



One Health High Level Expert Council (OHHLEC)

Draft Terms of Reference for Public Discussion

Wellcome Trust consultation Response

We note with interest the proposal to establish a One Health High-level Expert Council to advise the work of FAO, OIE, UNEP and WHO of the challenges raised by One Health.

A One Health approach to public health has been important to the work of many organisations, although those working on One Health have often struggled to get the necessary recognition, committed engagement [across stakeholders], and funding to fully address the challenges posed. We therefore welcome your proposal to establish this expert group and the signal this sends around the importance of infectious disease and zoonosis.

One area of One Health that has seen increased attention and action over the last few years is antimicrobial resistance (AMR). To complement actions by individual governments and stakeholders, we have seen the following global actions:

- Member State agreement to a Global Action Plan to address AMR – with adoption of the Global Action Plan by WHO and FAO Member States and OIE member countries.
- A political declaration on AMR at the 2016 UN General Assembly ([link](#))
- The establishment of the Tripartite Secretariat (FAO, OIE and WHO) on AMR, with expansion of the membership to include UNEP
- The establishment of the Global Leaders Group on AMR ([link](#))
- A consultation on the draft Terms of Reference for an Independent Panel for Evidence on AMR ([link](#))

Given the progress outlined above on AMR and in consideration of the recommendations of the Un Interagency Coordination Group, we believe that there would be advantages to both the One Health Expert Council and efforts on AMR if the Terms of Reference for the One Health Council specifically identified:

- AMR as an area of One Health where there has been considerable progress and action
- A commitment to engage with the global structures which have been/will be established on AMR, as is relevant to the work of the One Health Council, i.e. the Global Leaders Group and the Independent Panel for Evidence,
- A commitment for the One Health Secretariat to engage with the Tripartite Secretariat on AMR where relevant/appropriate to identify areas for collaboration and avoid any unnecessary duplication

Covid has shown the importance of cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration. Resources are limited, especially now, which means it is essential that we ensure appropriate collaboration and alignment across global structures/agenda to achieve the greatest impact and value whilst avoiding duplication of effort and siloed approaches.

Wellcome strongly urges the inclusion of the three points above into the draft ToR for the One Health Council.

We would like to end by raising some concerns about the approach to this consultation. Infectious disease and zoonosis are issues of global relevance and it is important to ensure engagement across sectors (health, animal and environment), stakeholders (e.g. governments, civil society, researchers, private sector) and geographies. The consultation period on the draft ToR for the One Health Council has been incredibly short which will may



result in limited engagement from some stakeholders – especially those representing LMICs. When reviewing the responses to this consultation, we encourage WHO to look at diversity of responses across sectors, stakeholders and geographies to ensure good representation across all three groupings. If there is inequity in the responses, steps should be taken to widen the reach of this consultation.