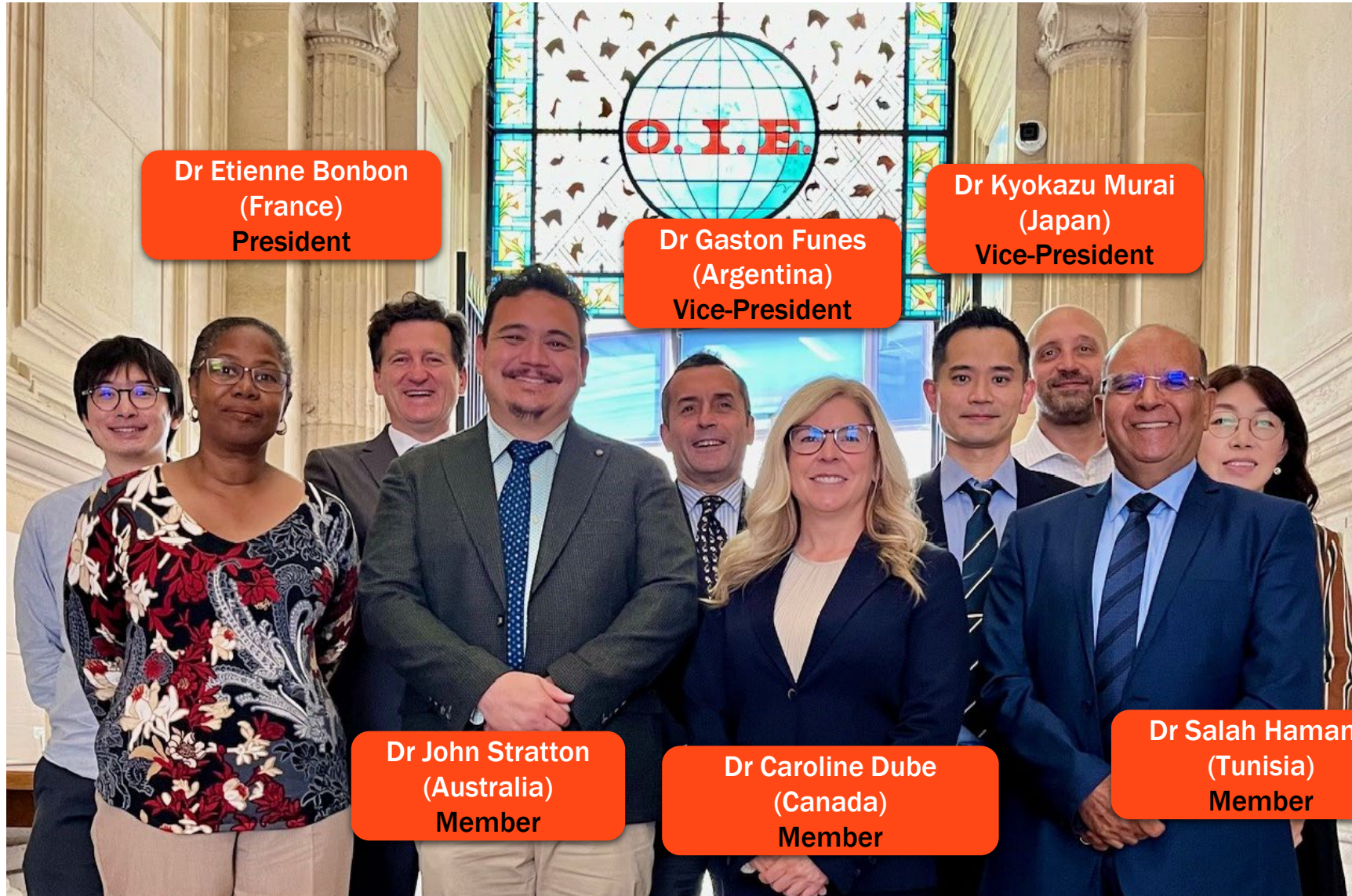
- Not all topics may be of the same interest
- Topics progress slowly but steadily
- Takes 2 to 4 years to adopt
- Intervene sooner rather than later
- All contributions help
- Do no wait until the GS!





