

International partnership to address human-animal-environment health risks gets a boost

Paris, 30 May 2018 - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) today agreed to step up joint action to combat health threats associated with interactions between humans, animals and the environment.

In a Memorandum of Understanding signed today, FAO, OIE and WHO agreed to strengthen their long-standing partnership, with a strong focus on tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



Standing from left to right: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, Dr Monique Eloit, Director General of the OIE and Mr Jose Graziano da Silva, FAO Director General after signature of the MOU.

AMR is a high priority for the three organizations, who are working together to develop global systems for AMR surveillance and use of antimicrobials, a global antimicrobial stewardship programme, and a monitoring and evaluation framework for the global action plan. A current comprehensive framework of international standards on responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials is regularly adapted to keep up with the development of scientific knowledge.

In addition to AMR, the new agreement will focus on improving disease forecasting capabilities for more informed and swifter responses to emerging and endemic zoonotic diseases (including foodborne diseases); helping countries strengthen their national health systems; and undertaking joint activities related to reduction of threats.

"Over 60% of existing and emerging pathogens affecting humans originate in animals; 75% of these from wildlife. So we cannot deal with human health, animal health, and

ecosystem health in isolation - we have to look at them together, and address them together. This partnership pools the unique expertise of each organization and brings their combined weight to bear to do just that, via a 'One Health' approach," said FAO Director-General, Jose Graziano da Silva.

"Each sector has its own specificities but the Members Countries of our three organisations face the same challenges. Our collaboration is therefore fundamental to better help them respond, demonstrating that partnerships between international organisations support those at the regional, national and even local levels. This shows that the One Health approach is not just a concept, it's a daily reality that we build together through the development and the implementation of an ambitious working programme focused on our common priorities," said OIE Director General, Dr Monique Eloit.

"The threat of antimicrobial resistance affects humans, animals and our ecosystem. That's why the Tripartite Partnership of WHO, FAO and OIE is so vital," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO. *"Working together is the only way to avoid the huge human, social, economic and environmental costs of antimicrobial resistance".*

Rising to meet new challenges

Advances in transportation, the rise of international trade, surging populations and agricultural expansion have dramatically altered how diseases emerge and spread, making a "[One Health](#)" approach more essential than ever before.

FAO, WHO and OIE have been working together since the 1940s and, in 2010, formally [established collaborative work](#) on antimicrobial resistance and tackling diseases such as influenza and rabies. In 2017, their [second strategic document](#) was released reaffirming their commitment.

Bringing together knowledge, insights and technical capacities in human and animal health and food and agriculture can generate strong synergies, for more robust, effective and cost-efficient solutions to the complex health problems facing the world today.

Joint activities under the new agreement will include:

- Supporting the Interagency Coordination Group on AMR established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016, as well as the continuing implementation of the [Global Action Plan on AMR](#)
- Engaging with countries to reinforce national and regional human health, animal health and food safety services
- Improving inter-agency collaboration in foresight analysis, risk assessment, preparedness building and joint responses to emerging, reemerging and neglected infectious diseases at the animal-human-ecosystems interface
- Addressing food safety challenges requiring a multi-sector approach in the context of reinforcing food security
- Promoting coordinated research and development to achieve a common understanding of the highest priority zoonotic diseases and the research and development needed to prevent, detect, and control them

Developing a Voluntary Code of Conduct to reinforce implementation of international standards on responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials

Dear WVA Members

In the context of promoting prudent use of antimicrobials under veterinary supervision, WVA and the OIE would like to create a global repository of available guidelines for the responsible use of antimicrobials in animal health (i.e. use for treatment, control and prevention of diseases).

Having access to an international repository, would help the WVA and OIE to identify best practices in different world regions, assist in identifying gaps, encourage and assist veterinary organizations to fill those gaps.

For that reason, the WVA and OIE request all WVA member organizations working on local, national, regional, or international level, to complete this short questionnaire and to help us to take action to reduce the emergence and spread of Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals worldwide.

It takes only few minutes to complete this questionnaire. Your association input is essential and any personal data will be handled confidentially.

