

Intergovernmental Negotiating Body FAO Statement - SEVENTY-EIGHT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY¹

19–27 May 2025

INB- WHO Pandemic Agreement on Prevention, Preparedness and Response

FAO congratulates WHO and Members on the remarkable progress we have collectively made in advancing One Health and protecting Global Health Security. From the beginning of this successful process, three years ago, FAO together with our partners of the Quadripartite have been very actively engaging members during Intergovernmental Negotiating Body formal and informal discussions on the critical importance of One Health implementation and sharing of concrete experience and lessons from countries.

FAO supported formal discussions in particular on topics related to disease prevention, preparedness and response at the animal human and ecosystem interface. FAO appreciates that WHO Members recognize the value of FAO's inputs, unique on-the-ground experience and leadership in strengthening Members' capabilities in implementing One Health initiatives and programmes since 2004 with the emergence of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Southeast Asia through its ECTAD network (Emergency Centers for Transboundary Animal diseases).

FAO congratulates the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body for the incorporation of One Health approach and definition in the Agreement, in particular throughout Articles 4 and 5. FAO with Quadripartite partners will continue to play an important role in supporting countries to implement the One Health Joint Plan of Action and One Health provisions in Articles 4 and 5 to ensure synergies with its six action tracks on health systems strengthening and workforce development, surveillance, endemic zoonoses, food safety, AMR and Environment.

FAO looks forward to continuing to coordinate with WHO and other relevant intergovernmental organizations all technical support needed by countries to formulate and implement their national action plans on pandemic prevention and surveillance applying the One Health approach. FAO will continue to provide technical support to its Members and remains fully committed to assist WHO in enabling effective implementation of One Health.

FAO, as a UN Specialized Agency received a clear mandate from its governing bodies to operationalize One Health in transforming sustainable agrifood systems and addressing health threats emerging at the human-animal-environment interface, including antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic disease management.

FAO will continue to strength the collaboration with WHO and other members of the Quadripartite to promote the One Health approach and to enhance sustainable investments

¹ Theme: WHO at 78: One World for Health

on prevention, contributing to the transformation of agrifood systems for the health of people, animals, plants, and the environment.

Thank you.