



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

# **JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT**

## **REGIONAL ONE HEALTH COORDINATION**

02 June 2025

“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 (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”.<sup>1</sup>

Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, MERS-CoV, zoonotic influenza, and rabies, demonstrate the capacity of pathogens to cross species barriers, resulting in widespread diseases, loss of life, and profound socio-economic disruption. Environmental degradation including climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and pollution exacerbate disease spread, while globalization, increased mobility, and trade further accelerate cross-border transmission. Furthermore, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), driven by their overuse and misuse in humans, animals and agriculture, poses an escalating threat to public, animal and environment health. Additionally, food insecurity, natural resource scarcity triggered by conflicts and environmental disasters lead to forced migration further emphasizing the need for a coordinated and integrated One Health strategy.

In this context, the implementation of the One Health approach is not optional, it is essential. Addressing these multifaceted health threats requires sustained political commitment, joint action, and resource sharing across human, animal, and environment sectors. A unified One Health strategy will strengthen resilience, enhance early warning systems, and support the prevention and management of future health crises at national, regional, and global levels.

The Quadripartite Organizations (QPT): the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), through our respective offices/representations are strengthening coordination efforts in the Near & Middle East and North Africa/Eastern Mediterranean Region to manage and

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<sup>1</sup> The One Health definition developed by the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP)

prevent health threats at the animal-human-environment interface in support of Member States to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes.

In line with global efforts, we, the Regional Representatives of the QPT, commit to establishing and supporting the “Regional Quadripartite One Health Coordination Mechanism for the Near & Middle East and North Africa/Eastern Mediterranean Region”. This coordination mechanism aims to provide strategic leadership, convene stakeholders, and combat and monitor health risks at the human-animal-environment interface. Aligning with Global One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), the regional QPT organizations in close collaboration with the Quadripartite Global Secretariat work to strengthen coordination to support countries through capacity development and technical advice in reducing Risks and Promoting Sustainable Health for People, Animals, Plants, and Ecosystems.

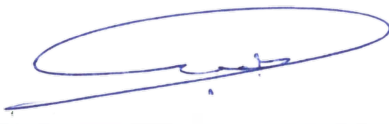
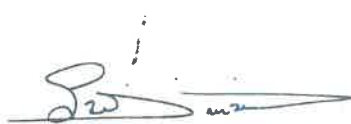


To this end, we hereby formalize the “Regional Quadripartite One Health Coordination Mechanism” in the MENA region. Each of the Regional Quadripartite Organizations will serve, in turn, on an annual basis, as the regional secretariat of the Coordination Mechanism, ensuring its sustainability and shared ownership.

Furthermore, we, the Regional Representatives of the QPT, reaffirm the commitment of the Quadripartite partners to advance the One Health implementation at regional and national level, to detect, prevent, and respond to health threats at the human-animal-environment interface using the One Health approach through collaborative efforts. To achieve this goal, the QPT organizations have developed the “Regional Quadripartite One Health Action Plan (2025-2027)” to guide the joint work in the MENA region. Through the One Health Action Plan, the Quadripartite organizations commit to:

- Implement a comprehensive regional mechanism that establishes multisectoral approaches to enhance the health of humans, animals, and environment.
- Achieve efficient and effective use of the One Health approach in the prevention and control of health threats at the human-animal-environment interface which will minimize its negative consequences on the health system and well-being.
- Promote the use of technology and tools for joint One Health practices, enhancing data integration and information-sharing across sectors at the national and regional levels.



Recognizing the growing importance of the Qne Health approach, the Quadripartite organizations commit to coordinating and implementing collaborative One Health activities at regional and national levels to detect, prevent, and respond to health threats at the human-animal-environment interface.

<p>For <b>FAO</b></p>  <hr/> <p><b>AbdulHakim Elwaer</b> Date: 02/06/2025</p>	<p>For <b>UNEP</b></p>  <hr/> <p><b>Sami Dimassi</b> Date: 02/06/2025</p>
<p>For <b>WHO</b></p>  <hr/> <p><b>Dr Hanan Balkhy</b> Date: 02/06/2025</p>	<p>For <b>WOAH</b></p>  <hr/> <p><b>Dr Ahmad Al Majali</b> Date: 02/06/2025</p>