The WVA/OIE global repository and the summary of the findings will be available for WVA member associations and will be presented at the OIE Global conference on Antimicrobial Resistance that will take place in Marrakesh, Morocco on 29-31 October 2018.

WVA and OIE would like to thank your association in advance for filling-in the attached questionnaire by **25th June 2018**. Please send the complete questionnaire wva_assistant@worldvet.org

Estimados miembros de la WVA

En el contexto de promover el uso prudente de antimicrobianos bajo supervisión veterinaria, la WVA y la OIE desean crear un archivo mundial de guías disponibles para el uso responsable de los antimicrobianos en salud animal (es decir, uso para el tratamiento, control y prevención de enfermedades).

Tener acceso a un archivo internacional, ayudaría a la WVA y a la OIE a identificar las mejores prácticas en las diferentes regiones del mundo, a identificar lagunas y animaría y ayudaría a las organizaciones veterinarias a rellenar esas lagunas.

Por este motivo, la WVA y la OIE solicitan que todas las organizaciones miembros de la WVA que trabajen a nivel local, nacional, regional o internacional, completen este breve cuestionario y nos ayuden a tomar medidas para reducir la emergencia y dispersión de resistencia a los antimicrobianos en los animales en todo el mundo.

Solo le tomará unos minutos completar este cuestionario. La aportación de su asociación es esencial y cualquier información personal se manejará de forma confidencial.

El archivo mundial de la WVA/OIE y el resumen de los resultados estarán disponibles para las asociaciones miembros de la WVA y se presentarán en la conferencia mundial de la OIE sobre Resistencias antimicrobianas que tendrá lugar en Marrakech, Marruecos, del 29 al 31 de Octubre de 2018.

La WVA y la OIE desean agradecer a su asociación, de antemano, por completar el cuestionario adjunto antes del **25 de junio de 2018**. Por favor, una vez rellenado mándelo a la dirección: wva_assistant@worldvet.org

ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE EMERGENCE AND SPREAD OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN ANIMALS IN YOUR COUNTRY

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1. PERSONAL	
Title and Name	
Position	
Country you live and work	
Veterinary Organisation you represent	
2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK	
Is the use of antimicrobials regulated in your country/region?	
Are antimicrobials for use in animal health freely available on the market?	
Is a veterinary prescription mandatory for the use of antimicrobials in animal health?	
If a prescription is required, who can make the prescription?	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - veterinarian - para-veterinarian - or other professional 	
3. PRIVATE INITIATIVES	
Does the veterinary statutory body (order or chamber) or the veterinary association in your country provide guidelines for the responsible use of antimicrobials in animal health?	If possible, please add the document or a link to it.
If the reply to the previous question is no, is the veterinary statutory body (order or chamber) or the veterinary association in your country planning to produce guidelines for the responsible use of antimicrobials in animal health?	
Do veterinary schools in your country provide guidelines for responsible use of antimicrobials in animal health?	If possible, please add the document or a link to it.
Do other organisations, institutions or the food industry provide guidelines for responsible use of antimicrobials in animal health?	If possible, please add the document or a link to it.
Are there private industry guidelines on the environmental aspect of the use of antimicrobials, for example on the disposal of unused antimicrobials?	If possible, please add the document or a link to it.
4. GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES	
Does the national government provide guidelines for responsible use of antimicrobials in animal health? If yes, for which species? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bovine - Swine - Poultry - Small ruminants (sheep and goat) - Other 	If possible, please add the document or a link to it.
Do regional or local authorities provide guidelines for responsible use of antimicrobials in animal health?	If possible, please add the document or a link to it.
5. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN	
Does your country already have a fully developed and approved national action plan on antimicrobial resistance, or is it under development? Who/which institution (s) is coordinating it?	If possible, please add the document or a link to it.

Is the national action plan a combined action plan for human health and animal health?	
Was / is your organisation involved in the development of the national action plan on antimicrobial resistance?	
Was / is your organisation involved in the implementation of the national action plan on antimicrobial resistance?	
Are the OIE standards on the responsible use of antimicrobials referenced in the national action plan? (Chapter 6.9 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine') and Chapter 6.2 of the Aquatic Animal Health Code ('Principles for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals)).	