

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
AND
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
AND
THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
REGARDING
COOPERATION ON ONE HEALTH
TO REDUCING HEALTH RISKS AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HEALTH
FOR HUMANS, ANIMALS, PLANTS, ECOSYSTEMS AND THE WIDER
ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“FAO”) is the leading organization within the United Nations system in the field of food and agriculture, and has as a major area of focus of its global mandate improving nutrition, increasing agricultural productivity, including livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and natural resource management, raising the standard of living in rural populations, and contributing to global economic growth, worldwide;

WHEREAS the United Nations Environment Programme (“UNEP”) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

WHEREAS the World Health Organization (“WHO”) is the directing and co-ordinating authority for health-related work and is a specialized agency of the United Nations; it is the lead agency for health questions at the global level; it develops health research programmes; it defines health standards and criteria; it formulates evidence-based policy options; it provides technical support to Member States in the area of health, and it monitors and assesses health trends. WHO acts in conjunction with its regional and country offices and Member States as needed to accomplish this health-related mission;

WHEREAS the World Organisation for Animal Health, whose statutory name is *Office International des Epizooties* (“WOAH”), is the global intergovernmental organisation responsible for developing international standards in animal health, veterinary public health, zoonoses and animal welfare, ensuring transparent dissemination of official information on animal health status, and strengthening veterinary services;

RECALLING the importance of the collaboration between FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH that was established in 2022 to address health threats at the human-animal-plants-ecosystems interface and the wider environment to contribute to safeguarding health in all these dimensions;

RECALLING the longstanding cooperation between FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH (hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties” or the “Quadripartite”), reinforced through the Quadripartite Executive Annual Coordination Meetings;

RECOGNISING the bilateral interagency agreements that exist between the Parties;

CONSIDERING the growing health threats at the human-animal-plants-ecosystems interface and the wider environment, and the Parties’ commitment to building a world better equipped to prevent, prepare, and respond to these threats;

RECALLING the FAO, WHO and WOAH April 2010 Concept Note setting a strategic direction and proposing a long term basis for international collaboration aimed at coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interfaces, focusing in particular on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), rabies and zoonotic influenza;

RECALLING the FAO, WHO and WOAH October 2017 Commitment, reflecting the unwavering commitment to address challenges through multi-sectoral collaboration and decided to broaden their cooperation to other topics and activities embracing the “One Health” approach;

RECALLING that FAO, WHO, and WOAH entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on 30 May 2018 for a period of five years (the “2018 MU”) to provide a formal and legal framework for the longstanding collaboration between the FAO, WHO, and WOAH to further their shared goals and objectives in regard to the development and implementation of multi-sectoral approaches to complex health challenges at the animal-human-ecosystem interface with particular emphasis on AMR;

RECALLING the Action Plans and Strategies developed and adopted by the Parties¹;

CONSIDERING the numerous activities that have been carried out on AMR by the Quadripartite under the AMR Global Action Plan, which will continue to require all four organizations to work together, pooling resources and expertise and securing the necessary mandate and support from the Parties’ respective memberships;

CONSIDERING global statements, declarations, and policy recommendations from intergovernmental forums calling for the Quadripartite to work together on critical global health issues such as zoonotic diseases, AMR, food safety, and the effects of climate change on health;

¹ This includes but is not limited to the One Health Joint Plan of Action, which outlines the Parties’ commitment to collectively advocate for, and support, the implementation of One Health, building on, complementing, and adding value to existing global and regional One Health and coordination initiatives to address complex multidimensional health risks with more resilient health systems at global, regional, and national levels.

CONSIDERING the guiding principles to develop and implement effective One Health solutions at all levels, which consists of cooperation, shared responsibility, multisectoral action and partnership, gender equality, inclusiveness, and equity;

RECOGNIZING the contributions of the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (“OHHLEP”), including the definition of One Health² developed in 2023;

RECOGNIZING that the health of humans, animals, plants, ecosystems and the wider environment – including biodiversity and the quality of air, water, soil and climate – are closely interrelated and interdependent;

WHEREAS the Parties wish to further strengthen their cooperation on One Health to reduce risks and promote sustainable health for humans, animals, plants, ecosystems and the wider environment;

THEREFORE, the Parties, have reached the following understandings:

Article 1: Interpretation

1. This MoU does not supersede, replace or amend any prior agreements or arrangements between the Parties, including but not limited to the existing bilateral interagency agreements mentioned above.
2. Any Annex to this MoU will be considered an integral part of this MoU. References to this MoU will be construed as including any Annexes, as varied or amended in accordance with the terms of this MoU.
3. Implementation of any projects and programmes pursuant to this MoU, including those involving the transfer of funds between the Parties, will require the execution of appropriate separate legal agreements between the Parties. The terms of such agreements will be subject to the provisions of this MoU.

Article 2: Purpose

1. The purpose of this MoU is to provide a formal and legal framework for the longstanding collaboration between the Parties to further their shared goals and objectives in regard to the development and implementation of multi-sectoral approaches to reducing health risks and promoting sustainable health for humans, animals, plants, ecosystems and the wider environment.

