

The Tripartite's Commitment

**Providing multi-sectoral,
collaborative leadership
in addressing health challenges**

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STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR THE TRIPARTITE 2017-2020

FAO, OIE and WHO have been working together for years to address risks at the human-animal-ecosystems interface and their collaborative work was formally laid down in 2010 in the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Concept Note. This Note continues to be a reference for the Tripartite on the shared responsibilities for addressing health risks through multi-sectoral collaboration.

The Tripartite is advocating for effective, multi-sectoral collaboration at the local, national, regional and global levels and is providing guidance on complex issues. This “One Health” approach recognizes that the health of people is connected to the health of animals and the environment.

On multiple occasions, the three Organizations demonstrated that bringing together their knowledge, insights and technical capacities in food, agriculture, and human and animal health can generate strong synergies, which will yield more robust, effective and cost-efficient solutions to the complex problems facing the world today.

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2011

To advance the “One Health” approach, in 2011 the Tripartite identified three technical topics – antimicrobial resistance, rabies and zoonotic influenza – to showcase the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration for effective risk management.

Since then, the communication and collaboration between the three Organisations has resulted in the coordinated development of the Global Action Plan on **Antimicrobial Resistance**. This Global Action Plan has assisted the three Organisations as they developed their respective strategic work plans, ensuring close alignment of the actions being driven at global, regional and national levels.

Furthermore, standards development, advocacy, awareness, and political commitment to combating the effects of antimicrobial resistance have gained momentum through the Tripartite’s engagement. Consequently, in September 2016, at the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance held at the United Nations General Assembly, Heads of Governments and global stakeholders recognized the advantages of multi-sectoral approaches and the benefits of reinforcing collaboration between agencies and sectors. The Tripartite collaboration on antimicrobial

resistance is further organized through a joint secretariat of the Interagency Coordination Group established by the political declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016.

On the topic of **rabies**, at a Global Conference in December 2015, the framework for rabies elimination elaborated by the Tripartite was developed. The framework is fostering stronger partnerships across the sectors, recognising that disease control in animals, particularly in dogs, results in the reduction of human exposure and mortality. Then, on 28 September 2016, World Rabies Day, the Tripartite confirmed a collaborative, global canine rabies elimination strategy by calling on countries to accelerate efforts to combat rabies with a view to the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030.

Regarding **zoonotic influenza**, surveillance systems have tremendously improved in the last decade, thanks to investments from the Tripartite and its partners. The lag time between outbreak occurrence, diagnostic confirmation and reporting has gone from months to days or even hours in some countries. Specifically, OFFLU, the OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza, is closely collaborating with WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS). Guidance and tools for sharing of influenza virus and surveillance data have been developed by the Tripartite, and information and materials have been exchanged between GISRS and OFFLU for outbreak response and for the selection of viruses for human vaccines.

While the three technical topics were identified as areas to showcase the “One Health” approach and the Tripartite collaboration undertaken to implement it, the Organizations have also been working on a number of other topics that require multi-sectoral leadership such as: the collaboration of the animal and public health sectors in the implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR 2005); review of national capacities for the detection of and response to health events; the Joint External Evaluations; and creating linkages between the Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS) Pathway and the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to strengthen cooperation between human health and animal health systems and synergise capacity development of health services. The Tripartite has also coordinated efforts in implementing control of zoonotic tuberculosis and the production of tuberculin for animal testing; furthering the understanding of the epidemiology and

establishing research priorities for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome – Coronavirus (MERS CoV); facilitating sample shipments for diagnostic purposes; developing an approach for the appropriate naming of emerging diseases; and developing common tools to strengthen risk communication capacities in member countries.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

At the Tripartite Annual Executive Coordination Meeting held in February 2017, the Organizations reconfirmed their unwavering commitment to addressing challenges through multi-sectoral collaboration in order to provide leadership in global health and food security.

The Tripartite agreed that while maintaining the momentum it has achieved for antimicrobial resistance, rabies and zoonotic influenza, it will target and develop multi-sectoral collaboration on the following:

1. Support to a joint secretariat of the Interagency Coordination Group established by the political declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016 and furthering of relevant activities to combat **antimicrobial resistance** at the human-animal-ecosystems interface.
2. **Reinforcement of national services in human health, animal health and food safety** through the assessment of these services with appropriate tools including designing and implementing capacity development programmes to respond to the needs identified in these assessments.
3. Strengthening and modernisation of the three Organizations' respective **early warning and surveillance/monitoring systems** and continued interlinking of these systems through the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS) to achieve situational awareness and coordinated joint risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.
4. Improving collaboration in **foresight, preparedness and response to emerging, re-emerging and neglected infectious diseases** at the human-animal-ecosystems interface.
5. Addressing **food safety challenges** requiring a multi-sector approach in the context of reinforcing food security.
6. Encouraging and promoting **coordinated research and development** to achieve a common understanding of the highest priority zoonotic diseases, their respective research and development needs to

address emerging challenges and effectively prevent and control their untoward impacts.

THE TRIPARTITE'S COMMITMENT

Recognising the complexity of the international operating environment and the expectations of Member States and key partners, the continued multi-sectoral collaboration must be led through the effective coordination framework represented by the Tripartite and the secretariat. The Tripartite will drive effective and efficient coordination of its efforts in each of the strategic priority areas through joint planning, monitoring and reporting. As such, the Tripartite aims to maximise collaborative work programmes in all its activities.

In all its actions, the Tripartite will promote partnerships with other key stakeholders in health as well as participatory community outreach and improved public awareness and risk communication.

FAO, OIE and WHO are committed to developing and implementing multi-sectoral approaches to complex health challenges at the human- animal- ecosystems interface. The Tripartite's leadership and coordination at the global level encourages and supports similar collaborations amongst regional, national and local networks. This commitment remains as important in the world today and tomorrow as it was when the FAO-OIE-WHO collaboration was formalised in 2010. Since then the value and impact of this approach has been clearly demonstrated. The Tripartite renews its commitment to ever closer multi-sectoral collaboration under the broader agenda reflected in this document.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The FAO-OIE-WHO Collaboration – A Tripartite Concept Note, 2010

www.oie.int/2010tripartitenote

High-Level Technical Meeting to Address Health Risks at the Human-Animal-Ecosystems Interfaces, 2011

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3119e/i3119e.pdf>

FAO Themes Portal, covering recent priorities

www.fao.org/themes/en/

OIE "One Health" portal

www.oie.int/onehealth

WHO Zoonoses and the Human-Animal-Ecosystems Interface

<http://www.who.int/zoonoses/en/>

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