CONCEPT NOTE
One Health Technical Advisory Group
First meeting 31 October to 1 November 2022

Introduction
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 are closely linked and interdependent. To achieve the One Health goal, it is crucial to mobilize multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems. (One Health High Level Expert Panel, 2021).

The One Health approach has gained renewed traction and political attention in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased understanding of the importance of the environmental dimension of zoonotic disease transmission to humans, with risks greatly increased by climate change, loss of biodiversity, land use change and environmental pollution. One Health is now featured prominently in the priorities of the G7, the G20 and the European Green Deal and in the work of multiple United Nations agencies, with two new resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly in March 2022 and the new Nature for Health Trust Fund for Pandemic Prevention.

Background
In September 2021, the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development (also known as the Monti Commission) called for the operationalization of the concept of One Health in all settings where health and well-being policies are developed and for investments and reforms proposed in health and social care systems to be stepped up including a particular attention to the “Support innovation for better One Health” (objective 3). In response to this call, the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) has drafted the One Health roadmap to guide and support the development of the first WHO/Europe Regional Operational Framework on One Health - to be considered for adoption by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe at its 74th session in 2024. Along with the Regional Operational Framework, the WHO Regional Office is planning a High-Level Inter-Ministerial Meeting on One Health.
Way forward – from Global to Local: how to operationalize Health in One Health
As part of the implementation of the roadmap, WHO/Europe has established a technical advisory group (TAG) of international experts. The mandate of the One Health TAG is to provide strategic and technical advice on the operationalization of One Health in line with the recommendations highlighted in the Monti Commission report. In September 2022, the WHO Regional Director for Europe appointed the members of the One Health TAG to:

- review progress of the implementation of the Monti Commission’s recommendations to operationalize One Health in the WHO European Region and the alignment with the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025, and to make recommendations.
- provide an independent evaluation of the major strategic, scientific and technical challenges and opportunities to be addressed by WHO/Europe to enhance progress in promoting the One Health concept.
- review and make recommendations on the status of links between One Health and other health interventions, and other relevant sectors.
- review and advise on WHO/Europe’s engagement in partnerships to enhance impact at country level.

The first TAG meeting will be held on the 31 of October and on the first of 1 November 2022. The main objective of the meeting is to launch a consultation with TAG members for the development of the Regional Operational Framework on One Health by 2024 in line with the One Health Roadmap of the Region and the One Health Joint Plan of Action 2022-2026. Key recommendations will be drafted to build up the first skeleton of the Regional Operational Framework and to initiate the preparation of the High-level Inter-Ministerial Meeting.

The Expected outcomes of the meeting:
1. Establishment of the TAG group and endorsement of its advisory role.
2. DRAFT key preliminary recommendations from the TAG members that will guide the development of the first DRAFT of the Regional Operational Framework.

The meeting will be followed by three additional consultations where recommendations will be further discussed to determine inclusion into the Regional Operational Framework.

Background documents: The TAG is free to consult any peer-reviewed scientific literature, relevant policy documents and relevant publications published by the members of the global and regional Quadripartite Collaboration on One Health, including:

  https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345027
  https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/363518
- A health perspective on the role of the environment in One Health. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2022
  https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/354574