

Action for Animal Health Submission to the INB

Who we are

[Action for Animal Health](#) is a coalition of 12 NGOs and academic institutions who call for more investment in animal health systems for pandemic prevention and achieving the SDGs. Our member, World Veterinary Association is a “non-state actor in official relations with WHO”. We attend the INB meetings on behalf of the WVA to make the case for proper recognition of the role of animal health, and the need to strengthen the capacity of animal health systems to prevent zoonotic disease spillover in particular, as well as the role of the animal health workforce in preparedness and response.

Our input to WHO CAI

Preamble

We wish to see the inclusion of the following clause

(30) Understanding that most emerging infectious diseases originate from animals, including wildlife and domestic animals, then spill over to people.

Part I. Introduction

Article 1. Definitions and use of terms

This section should include a definition of ‘**pandemic prevention**’, ‘**primary prevention**’ and ‘**secondary prevention**’ as follows:

Pandemic prevention refers to the complete set of actions to prevent a pandemic from occurring and can be divided into primary and secondary pandemic prevention.

Primary pandemic prevention refers to actions to prevent an outbreak in humans of a pathogen that has the potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, particularly through reducing risk of spillover

Secondary pandemic prevention refers to actions that aim to curb human-to-human spread of a pathogen that has caused an outbreak so that neither an epidemic nor a pandemic occurs.

The definition of **One Health** should echo the definition created by the One Health High Level Expert Panel and endorsed by the Quadripartite organisations to recognise the interdependence between the health of people, animals and the planet:

One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent.

The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines, and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for healthy food, water, energy, and air, taking action on climate change and contributing to sustainable development

Part II. Objective(s), principles and scope

Article 3. Objectives

Update the clause as follows:

*“(1) to continually and substantially increase and sustain the capacity **for primary and secondary prevention of pandemics**”*

Article 4. Principles

Equity

Update the clause as follows:

*“(4) **Equity** – A fair, equitable, effective and timely approach to pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response requires actions to prevent pathogen spillover and ensures fair access to affordable pandemic response products, among and within countries, including between groups of people, irrespective of their social or economic status.”*

One Health

Update the text to better align with the OHHLEP definition as follows:

*“(5) **One Health** - Multisectoral actions that aim to balance and optimise the health of people, animals, and ecosystems, and recognise the health of humans, animals, and the wider environment are interdependent”*

Part IV. Specific provisions/areas/elements/obligations

1. Achieving equity

Add this clause to reflect that preventing spill over is a key part of achieving equity:

“(g) measures to reduce the risk of spillover of pathogens”

5. Governance and coordination, collaboration, and cooperation

Update clause (c) as follows to ensure any governance structure truly reflects One Health:

*“(c) measures to strengthen and sustain long-term development cooperation in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, by enhancing WHO’s central role as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, and mindful of the need for coordination with entities in the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, **including the Quadripartite organisations (FAO, WHO, WOA, UNEP)**”*

6. Health workforce

This section should recognise that the animal health workforce is part of the global health workforce. It is essential to primary prevention, secondary prevention, preparedness and response.

Add a clause to reflect this:

“(d) measures to build an adequate One Health workforce, particularly the animal health workforce who are at the frontline of detecting, preventing and responding to pathogens that could spill over from animals to people

7. One Health

Update the following clause to reflect that One Health presents opportunities for effective actions and cost-savings in prevention, preparedness and response. For example, sharing resources and

logistics across supply chains, strengthening regulation and enforcement for medicines, sharing specialist laboratory staff, facilities or surveillance platforms:

*(a) measures to promote a comprehensive One Health approach, promoting coherence, **joint initiatives and resource-sharing** among all relevant actors, instruments, initiatives and issues, such as climate change and antimicrobial resistance, insofar as they relate to pandemic prevention, preparedness and response*

Add the following clauses to strengthen the One Health approach and bring this section in line with the OHHLEP definition:

(h) measures to optimise the health and welfare of domestic animals, wildlife and the environment

(i) measures to designate national focal points for pandemic prevention that would coordinate across all relevant ministries in a trans-sectoral, One Health approach to human, animal, and environmental health

Part V. Institutional arrangements

1. Governance mechanism for this WHO CAI

The Quadripartite organisations (WHO, UNEP, WOA, FAO) should be directly referenced here so that One Health is properly reflected in the governance structure.

4. Financial mechanisms and resources

There should be a direct reference to the World Bank Financial Intermediary Fund on Pandemic PPR, to ensure harmonisation between the fund and this treaty.