

## **33rd Conference of WOA Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

(New Delhi, India, 13-16 November 2023)

### Recommendation No 2

#### **One Health Approaches to Addressing Risk: Optimising Avian Influenza Preparedness and Response Through Enhanced Multi-Sector Collaboration in Asia and the Pacific**

##### CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Avian influenza viruses pose ongoing threats to animal health, public health, wildlife populations, and regional economies and livelihoods in Asia and the Pacific due to their ability to persist, evolve, reassort and transmit between diverse hosts;
2. Current unprecedented spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5Nx clades in wild birds, poultry, and mammals across the globe, including the Asia and the Pacific, heightens concerns over mounting impacts and pandemic risks;
3. Gaps in biosafety and biosecurity in poultry farming and sales practices and along value chains have enabled amplification and spread of avian influenza viruses, causing recurring large-scale outbreaks and heavy losses in poultry;
4. Optimising mitigation requires breaking down sectoral barriers for surveillance, data sharing, risk analysis, messaging and outbreak response through expanded One Health (OH) collaboration as well as the timely notification of the events;
5. While OH initiatives exist at regional and sub-regional levels in Asia and the Pacific, gaps remain in systematic data integration, coordinated risk assessments, joint outbreak investigations and control strategy harmonisation between animal health, human health, and environmental sectors;
6. Comprehensive OH collaboration promises to strengthen regional preparedness, curbs unprecedented threats, and mitigate mounting avian influenza impacts on health, trade and livelihoods; and
7. Mainstreaming OH requires high-level commitment, adequate resourcing, coordination mechanisms, technical capacity building and monitoring frameworks for multisectoral initiatives.

## THE WOAHP REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Members urgently establish or strengthen OH collaboration frameworks, including under the GF-TADs umbrella, policies, coordination mechanisms and resourcing to optimise avian influenza prevention, preparedness and response;
2. Members conduct regular joint risk analysis, simulations, outbreak investigations, monitoring and assessments including public and private sector representatives from animal health, human health and environment sectors;
3. Members maintain transparency through timely and comprehensive reporting of animal health events to WOAHP as described in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*;
4. Members share data from existing data sources for integrated surveillance, build timely genetic sequencing capacity, and foster systematic and timely sharing of field epidemiology data, genetic sequences and isolates between sectors and with the global community;
5. Members strengthen surveillance by integrating novel and innovative surveillance such as environmental sampling at the human-animal-environmental interface coupled with rapid action and response strategies that increase speed and comprehensiveness of detection and prevention while reducing costs and maintaining sustainability;
6. WOAHP considers developing standards or guidelines on collection and use of environmental samples as a complementary tool for surveillance, notably in a One Health approach;
7. Members coordinate public awareness and risk communication messaging in collaboration with other relevant sectors for behaviour change and biosafety/biosecurity compliance;
8. Members establish or strengthen collaboration mechanisms with human health, and environment sectors both nationally and regionally to harmonise avian influenza prevention, detection, control and recovery strategies including through public private partnerships;
9. WOAHP supports Members in leveraging PVS Pathway as well as other tools and expertise to enhance OH policy, coordination, technical capacity and resource mobilisation;
10. WOAHP fosters high-level advocacy for political commitment, equitable resourcing of the animal health sector, and accountability towards OH collaboration goals in Asia and the Pacific;
11. WOAHP working closely with its partners, continue to promote OH initiatives and resource networks to empower optimised sharing of experiences and best practices, and strengthen regional prevention, preparedness, and response; and
12. WOAHP actively engage partners, regional organisations and Members in support of coordinated regional approaches and the implementation of Resolution no. 28 on the "Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza" adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates during its 90th General Session.