Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is a pleasure to address the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly.

2. FAO, as a UN specialized agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and achieve food security for all, promotes a One Health approach as part of agrifood system transformation for the health of people, animals, plants and the environment. FAO contributes to global health security through FAO’s One Health Priority Program Area, as well as the Quadripartite collaboration.

3. FAO and Quadripartite partners have developed a global One Health Joint Plan of Action and its implementation guide, aiming to support countries to build their own One Health governance, workforce and programmes to prevent and respond to outbreaks and potential pandemics, in line with their contexts.

4. Today, the world is facing an increased number of highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks and detections in animals, including birds, wildlife and livestock, with consequent human exposures to the virus at the human-animal-environment interface. The global response to avian influenza outbreaks requires a One Health approach from early detection to rapid sharing of information and sequence data from humans and animals affected. FAO, including its Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health (EMPRES-AH) and Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) programmes, together with the WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), continuously makes joint efforts in monitoring and assessing the risks as the situation evolves, and providing guidance to countries to respond to this threat.

5. FAO is also partnering with WHO in the Pandemic Fund implementation, 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.

6. 2024 will be a historic year for the future of AMR with the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on AMR and the 4th Ministerial Conference on AMR, which represents a vital opportunity to draw attention to the urgent need for increased political commitment to accelerate national, regional and global responses to the AMR pandemics.

7. In April this year, FAO launched RENOFARM, a ten-year initiative to Reduce the Need for Antimicrobials on Farms for Sustainable Agrifood Systems Transformation, a new action-oriented, country-focused initiative that promotes the 5 Gs at the farm level: Good Health Services, Good Production Practices, Good Alternatives, Good Connections, and Good Incentives. FAO’s goal is to equip in 10 years over 100 countries with the tools and knowledge that will advance sustainable

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1 Theme: All for Health, Health for All
livestock production systems that prioritize animal health and welfare, mitigate environmental impact, and enhance food security and nutrition.

8. Climate, food, nutrition, water, land, biodiversity, and energy challenges are interconnected. Agrifood systems transformation can drastically reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, protect natural resources, and preserve biodiversity to achieve our climate goals, thus providing the opportunity to improve human, animal and ecosystem health. To achieve this, FAO, together with WHO and other partners, supports the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition – the I-CAN - launched by the Egyptian Presidency of COP27 to assist Members in fostering synergies and policy coherence between climate change and nutrition agendas and catalyze integrated action to address multiple national and global priorities, simultaneously.

9. FAO is committed to continuing and strengthening collaboration with WHO to achieve the SDGs, including those on poverty, hunger, health and well-being, inequality, and clean water and sanitation.

10. Thank you.