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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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Update on FAO's work on the One Health approach including the One Health Joint Plan of Action

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Programme Committee, at its 130th Session, welcomed the integration of recommendations from FAO Technical Committees for the mainstreaming of One Health in the work of the Organization.
- The Council, at its 166th Session, welcomed FAO's One Health work, including the positive collaboration within the Tripartite and UNEP and their work to develop reporting mechanisms and a joint strategy and joint work plan on One Health.
- Recognizing the fundamental importance of One Health in the agriculture and food sectors, FAO has identified One Health as a cross-cutting and important concept that needs to be considered across the Programme Priority Areas of its Strategic Framework 2022-31, and specifically in the One Health Programme Priority Area (PPA-BP3).
- This document provides an overview and an update on FAO's One Health activities across the Organization, in particular through the collaboration between FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (Quadripartite) partners to support global governance of One Health and foster comprehensive One Health at country level.
- This document provides also an update on the development of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (previously called the Global Plan of Action on One Health).
- Substantial progress has been made over the past year to mainstream One Health globally, regionally and nationally through multiple initiatives that help with collaboration, networking, knowledge sharing, communication and awareness raising.
- FAO is now scaling up its efforts, in collaboration with partners, towards the application of One Health along the entire agrifood systems domain to build sustainable agrifood systems and reduce global health risks.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- The Programme Committee is invited to review the content of the document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.

Draft Advice

The Committee:

- noted with appreciation the progress on the mainstreaming of the One Health approach in FAO's work and on the coordination of One Health activities under the Quadripartite partnership; and
- noted the initiative of developing a One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) by the Quadripartite (FAO/WHO/UNEP/OIE).

I. Background

1. FAO promotes One Health in its work related to animal and plant health, food safety, nutrition, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), fisheries and the health of the environment. Recognizing the fundamental importance of One Health in these activities, FAO is now scaling up its efforts, in collaboration with partners, towards the application of One Health along the entire agrifood systems domain to improve food security and livelihoods. This is critical for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More information on One Health collaborative and integrative activities can be found in the document “Strengthening national coordinated capacities to manage the risks of animal diseases and emerging zoonoses through the One Health approach” presented in the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Sub-Committee on Livestock (March 2022).
2. In its Strategic Framework 2022-31, FAO has identified One Health as a cross-cutting and important concept that needs to be considered across the *four betters* and specifically in its One Health Programme Priority Area (PPA-BP3). In doing so, the intent is to promote a more systematic mainstreaming and operationalization of One Health across all of FAO’s work.
3. The One Health PPA-BP3 promotes an integrated and coordinated One Health approach to reduce losses to agrifood systems and adverse ecosystems impacts, caused by the spread of animal, plant and aquatic pests and diseases, including zoonotic infections of pandemic potential and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The main goals of the PPA are to enhance productivity, and reduce risks from biological threats, applying integrated pest and biosecurity management approaches at national level for more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agrifood systems, in a changing climate and environment.
4. FAO supports the mainstreaming of One Health globally, regionally, and nationally through multiple initiatives that help with collaboration, networking, communication, and awareness-raising. Internal efforts promote intra-organization exchange, learning and the consolidation of One Health activities.
5. External efforts on One Health build on and benefit from collaborations with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). At its annual executive meeting in March 2022, the FAO/WHO/OIE Tripartite signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP to formally establish the Quadripartite.
6. Under this quadripartite partnership, substantial progress has been made over the past year particularly to collectively develop the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA).

II. Mainstreaming One Health in FAO programmes and country support

7. FAO has longstanding experience in One Health with its work on zoonotic diseases, food safety and antimicrobial resistance. Important efforts are ongoing to broaden this scope and mainstream One Health across agrifood systems, spanning multiple sectors and disciplines including biodiversity, biosecurity, soil and microbiome health as well as water quality and safety. The broadening and mainstreaming of One Health across the agrifood system domain helps build sustainable food systems to improve food security and reduce global health security risks.
8. To support this dynamic and synergize FAO's One Health work across the Organization, FAO launched a cross-cutting interdisciplinary One Health Technical Working Group (OH-TWG) in July 2021. It helps to mainstream One Health across the agriculture and food sectors and to understand and address connections between biodiversity, food production and the health of people, animals, plants, and the environment.
9. At the programme level, FAO has successfully worked with Members and international partners, through the Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health (EMPRES-AH) programme, to develop and implement strategies and policies for improved early warning, prevention, timely response, and long-term management of high-impact transboundary and emerging diseases, including

zoonoses, under the One Health approach. EMPRES-AH will now focus on enhancing biosecurity along the livestock value chains by establishing a Progressive Management Pathway for Biosecurity (PMP-B) and associated national capacities for risk assessments, science and evidence-based and progressive risk mitigation to manage the risks of animal diseases and emerging zoonoses. The pathway for biosecurity will be an essential component of the OH PPA, and the OH JPA, and will be a stakeholder-led, collaborative, stepwise approach to mainstream One Health and biosecurity for producer resilience and One Health outcomes at country level.

10. FAO's Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance is one of the Organization's One Health flagship programmes. With FAO assistance, 47 countries have accelerated the implementation of national action plans on AMR through applying the FAO Progressive Management Pathway for AMR (FAO-PMP-AMR) and legal methodology, etc. The International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) is being developed to strengthen national AMR surveillance systems. Some of the progress is documented in the report on the implementation of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025 presented at the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Livestock, which will be further discussed at the 28th Session of COAG.

11. For most of the AMR work, FAO works actively with its Quadripartite partners to develop the global and local tools required to decrease the threat of AMR, and advance assistance to Members to develop their national action plans.

12. The AMR work is supported by a number of coordination initiatives such as the Quadripartite Strategic Framework on AMR, the One Health Global Leaders Group (GLG) on AMR and the soon to be established AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership.

13. In line with SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, FAO promotes an integrated water resources management approach that embraces the value of water in all its forms and recognizes the intrinsic role of water in protecting human, animal, and ecosystem health. FAO addresses agricultural pollution prevention and control to improve food production, food safety, tackle AMR in the environment, and ecosystems conservation using agri-water-environmental controls to prevent the spread of water-associated, vector-borne diseases and apply innovative techniques such as genomic tracking from source water to food for ensuring health and safety.

14. Recognizing that the One Health approach is essential to food safety, the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 includes a PPA on food safety (BN3: Safe food for everyone) to promote agrifood systems policies and programmes. These priorities reflect the inter-sectoral nature of food safety and mark an effort both to capture and to integrate it across all sectors of the agrifood systems.

15. With more than 35 countries currently working on their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF), and following the publication on "[Antimicrobial Resistance and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#)", FAO is leading the development of guidance notes on how to embed One Health in the UNSDCF and monitor progress using smart indicators for UNSDCFs.

16. FAO advocates One Health on a new level by engaging with university students across the globe. FAO organized a Youth dialogue in October 2021 with discussions to better apprehend the various components of One Health across agrifood systems, an art contest and curated One Health content (videos, song). With 200 participants, this first edition gave FAO a first group of One Health young ambassadors who shape the approach with their vision and take into account regional priorities.

III. Advancing One Health through strategic partnerships and coordination

17. Work to tackle the challenges of human, animal, plant and environmental health using a more integrated approach has seen significant progress in the past year with the expansion of the Tripartite

collaboration to include UNEP. Under this Quadripartite collaboration, great strides have been made over the past year particularly to support global governance of One Health and engage in several joint One Health initiatives. At the executive meeting in March 2022, a revised Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the heads of the four organizations to establish the Quadripartite.

18. As Chair of the Tripartite plus UNEP for the period from February 2021 to March 2022, FAO developed, in consultation with its partners, a vision paper to pursue certain goals for 2022, which was unanimously agreed by the heads of the four organizations. One of these goals was to collectively develop the One Health Joint Plan of Action (see Section IV).

