World Organisation for Animal Health

Draft 1

28th Conference of the WOAH Regional Commission for the Americas
Asunción, Paraguay, 2–6 November 2026

Recommendation No. 2

Economic aspects of effective and sustainable animal health systems

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Animal health is fundamental to food security, public and environmental health, economic development, shared prosperity, biodiversity and global health security;

2. The Animal Health Forum held during the 93rd General Session and Resolution No. 35, *Investing in Animal Health to Secure Everyone's Future*, recognised animal health as a strategic investment and called for more sustainable financing of animal health systems, stronger economic evidence for investment decisions, and enhanced collaboration among public, private and financing actors;

3. Members in the Americas have achieved important progress in the prevention, control and eradication of major transboundary animal diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and classical swine fever (CSF). As Members move from intensive disease-control programmes towards maintaining disease freedom, greater emphasis is placed on surveillance, early warning, emergency preparedness and response, while Veterinary Services must also address endemic diseases, zoonoses and other emerging priorities while attending neglected diseases;

4. Surveillance, early warning and emergency preparedness generate important public benefits and may also provide sector-specific benefits. Sustainable financing arrangements should therefore take into account national circumstances, the distribution of costs and benefits among stakeholders, and the respective roles of public and private actors, without prescribing a single financing model;

5. Economic analysis, including disease-burden assessment, cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit and return-on-investment analysis, where appropriate, can support priority setting, resource allocation and investment decisions and help demonstrate the societal value of animal health;

6. The effective use of economic analysis depends on access to relevant and reliable data and on multidisciplinary collaboration among Veterinary Authorities, economists, epidemiologists, disease-control specialists, research and academic institutions and other relevant partners;

7. The PVS Pathway is the global reference methodology based on WOAH Standards that provides an external assessment of strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and opportunities for innovation to achieve national objectives and provides a structured framework for continuous monitoring and evaluation over time, boosted by the PVS Information System, that enables Members and their partners to fully exploit PVS Pathway data;

8. The Regional Commission for the Americas can build on regional expertise within WOAH´s network, including the WOAH Collaborating Centre for the Economics of Animal Health - Americas Region (CCEAH-A) and others, to strengthen Members' capacities in animal health economics and translate the global commitments of Resolution No. 35 into practical regional action;

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Members analyse their existing financing arrangements for disease control and eradication, including surveillance, emergency preparedness and response, with a view to identifying financing gaps, clarifying the respective roles of public and private stakeholders, and exploring, where appropriate, sustainable financing mechanisms adapted to national circumstances and to the distribution of costs and benefits among stakeholders, including existing contingency funds;

2. Members progressively strengthen the use of economic analysis in priority setting, programme planning and investment decisions, including, where appropriate, disease-burden, cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit and return-on-investment assessments. Relevant methodologies and initiatives, including the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) programme, may support this work;

3. Members continue engaging in the PVS Pathway, taking advantage of the different tools and support options, including the new PVS Self-Assessment Annual Report that enables them to monitor progress in implementing PVS recommendations;

4. Members strengthen the availability, quality, interoperability and appropriate use of data required for epidemiological and economic analysis, building where possible on existing information systems, including with PVS Pathway data and taking into account applicable requirements for data governance, confidentiality and data sharing and also sustainability of the system;

5. WOAH supports capacity building in animal health economics, in collaboration with WOAH network of expertise and regional partners, through training, technical guidance and knowledge exchange, enabling Veterinary Services to combine PVS Pathway findings and other relevant data with economic analysis to inform decision-making, identify investment priorities and develop evidence-based investment proposals that facilitate resource allocation and sustainable investment in Veterinary Services;

6. WOAH and its Members strengthen national and regional collaboration with relevant public and private stakeholders, international financial institutions and development partners to improve understanding of animal health investment needs, exchange experience on sustainable financing approaches, and identify opportunities to mobilise resources for priorities identified by Members and the Region;

7. WOAH, through the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, in coordination with the Bureau of the Regional Commission and relevant regional partners, facilitate follow-up to this Recommendation as a regional contribution to the implementation of Resolution No. 35, and take stock of progress, experiences and lessons learned for consideration by Members before the next Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas.