Scope and purpose

Health aspects at the human–animal–environment interface cannot be effectively addressed by one sector or one discipline alone. Collaboration across all sectors and disciplines is required to address zoonotic diseases and other shared health threats. One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment 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 clean water, energy and air; safe and nutritious food; addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation; and sustainable development.

Acknowledging that many of today’s health issues require multisectoral and coordinated responses, the One Health approach is gaining recognition as the way to address health issues originating at the animal–human–environment interface. The One Health approach has gained renewed traction and high political attention in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significantly 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 now features 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 just launched.

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 in health and social care systems to be stepped up.

In response to this call, the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) has drawn up the one health roadmap to guide and support the development of a regional operational plan of action on One Health; the plan of action is expected to be proposed for adoption by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe at its 74th session in 2024. The plan of action would focus on the health dimension of One Health, supporting health ministries in strengthening governance, policies and capacities for a more effective and better coordinated interaction with other sectors, in particular the environment, agriculture and veterinary sectors.

As part of the implementation of the roadmap, WHO/Europe has established a technical advisory group (TAG) of international experts to advise on the substantive elements that should be part of the plan of action on One Health. 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 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.

A first TAG meeting is planned for **31 October and 1 November 2022** and will be held at UN City, Copenhagen, Denmark, in person, with an option to participate virtually. The meeting will be conducted in English.

The scope of the first meeting will be to:

• establish the TAG, providing an opportunity for its members to get to know one another and agree on its ways of working, including chairing;
• seek TAG members’ endorsement of the terms of reference for the TAG;
• share the latest developments in evidence and practice in the operationalization of One Health, as well as progress on the implementation of the Monti Commission’s recommendations on One Health;
• review the One Health roadmap and seek TAG members’ comments and feedback;
• seek TAG members’ directions for the objectives, contents, structure and scope of the draft regional operational plan of action on One Health, to be submitted to the Regional Committee in 2024;
• seek input from TAG members on the mapping of potential partners from within and beyond the health sector;
• consult with TAG members on the planning of the high-level meeting, which will be a key milestone for consultation on the draft regional operational plan of action on One Health.

**Expected outcome:** It is expected that TAG members will share their expertise and provide concrete recommendations on how best to operationalize One Health, as well as on the links between the health sector and other relevant sectors in the operationalization of the One Health concept. TAG members’ guidance is intended to further support the implementation of the One Health approach as well as the development of the draft of the regional operational plan of action on One Health.

**Background documents:** The TAG would be free to consult with 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:

• the report by the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development (Monti Commission report);
• the Global One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026)
• The regional quadripartite statement of intent to coordinate One Health priorities in Europe and central Asia.