

**Response to the *REVISED Draft of the negotiating text of the WHO Pandemic Agreement*
as per 7 March 2024.**

As we reach the final stages of negotiations, Action for Animal Health urges member states to keep draft obligations within Articles 4, 5 and 6, as the most effective and efficient basis for preventing another pandemic. We commend the drafting group's work on Articles 4, 5 and 6, and are pleased to see the following:

- 1) Titles of Articles 4 and 5 that reflect prevention at the source, and to clarify that One Health refers to the full PPPR cycle respectively.
- 2) Recognising the need to detect pathogens in animal populations that **may** present significant risk of zoonotic spill-over. Diseases like highly pathogenic avian influenza do not currently present a high spill-over risk, but if it continues to circulate, the risk of spillover becomes more likely.
- 3) Including provisions on spillback as well as spillover. Research shows zoonotic disease transmission is not entirely one-way from animals to people.
- 4) To take into account recommendations, guidelines and standards adopted by WHO and other intergovernmental organisations. There are existing guidelines that implementation of spill-over prevention measures. We believe that this obligation is broad enough to mitigate concerns about the inclusion of non-negotiated standards and guidelines. Parties are asked to "take into account" relevant guidelines, implying they will continue to be voluntary.
- 5) Maintaining One Health's essence. We are sympathetic that One Health is broad. But we know that pandemics cannot be seen from a human perspective alone if the causative agent is likely zoonotic. We are pleased the agreement acknowledges One Health as a multi-sectoral collaborative approach that ensures all relevant sectors across the human-animal-environment interface are involved in PPPR – without being too prescriptive about its implementation.
- 6) Recognising the need to strengthen animal health institutions. We emphasise the need to strengthen animal health as services suffer the consequences of underinvestment, leaving the door open to zoonotic disease outbreaks and AMR.

However, we argue for inclusion of a primary prevention definition, as per the World Bank Pandemic Fund's definition, as well as a clause to set up multi-stakeholder One Health platforms for PPPR.

We are pleased these particular articles capture the differences in national capacities with regards to implementing obligations with regards to spillover prevention, and that the obligations are progressive in nature, giving us a basic framework to build on in the future. We ask member states to keep obligations on multisectoral surveillance, and remind member states that there are cost-effective solutions that can be applied without the need for new expensive technologies.

We urge countries to make financial commitments to the World Bank Pandemic Fund, which, so far, includes prevention of spill-over and the implementation of One Health in its mandate. The Fund covers activities to strengthen disease surveillance and early warning systems laboratory systems, and the health workforce (including the animal health workforce). It has already funded several countries to implement spill-over prevention measures in its first round of funding.