2. Code Commission's work programme State of play

Members of TAHSC (New term: 2024-2027)



**Dr Etienne Bonbon
(France)
President**

**Dr Kyokazu Murai
(Japan)
Vice-President**

**Dr Gaston Funes
(Argentina)
Vice-President**

**Dr John Stratton
(Australia)
Member**

**Dr Caroline Dube
(Canada)
Member**

**Dr Salah Hamami
(Tunisia)
Member**



In TAHSC Sep 2024 meeting report

- **21** texts to be circulated for comments
- **8** new proposals/requests considered
- **12** new work items added

State of play

- Work programme currently includes **61** work items
- **42** items are ongoing (prioritisation order 1 or 2)
- Many items are in coordination with other Specialist Commissions

- Chapter 4.6. General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres
- Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen
- Chapter 6.10. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine
- Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals
- Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus
- Chapter 1.11. Application for official recognition by WOAHP of free status for foot and mouth disease
- Chapter 8.16. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus
- Chapter 8.18. Infection with *Trichinella* spp.
- Chapter 8.X. Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever)
- Chapter 8.Z. Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi*
- Chapter 13.2. Rabbit haemorrhagic disease
- Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever virus
- Chapter 16.Z. Infection with Camelpox virus
- Glossary
- Chapter 1.3. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAHP
- Terminology

9 annexes for Comment and to be proposed for adoption in 2025

1. Glossary
2. User's Guide
3. Biosecurity (new Chapter 4.X.)
4. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare (Chapter 7.1.)
5. Infection with Nipah virus (new Chapter 8.Y.)
6. Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *Mycoides* SC (contagious bovine pleuropneumonia) (Chapter 11.5.)
7. Infection with bovine pestiviruses (bovine viral diarrhoea) (new Chapter 11.X.)
8. Infection with African horse sickness virus (Chapter 12.1.)
9. Infection with *Trypanosoma equiperdum* (dourine) (Chapter 12.3.)

12 annexes for Comment

1. Work programme
2. Glossary
3. Procedures for official recognition of animal health status, endorsement of an official control programme, and publication of a self-declaration of animal health status, by WOA. (Chapter 1.6.)
4. Measures and procedures applicable during ‘exportation’, ‘transit’ and ‘importation’ (Chapters 5.4. to 5.7.) (4 Annexes)
5. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus, recommendations for international trade of fetal mycoplasma bovine serum (Article 8.8.33bis of Chapter 8.8.)
6. New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and Old World screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*) (new Article 8.13.1bis of Chapter 8.13.)
7. Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (new Chapter 8.X.)
8. Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis) (new Chapter 10.X.)
9. Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western) (Chapter 12.4.)

Ongoing work

- **Revision of equine encephalitides chapters (JE, EEE, WEE, VEE, WNF)**
 - *ad hoc* Group will continue to revise the chapters on JE and then VEE
- **Revision of Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4. welfare of animals during transport by land, sea and air**
 - *ad hoc* Group to meet to continue drafting a new chapter
- **Standards on emergency management**
 - *ad hoc* Group to meet to draft a new chapter
- **Comprehensive revision of Chapter 14.8. Scrapie**
 - *ad hoc* Group started to undertake the revision
- **Revision of Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen**
 - *ad hoc* Group working to develop a new approach to facilitate trade of semen

Ongoing work

- **Revision of chapters on certification procedures (Chapters 5.2. and 5.10.)**
 - *ad hoc* Group working to develop data standards for e-cert and to review relevant chapters
- **Revision of Chapter 7.6. Killing for disease control purposes**
 - *ad hoc* Group will continue to revise of the chapter in response to comments
- **Animal hosts to be targeted by WOAHP Standards for a listed disease**
 - Common approach being developed with SCAD and BSC
- **Official disease status chapters: Harmonisation & removal of questionnaires**
 - Joint work with the SCAD

New work to be started

- **Glossary: ‘poultry’**
- **Revision of Chapters 14.9. Sheep pox and goat pox**
 - *ad hoc* Group will meet to initiate work
- **Revision of Chapter 6.8. Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes**
 - Coordination with WOAHA AMRWG to initiate work
- **Implementation of zoning: Revision of Chapter 4.4. and development of new chapter**
 - Preparatory work for to start with SCAD for the revision and development of a new chapter
- **Revision of Chapter 8.20. Turalemia**
 - Incorporation of a new case definition from SCAD

- September TAHSC Meeting report to be published towards the end of October
- Members submit comments on relevant annexes presented in the Code Commission's report before [27 December 2024](#).
- Next Meeting of the Code Commission 4-14 February 2024

Send comments to WOAHS Standards Department at TCC.Secretariat@woah.org



4. Biological Standards Commission's work programme State of play

Members of BSC (New term: 2024-2027)