² The OHHLEP One Health definition: “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.”

2. The objectives of this MoU will be achieved, *inter alia*, through cooperation on the areas referred to in Article 3.

Article 3: Areas of Cooperation

1. Areas of Cooperation are agreed jointly through the cooperation mechanism in this MoU. Policies and priorities under this MoU may be jointly reviewed by the Parties pursuant to Article 4 to allow the Parties to prevent, prepare, and respond to issues in the realm of human-animal-plant-ecosystems interface and the wider environment, in the context of the “One Health” approach.

Areas of cooperation will include:

- Strengthening health systems;
- Emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics;
- Endemic zoonotic, neglected tropical, and vector-borne diseases;
- Food safety risks;
- Antimicrobial resistance; and
- Integrating the environment into One Health.

2. The areas of cooperation will be further elaborated in the most updated version of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (“OH JPA”) or any additional documents jointly approved by the Parties within the framework of this MoU.

3. The areas of cooperation and any specific actions will be further elaborated in a Work Plan that will be developed, adopted and updated by the Parties during the Quadripartite Executive Coordination Meetings.

4. The abovementioned areas of cooperation will be addressed through the following pathways, as appropriate:

- Governance, policies, legislation, financing and advocacy.
- Organisational development, implementation, and sectoral integration.
- Data, evidence, and knowledge exchange.

Article 4: Organization of the Cooperation

1. The Parties will hold Quadripartite Executive Annual Meetings, to discuss matters of common interest, in accordance with an agenda agreed to in advance by the Parties, for the purpose of developing and monitoring collaborative projects and activities. Such meetings will take place at least once every year to:

- a. Discuss strategic issues related to furthering the objectives of this MoU;
- b. Review progress of collaborative work undertaken by the Parties; and

- c. Establish specific task forces on dedicated areas of joint interest, as well as identifying focal points in each organization.
2. Each organization will rotate in providing coordination and administrative functions to the Quadripartite collaboration. Such functions and associated roles and responsibilities will be specified in Terms of References to be developed.
3. Further quadrilateral meetings at the desk-to-desk and at the expert level within the networks of focal points on each topic area will be pursued through regular online or in person meetings as well as on an ad hoc basis as deemed necessary by the Parties to address matters of common interest for the implementation of activities in specific areas, countries and regions.
4. With respect to the areas of cooperation outlined in Article 3 above, the Parties may agree to undertake joint resource mobilisation activities for their collaborative activities, pursuant to an appropriate agreed joint financing mechanism, in accordance with Article 1(3).
5. Where one Party is organizing a meeting with external participation or when one Party participates at a meeting organized by an external party at which policy matters related to the aims of this MoU will be discussed, it will, as appropriate and feasible, either invite the other Parties to participate in the meeting or update them on relevant policy matters discussed at the meeting.
6. The Quadripartite will cooperate, as appropriate, to support an inclusive and multisectoral response that contributes to fulfilling the requests of relevant declarations and resolutions of United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organisations.
7. For the avoidance of doubt, any collaborative activity by a Party under this MoU shall be subject to the availability of sufficient financial and human resources and that Party's rules, regulations, and procedures.

Article 5: Status of the Parties and their Personnel

1. The Parties acknowledge and agree that they are entities separate and distinct from each other. The employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of each Party, including the personnel engaged for carrying out any of the project activities pursuant to this MoU, will not be considered in any respect or for any purposes whatsoever as being employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of the other Parties.
2. The Parties may enter into arrangements regarding exchange or secondment of staff in accordance with the "Inter-Organization Agreement concerning Transfer, Secondment or loan of Staff among the Organizations applying the UN Common System of Salaries and Allowances", subject in all cases to each Party's respective rules, regulations and procedures, or under such other arrangements as may be appropriate.

Article 6: Intellectual Property Rights

1. Intellectual property rights, in particular copyright, in material such as information, software and designs, made available by the Parties to be used to carry out activities under this MoU will remain with the originating Party. Appropriate authorizations for use of such materials by the other Party will be addressed in the agreements concluded in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 3 above.
2. All intellectual property rights (including copyright) in materials developed by one of the Parties on its own under this MoU will be vested in that Party, who may publish the work provided that the other Parties have been given the opportunity to comment on the work and any references to the other Parties before publication, which comments will be given due consideration by the publishing Party.
3. All intellectual property rights (including copyright) in materials developed jointly by the Parties under this MoU, including but not limited to reports, publications, information products, software and designs, will be jointly owned by the Parties, including, without any limitations, the right to use, reproduce, publish, translate, sell or distribute, privately or publicly, any item or part thereof for non-commercial purposes.

Article 7: Publications

1. Any publications, reports, tools and other information products jointly developed by the Parties under the auspices of this MoU will be considered to be “Quadripartite Works” within the meaning of the Quadripartite Co-publishing Agreement concluded between FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH on 20 March 2023 (the “Co-publishing Agreement”), and any subsequent revisions thereof.
2. The collaboration of the Parties will be duly acknowledged in any publication resulting from activities implemented under this MoU. The wording of the acknowledgement will be agreed between the Parties.
3. No publication or other work resulting from activities implemented under this MoU will contain commercial advertising or be used for the promotion of any commercial product or service.
4. This MoU or information about this MoU may be published on the Parties’ respective websites after it has entered into force consistent with their respective policies on transparency, as amended or updated from time to time.

