



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

## 59th DIRECTING COUNCIL

**73rd SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS**

*Virtual Session, 20-24 September 2021*

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CD59.R4  
Original: English

### **RESOLUTION**

#### **CD59.R4**

#### **ONE HEALTH: A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH FOR ADDRESSING HEALTH THREATS AT THE HUMAN-ANIMAL-ENVIRONMENT INTERFACE**

##### ***THE 59th DIRECTING COUNCIL,***

Having reviewed the policy on *One Health: A Comprehensive Approach for Addressing Health Threats at the Human-Animal-Environment Interface* (Document CD59/9);

Bearing in mind that the COVID-19 pandemic has done much to reverse the gains achieved in recent decades on poverty reduction and on health and well-being in the Region of the Americas;

Recognizing that the health outcomes associated with health threats at the human-animal-environment interface such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and food safety issues depend on policies and programs inside and outside the health sector and that strategies for the management of risks at the human-animal-environment interface need to include other sectors and disciplines to maximize impact and ensure sustainability;

Acknowledging that the socioeconomic development of the Region of the Americas has been supported by its increasing agricultural production and its role as a global food producer and exporter, therefore it is crucial to protect such achievements from the impact of zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and food safety problems that not only endanger the health of the population, particularly the most vulnerable, but also hinder the socioeconomic development of communities and industries such as tourism and international trade in animal and animal products;

Cognizant that One Health is a collaborative, multidisciplinary, and multisectoral approach that can contribute to addressing health threats at the human-animal-environment interface,

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**RESOLVES:**

1. To approve the policy on *One Health: A Comprehensive Approach for Addressing Health Threats at the Human-Animal-Environment Interface* (Document CD59/9).
2. To urge Member States, taking into account their contexts, needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities, to adopt, adapt, and implement this policy, and to:
  - a) establish or strengthen current multidisciplinary, multisectoral, consensus-driven mechanisms for One Health governance, including policies and actions for the stewardship and finance of functional structures working across institutions and enabling coordination, communication, engagement, and collaboration, and for access to relevant knowledge and resources;
  - b) foster multisectoral technical activities including strategic planning, emergency preparedness and response, rapid and transparent information, data and sample sharing, in accordance with relevant international agreements, integrated surveillance, laboratory strengthening, and other best practices, with demonstration projects to drive scientific evidence-based collaborative actions;
  - c) incorporate a risk analysis approach, taking into account human behavior and other drivers, particularly those challenges that affect the systems on which society depends—health, agriculture/animal production, and environment;
  - d) promote training and education of the workforce on One Health, adopt new technologies including digital solutions and scientific tools, and foster research agendas on the human-animal-environment interface.
3. To request the Director to:
  - a) apply the One Health approach within the Pan American Sanitary Bureau through interprogrammatic actions fostering the effective use of the Pan American Health Organization’s comprehensive portfolio of knowledge, expertise, and access to stakeholders on health challenges such as food safety, zoonotic diseases, and antimicrobial resistance;
  - b) coordinate, promote, and provide technical cooperation to support countries and territories in implementing One Health in collaboration with relevant human, animal, plant, and environmental health partners and stakeholders, including those from the social determinants field;
  - c) secure political, managerial, administrative, and financial support for the implementation of One Health by advocating and promoting it, in collaboration with other international and regional entities from the fields of human, animal, and environmental health, as well as by mobilizing external resources;
  - d) report to the Governing Bodies on the progress made and challenges faced in implementation of this policy in 2026 and 2031.

*(Third meeting, 21 September 2021)*