President

**Prof. Emmanuel
Couacy-Hymann
(Cote d'Ivoire)**

Member

**Dr Satoko Kawaji
(Japan)**

1st Vice-President
**Prof. Ann Cullinane
(Ireland)**

Member

**Dr Joseph S. O'Keefe
(New Zealand)**

2nd Vice-President
**Prof. Chris Oura
(Trinidad and Tobago)**

Member

**Dr Donald King
(United Kingdom)**

At the GS, May 2024

- **12** chapters were proposed and adopted
- **4** new Collaborating Centres adopted
- Creation of criteria for keeping chapters in the *Terrestrial Manual* on non-listed diseases
- Diagnostic test validation template
- Freezing of the register of diagnostic kits

September 2024 meeting

- **30** draft chapters reviewed
- **29** chapters should be circulated for comments
- **4** new Reference Centres
- **3** changes of experts of Reference Laboratories
- **3** new twinning programmes initiated



Terrestrial Manual

- Updating the chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual*
- Report format and publishing of comments

Reference Laboratories

- Enhance annual performance review

Collaborating Centres

- Annual performance review
- Increase the visibility and accessibility of current Centres
- Explore mechanisms to improve collaboration by bringing together the Centres with the same main focus area

Case definitions

- Follow up the implementation of the SOPs for case definitions

Standardisation/Harmonisation

- Project to extend the list of WOAHA-approved reference reagents
- Project to develop replacement International Standard Bovine and Avian Tuberculin

Projects

- Virtual Biobanks



Subject	Issue	Status and Action
Updating the <i>Terrestrial Manual</i>	1) Circulate the chapters approved by the BSC to Members for first-round comment	For February 2025
	2) Remind authors of the chapters identified previously for update but not yet received and invite authors of chapters newly identified for update	On-going
	3) Upload, publicise and inform Reference Laboratories experts about the database of validation reports to be published on the WOAHA Website for tests recommended in the <i>Terrestrial Manual</i>	Accomplished
	4) Include as appendices at the end of the disease-specific chapters, the tables explaining the scores given to the tests in Table 1 <i>Test methods available and their purpose</i> . Add links to the validation reports when available (point 3 above).	Accomplished
	5) Ask Reference Centres to provide links to suitable instructional videos to be added to the end of the disease-specific chapters. Videos to be reviewed by the Commission when the chapter is up for review	On-going
	6) Develop criteria for removing chapters for non-listed diseases and assess those chapters against the criteria	Accomplished
	7) Review new developments in diseases causing significant global impacts (e.g. avian influenza, African swine fever) and prioritise those chapters	On-going
	8) Start the process of addressing the request to have access to the previous versions and evolution of the <i>Terrestrial Manual</i> as done with the <i>Terrestrial Code</i>	On-going
	9) Include the PCR table template in the Guide for contributors (harmonisation with the <i>Aquatic Manual</i>)	On-going

Collaborating Centres	1) Implementation of the adopted SOPs:	
	a) Develop a template for the Collaborating Centres for the report of their assessment of their performance in the past 5-years to be compared with their initial 5-year work plan	Accomplished
	b) Send the 5-year working plan evaluation template to the appropriate Collaborating Centres	Accomplished
	2) Evaluate the feedback from those Centres that completed 5 years and assess the current relevance of the scope of their activities for renewal	For February 2025
	3) Increase visibility of current Centres: ask to submit maximum of 5 bullet points to be added to their website entry under the title "How can we help?"	On-going
4) Explore mechanisms to improve collaboration by bringing together the Centres with the same <u>main focus area</u> (currently six): involvement of industry or other partners for fundings	On-going	
5) Develop a questionnaire to gather feedback from the Collaborating Centres on their experiences being a WOAHA CC, <u>similar</u> to the one for the Reference Laboratories	September 2025	



Subject	Issue	Status and Action
Reference Laboratories	1) Put under-performing laboratories on watch list and monitor their performance.	On-going
	2) Implement the new system for evaluating annual reports and provide list of assigned reports to Commission members	Accomplished
	3) Assessment of annual reports	23 October 2024
	4) Send feedback to the Reference Laboratory network on the questionnaire	Accomplished
	5) Explore enhancements to the annual report process: the possibility of filling in the annual report template throughout the year	Accomplished
Reference Centre Networks	1) Follow up with the three Reference Laboratory networks (ASF, PPR and rabies) (Potentially CSF and FMD, OFFLU)	On-going
Standardisation/ Harmonisation	1) Project to extend the list of WOAHA-approved reference reagents	
	a) Ask the other networks if they accept the minimum standards document proposed by PPR network. Once finalised, upload the document for implementation	For February 2025
	2) Project to develop Replacement International Standard Bovine and Avian Tuberculin: finalise report and propose for adoption	On-going

