

FAO Statement - SEVENTY-EIGHT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY¹
19–27 May 2025

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is an honor to address the Seventy-eight World Health Assembly.
2. 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, and we do this by supporting implementation of the FAO's One Health Priority Program Areas and the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action.
3. As part of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, FAO supports Member Countries in implementing One Health approaches to reduce the risks and impacts of biological threats—including zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and food safety hazards at the animal source—thereby enhancing productivity and contributing to global health security.
4. FAO and WHO longest-standing collaboration is the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme executed through the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which develops food safety standards to protect consumers' health and ensure fair practices in food trade. This remains a priority for FAO Members, and, noting the fundamental importance of safe and nutritious food for good health, we look forward to continuing our partnership with WHO for the development of science-based Codex standards.
5. The joint food safety risk assessment by FAO and WHO, dating back to 1956, is a cornerstone of our collaborative efforts. It is one of the few activities that harnesses global scientific expertise to ensure that food safety standards remain science and evidence-based, safeguarding the health of consumers worldwide. This collaboration remains a top interest for FAO members.
6. To address pandemic prevention, we acknowledge the importance of the Pandemic Fund for supporting countries to strengthen their public health and animal health systems, to better prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemic threats through a One Health approach. FAO and WHO are collaborating closely in the design and implementation of Pandemic Fund projects and activities, leveraging the sustainable national One Health capabilities that FAO has built globally.
7. We are engaged and committed to continuing our collaboration with WHO as UN Specialized Agencies on One Health implementation, in particular the recognition of One

¹ Theme: WHO at 78: One World for Health

Health as a guiding principle and the provisions contained in articles 4 and 5 of the approved text of the WHO Pandemic Agreement for healthy people, healthy plants, healthy animals and a healthy planet.

8. Thank you.