World Organisation for Animal Health

28th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas

Asuncion, Paraguay, 2-6 November 2026

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2026

Arrival of participants

MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2026

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Arrival of participants / Conference registration

9:00 a.m. Opening ceremony

9:45 a.m. Official photograph

10:00 a.m. Break – Press conference (accredited media only)

10:30 High level round table: Investing in Animal Health to Secure Everyone´s Future
- Panel discussion with national authorities in ministerial positions.
- Panel discussion with cooperation and funding organisations, and private sector.

12:30 p.m. Introduction by the Presidents of the Regional Commission and the World Assembly of Delegates (Drs Rafael Rodríguez Alvarado and Susana Pombo)

Approval of the Programme (Dr Rafael Rodríguez Alvarado)

Appointment of the Conference Committee
(Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and General Rapporteur)

Appointment of session chairpersons and rapporteurs
(Technical items)

12:45 p.m. Lunch break

2:00 p.m. Building an Organisation Fit for the Future: Delivering greater impact for our Members (Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran, WOAH Director General)

2:45 p.m. Regional activities and follow up of the last Conference recommendations (Dr Francisco D'Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas)

3:15 p.m. State of animal health and reporting capacities in the Americas:
- Regional animal health situation;
- Reporting status (early warning, six-monthly and annual)
- Wildepi reporting
- Benefits of Reporting
- How to improve disease reporting: interactive session

(Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of the World Animal Health Information Department)

4:15 p.m. Break

4:45 p.m. The WOAH PVS Process: Involvement of Members from the Americas region. Experiences and future prospects. (Drs Jennifer Lasley and Mario Alguerno, Capacity Building Department)

5:30 p.m. End of the day

6:30 p.m. Historical visit and dinner hosted by SENACSA Paraguay

World Organisation for Animal Health

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2026

9:00 a.m.	Technical Item I: Use of epidemiological models to support decision-making in Veterinary Services (Dr Maria Victoria Iriarte Barbosa, DGSG-MGAP Uruguay)
9:45 a.m.	Discussion
10:15 a.m.	Break (*Preparation of Recommendation No. 1 by designated small group)*
10:45 a.m.	Strengthening emergency preparedness and response in the Americas (including ASF preparedness exercise and regional experiences) (Dr Andres Perez, Center for Animal Health and Food Safety, Univ of Minnesota)
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m.	30 years of WOAH official status recognition (Dr Montserrat Arroyo Kuribreña, Deputy Director General – Standards Setting and Implementation)
3:00 p.m.	WOAH Reference Centres: Regional capacities, perspectives and future needs (Drs Matteo Morini, Senior Regional Animal Health Officer, Dilmara Reischak and Andrés Pérez, WOAH Reference Centres Experts)
3:45 p.m.	Break
4:15 p.m.	Activity report of the Regional Secretariat of the Global Framework for the Control of Transboundary Diseases (GF-TADs) (Dr Catya Martinez Rivas, Sub-Regional Representative for Central America and the Caribbean)
4: 45 p.m.	Round Table on GF-TADs priority diseases, sub-regional and regional coordination (Chair: Dr Conrad Estrada, President of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee) • Screwworm - OIRSA • Swine Diseases - IICA • Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza – FAO • Foot and mouth disease – OPS/OMS Panaftosa
5:45 p.m.	Epidemic Intelligence, Forecasting and Foresight in Animal Health to Improve Members' Preparedness (Dr Paolo Tizziani, Senior Veterinary Epidemiologist, Data Integration and Analytics Department)
6:00 p.m.	End of the day
7:30 p.m.	Dinner hosted by WOAH

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2026

09:00 a.m.	Technical Item II: Economic aspects of effective and sustainable animal health surveillance systems. (Prof. Vítor Salvador Picão Gonçalves, Universidad de Brasilia)
09:45 a.m.	Discussion
10.15 a.m.	Break (*Preparation of Recommendation No. 2 by designated small group)*

10:45 a.m. "One Health" and Regional Work Plan:
a) "One Health" governance in the Americas and Quadripartite Collaboration (Dr María Mesplet, One Health Regional Officer, RR Americas)
b) The economic impact of AMR in animal health: facts, figures and cost-effective interventions Implementation of the 2024 UN Political Declaration on AMR – Targets & Opportunities (Dr Montserrat Arroyo)
c) Wildlife: Priorities and regional action plan (Dr María Mesplet)

12:15 p.m. Animal Welfare: Update on the regional strategy
(Dr Lucía Escati, Regional Communications and Technical Officer, RR Americas)

1:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. Aquatic Animal Health: Proposed regional strategy
(Drs Alicia Gallardo Lagno, President of the Aquatic Animals Health Commission and Marcela Lara, Regional Aquatic Animal Health Officer, RR Americas)

2:30 p.m. Animal movements and international trade. Progress report and regional work plan
(Dr Martín Minassian, Technical Assistant, RR Americas)

3:00 p.m. WOAH Standard setting process and facilitated discussion on regional initiatives and the work plans for the development and revision of:
- Terrestrial Code
- Terrestrial Manual
- Aquatic Code and Manual

(Drs Alicia Gallardo Lagno, Gastón Funes and Caroline Dubé, Regional Members of the Specialist commissions)

4:30 p.m. Progress on the work of the WOAH Community of Practice on Standards
(Dr Martín Minassian, Technical Assistant, RR Americas)

4:50 p.m. Break

5:30 p.m. Presentation of draft recommendations and discussion

6:30 p.m. End of the day

7:00 p.m. Dinner hosted by SENACSA Paraguay

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2026

Cultural visit organised by Paraguay

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026

09:00 a.m. Update on the activities of the WOAH Governance Review Committee (GRC)
(Dr François Caya, Deputy Director General, Institutional Affairs and Governance, and Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero, Delegate of Chile and Americas GRC Member)

10:00 a.m. From Global Strategy to Regional Action:
- Development of the Regional Work Plan Framework for the implementation of the WOAH 8th Strategic Plan
- Identification of regional priorities and future needs for WOAH support

(Ms Nathaly Monsalve, Head Regional Coordination Department and Dr Francisco D'Alessio)

World Organisation for Animal Health

11:30 a.m.	Break
12:00 p.m.	Administrative session (Dr François Caya)
12:30 p.m.	Americas Committee on Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET): Review of the Committee and future outlook (Dr Francisco D´Alessio and CAMEVET Representative)
1:00 p.m.	Conference conclusions and adoption of Recommendations
1:30 p.m.	Proposal of date and venue of the 29th Conference of the WOAH Regional Commission for the Americas
1:45 p.m.	Closing ceremony
2:00 p.m.	End of the Conference