



CONCEPT NOTE

Title : Strengthening Science–Policy Interfaces for One Health in North Africa

Locality, Country : Tunis, Tunisia

Dates : 05-07 May 2026

1. Background

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH – founded as OIE) leads global efforts to improve animal health, promote animal welfare, and strengthen Veterinary Services worldwide. Through its normative mandate and capacity-building programmes, WOAH contributes to the One Health agenda by addressing interconnected risks across human, animal, plant and environmental health systems.

Under the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026), WOAH works in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to operationalise three mutually reinforcing Pathways of Change:

1. Governance, policy, legislation, financing and advocacy
2. Organisational and institutional development, implementation and sectoral integration
3. Data, evidence generation, information systems and knowledge exchange

Strengthening the science–policy interface (SPI) is a cross-cutting priority across these pathways. Effective SPIs ensure that scientific evidence is co-produced, translated and integrated into decision-making processes, enabling sustainable, risk-based and context-specific One Health policies. By fostering structured dialogue between scientists, technical experts and policy-makers, SPIs enhance coherence, transparency and impact across sectors.

In North Africa, significant opportunities exist to enhance coordination between scientific institutions, policy-makers and regional One Health platforms. In this context, WOAH plays a catalytic role by:

- Building national and regional capacities to support evidence-informed decision-making;



- Facilitating multisectoral collaboration across animal health, public health and environmental sectors;
- Supporting the development of sustainable institutional mechanisms to formalise SPIs;
- Assisting Member Countries in developing country-specific action plans to institutionalise science–policy interfaces within national One Health frameworks.

As part of this effort, WOAHA is organising a regional workshop dedicated to strengthening the science–policy interface in the One Health context for six North African countries: Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. The workshop is tailored to the regional realities and priorities of these countries and aims to foster structured dialogue and practical cooperation mechanisms.

2. Objectives

This regional workshop aims to reinforce the science–policy interface (SPI) as a critical enabler of effective One Health implementation in North Africa.

Specifically, the workshop will:

- Strengthen institutional capacities to operationalise evidence-informed decision-making within national One Health frameworks;
- Enhance participants’ understanding of the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026), developed jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with a focus on its three Pathways of Change (governance and policy; institutional development and integration; data and knowledge systems);
- Support the co-development of country-specific action plans to institutionalise science–policy interfaces and embed sustainable, risk-based and multisectoral coordination mechanisms;
- Foster regional coherence and peer exchange among North African countries facing shared One Health challenges, including zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance.

Regional Scope and Participation :

The workshop will convene representatives from six North African countries: Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt. It is tailored to regional priorities and designed to strengthen cross-border collaboration and alignment.



Participants will include representatives from the animal health, human health and environmental sectors, ensuring a truly multisectoral and integrated approach. By bringing together scientists, technical experts, policy-makers and institutional stakeholders, the workshop will facilitate structured dialogue, promote shared ownership, and support the development of practical roadmaps to institutionalise SPIs and strengthen coordinated One Health governance across the region.

3. Outcomes and follow-up activities

The workshop aims to :

- a. **Critical assessment of current One Health capacities and SPI implementation** across participating North African countries, including a structured analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). This assessment will inform future strategic planning for evidence-based, multisectoral One Health governance.
- b. **Updated country-specific action plans** co-developed during the workshop, reflecting lessons learned and renewed national commitment to institutionalise science–policy interfaces. These plans will support the operationalisation of the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026) at national and regional levels, ensuring the effective use of technical tools, knowledge products, and coordination mechanisms. They are designed to promote sustainability, resilience and continuity of activities, even in the event of potential funding or resource constraints.
- c. **A coordinated regional support framework** for One Health implementation in North Africa, involving national authorities, regional platforms and international partners (WOAH, FAO, WHO, UNEP). This framework will aim to:
 - Avoid duplication of efforts and competition between organisations, particularly in a context of limited resources for international cooperation;
 - Ensure that support activities are demand-driven, tailored to country priorities, and aligned with the operational realities and multisectoral needs of participating countries;
 - Facilitate harmonised approaches to strengthen science–policy interfaces, evidence-informed decision-making, and coordinated One Health governance across the region.



4. Target group:

The target group for the workshop will consist of two representatives per sector — animal health, human health, and environment — from each participating country. For each sector, one participant will hold a high-level policy or decision-making position (e.g., CVO, CEO, etc), while the other will be a senior technical expert.

The estimated total number of participants per country is 6, resulting in an overall total of approximately 36 participants from the six North African countries

List of countries

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|------------|-------------------|
| 1. Algeria | 4. Mauritania |
| 2. Egypt | 5. Morocco |
| 3. Libya | 6. Tunisia (host) |