

## **Investing in Animal Health to Secure Everyone's Future**

### CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal health is fundamental to food security, public and environmental health, economic development, shared prosperity, biodiversity, and global health security;
2. Poor animal health and welfare, including transboundary animal diseases, zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), cause major economic losses, reduce productivity, disrupt trade, threaten livelihoods, and increase risks to human, animal and ecosystem health;
3. The increasing frequency and complexity of threats driven by climate change, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, which are compounded by population growth, increased global connectivity and trade (including illegal trade) requires more and sustainable investment in animal health systems;
4. Sustainable and effective animal health systems are essential to prevent, detect and control animal health threats, including those with zoonotic and pandemic potential. Yet, many remain underfunded notwithstanding their strategic importance;
5. WOAH Members recognise the animal health systems comprise both the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures, thus recognising that they encompass functions ranging from pure private goods to national, regional and global public goods;
6. Effective animal health systems rely on science-based, outcome-oriented and implementable standards, robust capacity and national regulatory frameworks and strengthened dialogue and collaboration among public and private actors to support investment, innovation, knowledge-sharing, and equitable and timely access to animal health tools, including diagnostics and vaccines, particularly during crises;
7. Current financing systems at the national level do not always adequately reflect the diversity of actors in animal health systems, contributing to the inefficient allocation of public resources, under-provision of public goods, and insufficient mobilisation of private capital;
8. The private sector, including animal health service providers, producer organisations, pharmaceutical and diagnostics companies, and emerging technology (AgTech) actors, play a key role in delivering services and can significantly contribute to investment and innovation where enabling conditions are in place;
9. Actors in the private sector are willing to invest in animal health systems and to complement the efforts of national Veterinary Authorities. Such investment depends on mutual respect between public and private sector actors, and on Veterinary Authorities establishing clear definitions of responsibilities transparent governance, effective management of potential conflicts of interest, functional regulatory frameworks, and the consistent application of rules that support an enabling business environment;
10. Gaps in quality data availability, limited transparency, economic analysis - including cost-benefit and return-on-investment assessments - and communication capacity constrain investment planning, prioritisation, and the ability to demonstrate return on investment in animal health;

11. WOAHA plays a central role in developing international standards and guidelines, promoting transparency and data sharing, strengthening the capacities of WOAHA Members, and providing a trusted forum for collaboration among Members, financing institutions, and industry to support coordinated investment, dialogue and implementation;
12. The Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (79th United Nations General Assembly, September 2024) reaffirms United Nations Member States' commitment to invest in and strengthen animal health systems;
13. The 2026 Animal Health Forum, based on the Technical Item, and under the theme "Investment in animal health to Secure Everyone's Future", has confirmed the need for structured, innovative and sustainable financing approaches to strengthen Veterinary Services globally;

#### THE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDS THAT

1. WOAHA and its Members intensify high-level advocacy to position animal health as a strategic investment priority and to promote the necessary and sustainable financing at national, regional and international levels;
2. Members sustainably invest in animal health systems to support equitable access to essential veterinary services and to build a robust animal health workforce, supported by the necessary infrastructure and innovation, including digital and data management. These systems should enable the application of appropriate management practices to support animal health and welfare outcomes, and promote the timely supply and responsible use of quality and affordable essential veterinary medicines, vaccines and diagnostics.
3. Members apply a cascade approach to financing animal health, which includes optimising the use of private sector solutions where viable, addressing market and regulatory barriers, and strategically reserving public resources for core public goods recognising their essential role in national, regional and global health security;
4. WOAHA and its Members recognise that transboundary animal diseases, animal welfare, zoonoses and AMR are global public good challenges that require international cooperation, and increased and sustainable financing, including grants and concessional resources, and commit to engaging with investors, international financing institutions and development partners, while urging them to help curb their impact.
5. WOAHA and its Members convene regular dialogue among public and private stakeholders to facilitate coordination, knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices on animal health financing, including Public Private Partnerships and innovative approaches, without prescribing specific models;
6. WOAHA and its Members develop relationships and engage in dialogue with Agricultural Technology (AgTechs) companies and the broader private sector to identify shared objectives and foster mutual understanding and encourage the sharing of relevant data with Veterinary Authorities.
7. WOAHA and its Members meaningfully involve the private sector in the development and alignment of international standards and guidelines to ensure that they are outcome- and science-based, while also taking into account the practical and operational considerations of industry implementation across the value chain.

8. WOAH works with partners to support WOAH Members by developing, identifying, sharing and training on practical tools, guidance, and analyses to build the capacities of national Veterinary Authorities to plan, regulate, reform and interact within a multi-actor animal health system. The key partners include, among others, the World Bank Group, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization, as well as WOAH Reference Centres;
  9. WOAH, with the support of the Reference Centre network and relevant partners, work in partnership with Members to support evidence-based decision-making, enabling Members to assess tools to support the cost-effectiveness of different disease prevention, control and investment options, and by providing replicable and comparable methodologies to quantify the burden and economic cost of animal diseases, as well as the return on investment in Veterinary Authorities and animal health systems;
  10. WOAH further develop and strengthen its network of Collaborating Centres on animal health economics, with a view to establishing regional expertise and support capacity in each region to assist Members in economic analysis, investment prioritisation, cost-effectiveness assessment, and evidence-based decision-making;
  11. WOAH review and evolve the standards, guidelines and tools related to the performance and capacity of Veterinary Services, including the WOAH Competency and Curriculum Guidelines for Graduating Veterinarians (Day 1 Graduates) and Veterinary Paraprofessionals, and the competencies for Continuing Education, to integrate competencies such as financial literacy, digitalisation and data management, advocacy and other relevant skills linked to robust animal health systems, while supporting Members in strengthening veterinary governance and establishing Veterinary Statutory Bodies;
  12. WOAH support its Members in strengthening digital and data systems for resilient animal health systems, and their integration with relevant regional and global systems, by providing guidance and tools to strengthen their capacity. Such systems should enhance disease surveillance, early detection, traceability, targeted prevention and response, foresight, evidence-based decision-making, and investment confidence.
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