

FAO Statement. INB 11 Pandemic Agreement

- Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR) demands a One Health approach that addresses pandemic drivers at source. With zoonoses accounting for around 60% of emerging infectious diseases, and 70 % of those originating in animals, the roles of animal health, natural resources management, and the environment are essential in preventing future pandemics.
- One Health has been central to FAO's work for the past 20 years. FAO Members have reinforced its mandate on One Health through over 20 resolutions and documents from its Governing Bodies, including designation of One Health as a Program Priority Area in the current FAO Strategic Framework. FAO has implemented more than 110 projects focused on One Health in the five continents, supported by \$ 330 million in voluntary contributions between 2010 and 2023.
- FAO has closely collaborated with the Quadripartite that includes WHO, UNEP and WOA, and other partners, contributing to the development of a globally accepted approach to One Health coordination and implementation. The Quadripartite has been leading and prolific in producing global guidance and support to countries for One Health governance and implementation. This includes the establishment of a One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) which developed a broadly agreed definition and key underlying principles of One Health, and provided guidance on the prevention of zoonotic spillover, among other contributions. Through this collaboration, FAO and the Quadripartite have gained extensive experience in operationalizing One Health globally and nationally. The Quadripartite's work through the JPA-OH is widely recognized for its contribution to One Health scientific evidence, workforce capacity development, and implementation.
- One Health is a holistic approach, and it demands a multisectoral, multidisciplinary collaboration and equity across institutions, sectors, and disciplines at both national and global levels. By leveraging existing global mechanisms and expertise, the Pandemic Agreement can benefit from a coordinated, whole-of-society approach that engages all relevant stakeholders, improving consistency and coherence across sectors and international organizations. Members need support for One Health implementation and to this end, **technical collaboration with FAO and other relevant intergovernmental organizations should be explicitly included in the Pandemic Agreement.** Programs like the joint WHO-FAO initiatives on avian influenza, or rabies can serve as models for operationalizing One Health in relation to PPPR.
- One Health under the Pandemic agreement is limited to PPPR. The One Health implementation approach followed by FAO and the QPT is broader and includes upstream prevention more broadly, addressing the drivers of spill over and spread of pathogens at the animal human environment interface.
- FAO advocates for **One Health to be considered as a guiding principle to reconcile and integrate distinct sectors and disciplines.** Legal obligations should remain flexible to adapt to national contexts, scientific developments, and policy changes. Overly rigid legal obligations may hinder adaptive implementation and undermine the principle of differentiated responsibilities. Along the same lines, **new governance frameworks or any instrument focused solely on One Health for PPPR, risk duplication and fragmentation in One Health implementation at the global and the national levels.**
- FAO, with its extensive technical expertise and experience in supporting One Health implementation, remains committed to advancing the One Health approach in partnership with WHO and other partners, contributing to agrifood system transformation and food security for the health of people, animals, plants and the environment.