Article 8: Confidentiality

It is acknowledged that any Party may possess confidential information, which is proprietary to it or to third parties collaborating with it. Any such information shall only be shared between the Parties under a separate confidential disclosure agreement, specifically covering such information.

Article 9: Use of Name and Logo

The Parties agree, in any press release, memo, report, or other published disclosure related to this MoU, not to refer to the other Parties' names without the prior written consent of the Party concerned. A Party may not use the logo of any other Party unless that Party has given its prior approval in writing.

Article 10: Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in this MoU or in any document or arrangement relating thereto, including any subsequent exchange of letters of agreement concerning specific collaborative activities, will be construed as constituting a waiver of privileges or immunities of any of the Parties under national or international law or as extending any privileges or immunities of any Party to the other Parties or their personnel, and/or as /or as submitting the Parties to any national court jurisdiction.

Article 11: Responsibility

Each Party will be solely responsible for the manner in which it carries out its part of the collaborative activities under this MoU and/or any subsequent exchange of letters or agreement. Thus, no Party will be responsible for any loss, accident, damage or injury suffered or caused by any other Party, or their staff or sub-contractors, in connection with, or as a result of, the collaboration under this MoU and/or any subsequent exchange of letters or agreement. Each Party will be responsible for dealing with any claims or demands arising out of its actions or omissions, and those of its respective personnel, in relation to this MoU.

Article 12: Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation and execution of this MoU, or any document or arrangement relating thereto, including any subsequent exchange of letters of agreement concerning specific collaborative activities, will be settled by negotiation among the Parties. Any differences that may not be so settled will be brought to the attention of the Executive Heads of the Organizations for final resolution.

Article 13: Contacts for Correspondence

All correspondence regarding the implementation of this MoU, including notifications made pursuant to this MoU, will be addressed to:

For FAO:	Deputy Director-General Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, ITALY DDG-Magwenzi@fao.org +39 0657052060
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For UNEP:	Director, Ecosystems Division United Nations Avenue, Gigiri P.O. Box 30552-00100 Nairobi, KENYA Unep-director-ecosystems@un.org + 254 20 762 4782
For WHO:	Assistant Director General Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Care 20 Avenue Appia 1211 Geneva 27, SWITZERLAND ppcdivisionaloffice@who.int +41 (0)22 791 58 00
For WOAH:	Deputy Director General for Global Frameworks and Capacity Building 12 Rue de Prony, Paris 75017, FRANCE woah_dg_office@woah.org +33 1 44 15 18 813

Article 14: Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and Other Types of Abusive Conduct

The Parties have zero tolerance towards any form of sexual misconduct (an all-inclusive term which includes sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and all forms of prohibited sexual behaviour), harassment and other types of abusive conduct. The Parties shall comply with their respective policies dealing with ethics and professional conduct, anti-bribery, anti-corruption, workplace harassment and violence

Article 15: Notification and Amendments

1. Each Party will promptly notify the others in writing of any anticipated or actual material changes that will affect the implementation of this MoU.
2. This MoU may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties in writing at any time at the request of any Party. Such amendments will enter into force one month following notifications of consent by each Party to the requested amendments or on a date otherwise agreed in writing for the amendment to enter into force.

Article 16: Entry into Force, Renewal, and Withdrawal

1. This MoU will be signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and will remain in force until 28 November 2030.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization



World Organisation
for Animal Health

2. Subject to satisfactory past implementation, this MoU may be renewed for a further term by written agreement between the Parties.

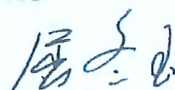
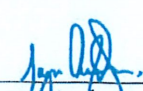

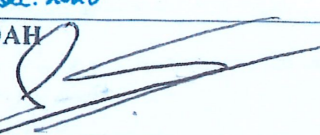
3. Any Party may withdraw from this MoU by giving three months' prior written notice to the other Parties. The rights and obligations of the withdrawing Party defined under any other legal instrument executed pursuant to the MoU will cease to be effective.

4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any termination of or withdrawal from this MoU will be without prejudice to (a) the orderly completion of any ongoing collaborative activity and (b) any other rights and obligations of the Parties accrued prior to the date of termination or of its withdrawal under this MoU or any legal instrument executed pursuant to this MoU.

5. The obligations under Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 do not lapse upon termination of this MoU.

The Parties agree that this MoU will be concluded electronically via email exchange of scanned signed copies and that the signed copies exchanged in this manner shall be treated as originals.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

<p>For FAO</p>  <p>QU Dongyu Date: 28.11.2025</p>	<p>For UNEP</p>  <p>Inger Andersen Date: 3 Dec. 2025</p>
<p>For WHO</p>  <p>Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus Date: 22 DEC 2025</p>	<p>For WOAH</p>  <p>Emmanuelle Soubeyran Date: 28/11/2025</p>