

FAO Statement No.1 - SEVENTY-SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY¹

21–30 May 2023

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is a pleasure to address the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly.
2. We wish to acknowledge WHO and Dr. Tedros for leading global health efforts and particularly on the response to COVID-19 Pandemic and for coordinating the work of the Quadripartite Secretariat during 2022.
3. At the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in line with our mandate, we promote the One Health approach for agrifood systems transformation and global health security through FAO's One Health Priority Program Area and the QPT One Health Joint Plan of Action.
4. We acknowledge the importance of the Pandemic Fund for supporting countries to strengthen their public health and animal health systems to better prevent, prepare and respond to pandemic threats through a One Health approach. The Pandemic Fund Expressions of Interest (EOI) and proposals submitted by Member States demonstrate the trust put in, among others, WHO and FAO as implementing entities as well as their needs for investment in both public health and animal health sectors.
5. As part of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, we support Member Countries in One Health implementation to enhance productivity through reducing the risks and impacts from biological threats as well as contribute to global health security through prevention and containment of zoonoses, AMR and food safety threats at the animal source in line with global frameworks such as International Health Regulations (IHR) and the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA).
6. We are committed to continuing collaboration with WHO and partners on sustainable One Health implementation for healthy people, healthy plants, healthy animals and a healthy planet, for our collective prosperity.
7. Thank you.

¹ Theme: WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all