



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

## JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT TO COORDINATE ONE-HEALTH PRIORITIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

The Quadripartite in Europe and Central Asia – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO)<sup>1</sup>, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and - are committed to strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and multi-lateral efforts to combat health threats associated with interactions between humans, animals, and the environment across the region in line with the global Tripartite partnership.

Zoonotic diseases with pandemic potential, such as COVID-19, Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus disease, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and zoonotic influenza, foodborne diseases and endemic zoonosis such as rabies and brucellosis are causing many infections and deaths across the globe while at the same time incurring serious socio-economic implications. The continuous emergence of health threats originating in the animal, human and environment interface urges the Quadripartite to reassess, renew and scale-up support to countries to prevent, detect, assess and manage potential health threats with the aim of protecting the health of animals and people, avoiding economic disruptions, and sustaining livelihoods.

The Quadripartite in Europe and Central Asia acknowledges the importance of close collaboration and communication among all sectors responsible for health. This requires a One Health approach. The One Health approach is particularly relevant to address health issues associated with antimicrobial resistance (AMR), zoonotic diseases, food safety and health security. The Regional Representatives of FAO, UNEP, WOA and WHO in Europe and Central Asia are strongly committed to partner with Members and to strengthen coordinated efforts to counter all these health threats.

In line with Quadripartite efforts between FAO, UNEP, WOA and WHO globally, we, the Regional Representatives, commit to establish and support **the Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism**. This will be done in a two-tiered approach:

- 1) **One Health Executive Group** (FAO, UNEP, WOA and WHO Regional Heads), and
- 2) **One Health Technical Group** (FAO, UNEP, WOA and WHO technical teams), around priority One Health topics.

As part of the Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism, the Regional Quadripartite will establish a **Regional One Health Partner Platform** to convene policymakers, partners and experts to provide strategic advice and implementing capacities for the One health agenda in the region.

<sup>1</sup> All four Quadripartite organizations in Europe and Central Asia are responsible for the same geographic area, representing over 50 Members. FAO has Regional office for Europe and Central Asia based in Budapest, Subregional office for Central Asia in Ankara and 7 country offices. WOA has one Regional Representation based in Moscow, and two Subregional Representations based in Brussels and Nur-Sultan. UNEP has its Europe Office based in Geneva and branches in Almaty, Moscow, Brussels and Vienna. The WHO Regional Office for Europe consists of the main office in Copenhagen, seven technical centres and 30 country offices.

Collectively, the One Health Coordination Mechanism has the main goal to identify regional One Health priorities, facilitate operationalization of activities in priority areas and support interagency engagement and partnership at the animal-human-environment interface to coordinate support to countries to maximize country impact.

The two-tiered approach, combined with the Partner Platform, will ensure a strong, high-level coordination of support and political profile across the One Health areas, combined with a dedicated, coordinated technical delivery at country level.

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Signed:

**Vladimir Rakhmanin**  
FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional  
Representative for Europe and Central Asia

**Budimir Plavsic**  
WOAH Regional Representative for Europe

**Sylvie Motard**  
Acting Director  
UNEP Europe Office

**Hans Kluge**  
Regional Director  
WHO Regional Office for Europe