

## Resolution

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**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC69/R.5  
October 2022**

**Sixty-ninth session  
Agenda item 3(d)**

### **Advancing the implementation of One Health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

The Regional Committee,

Having considered several WHO resolutions culminating in resolution WHA74.7 of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly, which highlighted the urgent need to build on and strengthen existing cooperation among the Quadripartite<sup>1</sup> to develop options for consideration by their respective governing bodies;

Having reviewed the technical paper on advancing the implementation of One Health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, including the regional operational framework for One Health presented in Annex 1 of the paper;<sup>2</sup>

Concerned that around 75% of emerging infectious diseases among humans are zoonotic in origin, and cognizant of the escalating public health risks posed by emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases and their epidemic and pandemic potential, including the COVID-19 pandemic;

Underlining that diseases caused by foodborne and waterborne pathogens continue to constitute a worldwide public health concern and that antibiotic-resistant microorganisms have been increasing in humans, animals, food and the environment, making antimicrobial resistance a complex and escalating threat to health security; and that both these issues threaten the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Noting the complex and challenging situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region due to conflict, social unrest, climate-related events, political instability and economic constraints, and the resultant health system disruption, human migration, forced displacement and transboundary animal movements that have implications for the emergence, control and management of zoonotic diseases;

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to WHO, members of the Quadripartite include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

<sup>2</sup> EM/RC69/7.

Acknowledging that One Health is an evolving concept globally with several dimensions and that for the Eastern Mediterranean Region the most important elements are controlling zoonotic disease, curbing antimicrobial resistance and improving food safety;

Bearing in mind that health threats at the human-animal-environment interface and their associated adverse effects can be minimized or even avoided if countries are properly prepared and able to early detect and efficiently respond to both human and animal diseases;

Understanding the urgent need to implement a multidisciplinary cross-sectoral One Health approach that aims to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and the environment;

Underlining that preventing, preparing for, detecting, responding to and recovering from health emergencies is primarily the responsibility of governments, while acknowledging the key role of WHO within the Quadripartite in preparing for and coordinating a comprehensive response to health emergencies;

**1. ENDORSES** the regional operational framework for One Health;

**2. URGES Member States to:**

2.1 Institutionalize the One Health approach through a system to govern, manage, coordinate and oversee all activities, including a legislative framework and adequate budgetary allocations;

2.2 Build on or establish mechanisms for multisectoral collaboration and coordination for One Health involving all relevant government ministries, and multisectoral stakeholders, including civil society, academic institutions and the private sector;

2.3 Implement an adapted national One Health operational framework with linkages to related strategies, frameworks and action plans such as national action plans for health security;

2.4 Prioritize interventions on zoonotic diseases of public health concern, antimicrobial resistance and food safety;

2.5 Build the capacity of a workforce at the national and subnational levels to perform collaborative and coordinated activities to prevent, detect, investigate and respond to endemic and emerging health threats at the human-animal-environment interface;

2.6 Drive action on the basis of data, including disease reporting and timely information-sharing among relevant sectors;

2.7 Monitor progress and impact using a predetermined set of indicators;

**3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:**

3.1 Establish a regional Quadripartite One Health Coordination Mechanism<sup>3</sup> to oversee and manage One Health-related activities within the Region and facilitate the implementation of the global One Health joint plan of action (2022–2026) in liaison with WHO country offices, other WHO regional offices and WHO headquarters;

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<sup>3</sup> The regional coordination mechanism for Quadripartite One Health coordination includes the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and regional offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme.

- 3.2 Support Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to develop, implement, operationalize and evaluate a national One Health framework and plan, in line with the regional framework;
- 3.3 Support Member States to operationalize the One Health approach for the control of zoonotic diseases of public health concern, antimicrobial resistance and food safety using a One Health approach involving all relevant stakeholders;
- 3.4 Report on progress in implementing this resolution to the 71st, 73rd and 75th sessions of the Regional Committee and present a final report to the 77th session in 2030.