19. The Tripartite plus UNEP has been active in promoting One Health in global events such as the G7 and G20 meetings, the Global Health Summit and the UN Food Systems Summit.

20. Following the G7 event, FAO, along with its Tripartite plus UNEP partners, has been undertaking a One Health scoping study to strengthen One Health intelligence through identifying good practices, and proposing a One Health early warning framework for effective sharing of One Health information at national level, and mapping strengths and weaknesses of existing information systems within the Tripartite plus UNEP and other international organizations.

21. In response to a request by the G20 Italian Presidency, the Tripartite plus UNEP together with the World Bank developed the One Health advocacy document on “Investing in One Health” for the G20, to provide a cost-benefit analysis of One Health financing.

22. The then Tripartite plus UNEP registered a One Health Commitment at the UN Food Systems Summit to establish a One Health Coalition and build commitment across sectors, disciplines, and all levels of society. This commitment will bear influence on national agrifood systems transformation pathways that are being followed up after the summit.

23. Funding and financing mechanisms were explored to further mobilize resources and coordinate efforts in support of One Health and the establishment of coalitions with other relevant technical and resource partners.

24. To support the One Health collaboration and partnership, in May 2021, 26 experts were invited to form the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), which has an advisory role to the four organizations on One Health matters in relation to evidence-based scientific and policy advice. One of the prominent outputs of OHHLEP work over the past six months is the recent One Health definition¹.

25. At the regional level, One Health coordination has been consolidated through the establishment of coordination mechanisms. A regional One Health Secretariat has been established in Africa to reinforce One Health collaboration with stakeholders and support regional and country One Health frameworks across the continent. In Asia and the Pacific, a number of joint One Health products have been developed to share information and best practices on zoonotic diseases, AMR, and food safety.

26. The One Health Coordination Mechanism for the Region of Europe and Central Asia (OHCM) was established in April 2021. In addition, the establishment of a well-defined institutionalized regional One Health Platform in coordination with other stakeholders is foreseen in the Near East and North Africa region. Similar arrangements are under discussion with relevant partners in Latin America and the Caribbean. These regional One Health coordination mechanisms allow a formalized Quadripartite cooperation regionally, both on a political and technical level.

¹ One Health has recently been defined by the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) as “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 inter-dependent. 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 clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development”.

27. FAO is leading the establishment of the Quadripartite AMR Multi-Stakeholders Partnership Platform, which aims to be inclusive by bringing together relevant stakeholders across the human, animal, plant, and environment sectors, to address AMR risks through the One Health approach. An inception public discussion with a wide range of stakeholders across the globe was organized in summer-autumn 2021.

IV. The One Health Joint Plan of Action

28. The 166th Session of the Council “welcomed FAO’s One Health work, including the positive collaboration within the Tripartite and UNEP and their work to develop reporting mechanisms and a joint strategy and joint work plan on One Health”. The call for developing a joint vision for One Health including a joint work plan was reinforced by the World Health Assembly resolution (WHA74.7) to build on and strengthen the existing cooperation among FAO, WHO, UNEP and OIE.

29. In response, FAO, as Chair of the then Tripartite plus UNEP in 2021, has led the co-development of the OH JPA (2022-2026) with advice from the One Health High-Level Expert Panel.

30. The OH JPA is intended to guide the four organizations to work together on One Health with the aim of supporting their Members, based on their mandates, comparative advantages and programming and strategic documents of each organization.

31. The OH JPA aims to further strengthen a comprehensive One Health and to foster the change pathways required for successful mainstreaming of One Health at all levels thereby promoting the health of people, animals, plants, and the environment. It builds on six action tracks, namely:

- i. Enhancing One Health capacities to strengthen health systems;
- ii. Reducing risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics;
- iii. Controlling and eliminating endemic and neglected zoonotic and vector-borne diseases;
- iv. Strengthening the assessment, management, and communication of food safety risks
- v. Curbing the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance; and
- vi. Integrating the environment into One Health.

32. Each of the four organizations will organize a consultation with their respective membership to collect feedback on the scope, operability and feasibility of the activities.