

## TRIPARTITE (FAO – OIE – WHO) APPROACH

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Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global human and animal health concern that can be influenced by both human and non-human antibiotic usage. The human, animal and plant sectors have a shared responsibility to prevent or minimise antibiotic resistance selection pressures on both human and non-human pathogens.

The World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) have established a formal tripartite alliance, also called Tripartite, under the One Health approach and have decided to choose AMR as one of the three priority topics for joint actions.

Antimicrobial resistance is not a recent phenomenon, but it is critical to take action now to address the increasing threat of AMR to human and animal health in a globalised world.

Starting about ten years ago, expert consultations were organised by the three organisations in 2003, 2004, and 2006 followed by the establishment of an Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance. The 'Guidelines on Risk Analysis of Foodborne AMR' developed by the Task Force were adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2011.

Starting in 2010, the OIE has undertaken to update all relevant standards on AMR including the *OIE List of veterinary important antimicrobials*, with the participation of FAO and WHO in the established OIE *ad hoc* Group on AMR.

To strengthen collaborative partnerships on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at technical level, the three organisations have further officially nominated 'Focal Points' in each organisation to identify priority areas and develop a common workplan with short, medium and long term objectives in line with the mandate of each organisation. This workplan will be presented in detail.

The World Health Day 2011 on Antimicrobial Resistance organised by the WHO with the participation of the FAO and the OIE illustrated among others the commitment of the three organisations to take collective action and speak with one voice. The OIE *Global Conference on the Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals* will provide further guidance and recommendations and will call for International solidarity to fight against antimicrobial resistance everywhere.

