

Candidate for director-general of
**THE WORLD ORGANISATION
FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**

(WOAH) - MAY 2024

LUIS BARCOS





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Born in the small rural city of Colón in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Luis Barcos worked in factories to pay for his studies until he graduated as Veterinarian from the University of Buenos Aires in 1983.

At the beginning of his professional career, he worked as a rural veterinarian in the private sector, especially in the fields of management, reproduction, health and genetic improvement.

For 15 years, he was in charge of 500,000 head of cattle spread over 1,000,000 hectares in Argentina.

Later on, from 1996 to 1999, he served in the Federal Public Sector as President of the National Service of Agri-Food Health and Quality (SENASA), where he was responsible for animal health and food safety at national level and represented the country before the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). As President of SENASA and on behalf of the Argentine Government, he negotiated agreements with over 70 countries to gain market access, he oversaw 4,000 employees and 360 regional offices spread throughout the Argentine territory, and he managed an annual budget of USD 100 million.

In addition, during his tenure, Mr Barcos managed and administered the facility of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas in Buenos Aires in 1998, he served as Argentine representative in the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), he worked as Secretary of the OIE Regional Commission of the Americas and he chaired the OIE ad hoc Group on animal identification and traceability.

Mr Barcos is currently honorary professor at the School of Veterinary Science of the University of Buenos Aires and, since 2004 he has been serving as WOAH Regional Representative for the Americas. During the past 20 years of work at the WOAH, he served as acting head of the department of regional actions at the Paris office and as member of the editorial board of the OIE Scientific Review, and he published scientific papers on various topics relating to animal health, funding of Veterinary Services, and economic studies on cost effectiveness.

As Regional Representative, a position he has held for over 20 years, he advanced the creation of a Sub-Regional Representation in Panama for Central America and the Caribbean, and promoted the incorporation of three new Member Countries of the region into the WOAH. He has also played a leading role in the region by fostering inclusive and harmonious participation—in line with the goal of regional balance—in WOAH activities, both by official Veterinary Services and by other international organizations. Additionally, he encouraged public-private partnerships and he supported the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)—where he currently serves as Secretary—since its inception.

MAIN GOALS: PRINCIPLES

Adhering to the Basic Texts of WOAH.

Implementing the decisions adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates.

Respecting and supporting the work of the members of WOAH's commissions and ad hoc groups.

Promoting participation by all Members.

Respecting and supporting Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

Observing and promoting institutional agreements that are beneficial to Members.

MAIN GOALS: PRIORITIES



SOLIDARITY

Promoting solidarity to contribute to the development and strengthening of Members that need to improve their capacities.



DISEASE CONTROL METHODS

Increasing capacity-building and providing tools to countries to assist them in adequately adopting prevention and control measures for all animal diseases, including diagnosis.



VETERINARY SERVICES

Promoting capacity-building for all members in order to provide them with tools aimed at preventing, controlling and eradicating animal diseases and diseases affecting public health in national economies, food security and livelihoods.



DIVERSIFYING THE GEOGRAPHICAL MAKE-UP OF THE WOAH TEAM. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Appreciating cultural, productive, economic, and social differences worldwide and promoting actions to build respect and inclusion in order to integrate them into policies and activities.



STANDARDS

Promoting the process of development and implementation of the regulatory framework by members to facilitate secure trade and avoid unjustified barriers.



TRANSPARENCY OF THE GLOBAL ZOO SANITARY SITUATION

Continuing the process to improve the early warning and notification system with a view to preventing the spread of diseases.



ONE HEALTH

Continuing to reinforce activities to assist members in implementing this concept on the ground.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Continuing to strengthen respect for WOAH and expanding activities with International Organizations that are beneficial to members.