

FOUR PAWS' statement on the draft negotiating text of the Pandemic Agreement

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Pandemics are complex One Health challenges because 75% of emerging infectious diseases have animal origin. Given the frequency and severity of zoonotic outbreaks in recent years, an **international agreement for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, which is rooted in One Health is of existential importance. Many Member States worldwide, especially developing countries are already leading by example with One Health action**, and therefore, including One Health measures in the treaty will ensure they receive support in implementing their One Health priorities.

One Health supports **communities to protect themselves from outbreaks, leads to resource pooling and enables equity**. Achieving equity means a **focus on prevention of disease (re)emergence in animals and preventing spillover via a One Health approach**, by

1. identifying high risk practices and activities so that those can be prioritized nationally and outbreaks prevented before communities suffer;
2. incorporating those into national One Health strategies and working with communities in designing the steps of these strategies to reduce risks. Ensure that communities have the resources they need to transition from high-risk practices and protect themselves. Only engaging communities in surveillance will not achieve equity.
3. strengthening national interministerial One Health coordination for strategy development & implementation (including One Health surveillance);
4. Aligning strategies with commonly agreed guidelines so that all governments work towards the same purpose (the guidelines are where we get concrete on the exact activities that need to be phased out, etc.) and so that these guidelines can send a signal to financing bodies on what must be funded;
5. offering financial and technical support, and support by relevant intergovernmental institutions including FAO, UNEP, WOAHA and WHO to member states upon request; and
6. ensuring support to tackle AMR is offered to member states because the next pandemic can be antimicrobial. Listing it in the pandemic agreement makes the treaty future proof and offers a formal international treaty frame that can support national One Health AMR plans.

National One Health strategies, that are developed based on national circumstances as well as commonly agreed guidelines, **must tackle disease emergence in animals**. Agreeing on **common guidelines in the pandemic agreement** will ensure clarity on what can receive **financial and technical support**.

Failure is not an option - this is a historical opportunity to address the root causes of pandemics in the pandemic agreement to protect humanity from another deadly outbreak - before communities suffer.