Ad hoc Groups	1) Contribute on the review on the <i>Terrestrial Code</i> Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen	On-going
	2) Contribute to the <i>Ad hoc</i> Group on Emerging Diseases and Drivers of Disease Emergence in Animals	On-going
Projects	1) Veterinary Biobanking (project)	On-going
	2) <i>BIO-PREVAİL: A health security initiative for sustainable laboratories</i>	On-going
Conferences, Workshops and Meetings with participation by BSC Members	1) Biosafety research roadmap	Accomplished
	2) ISWAVLD WOAHA Seminar: develop a theme and programme and speakers. June 2025 in Canada	June 2025
Performance	1) Engage with the ongoing processes around performance issues with Reference Laboratories	On-going
Develop laboratory standards for emerging diseases	1) Discuss the <i>Terrestrial Code</i> chapter once adopted and consider introducing a corresponding chapter for the <i>Terrestrial Manual</i>	After May 2025
Case definitions	1) Follow up the implementation of the SOPs for case definitions	On-going



5. Accessing information on WOA Standards Setting process



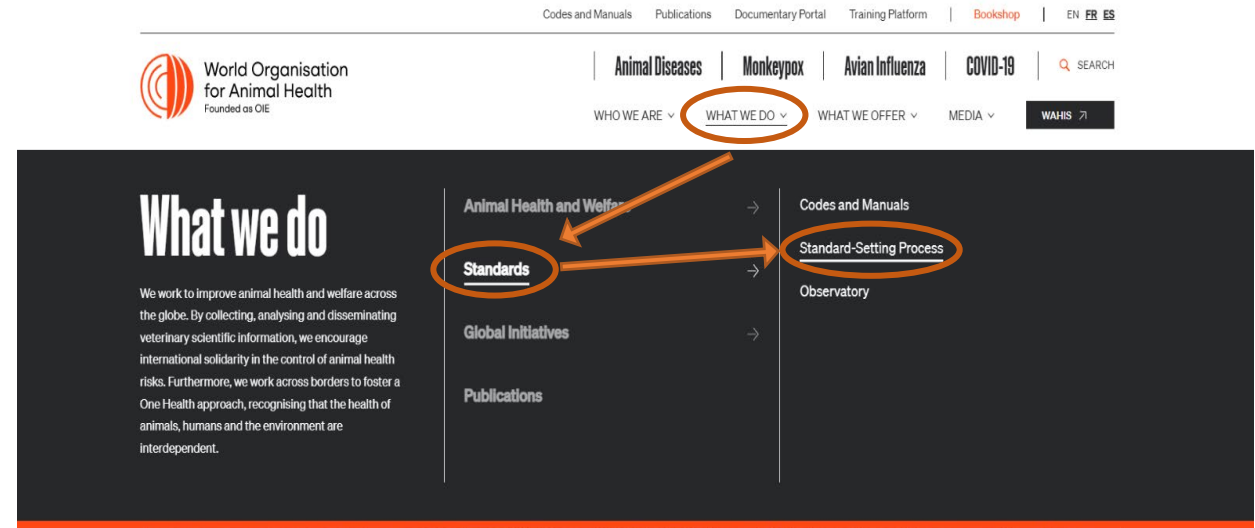
Where can I find information on the Standard Setting Process?

Only for WOAHA Delegates: WOAHA Delegates Website

- Report and annexes in MS Word Format
- Comments considered by Specialist Commissions (**started from Feb 2024 meeting**)

Publicly available

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





Where can I find complementary information?

- The Specialist Commissions refer in many instances to topics discussed by the other Specialist Commissions, Working Groups (WG) or *ad hoc* Groups (AHG).
- The full rationales are described in the relevant reports. Members should read the report of the specific Specialist Commission in conjunction with these other reports.
- All reports are available on the WOAHO 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, prioritised 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	19-23	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.



Reports will provide:

- Annexes presenting new and revised texts in the *Code* and *Manual* for comments or to be proposed for adoption in the upcoming General Session
- The Commission's rationale for amendments
- The Commission's work programme
- Updates on other related activities
- **NEW:** the comments considered and the Commission's responses

The publication of the reports is expected end of October 2024.

Thank you Merci Gracias

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