



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION



WORLD
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the**

**WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION [WVA]
and
WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION [WMA]
Preamble**

Acknowledging that the World Veterinary Association [hereinafter referred to as WVA] is the recognised global professional veterinary organisation, founded in 1863, as an Association of veterinary medical associations supporting the global public good, including in animal health and veterinary public health internationally, food safety and the management of zoonotic diseases, animal welfare and disease monitoring based on veterinary education and evidence-based science, representing veterinarians by promoting their health and well-being.

Acknowledging that the World Medical Association [hereinafter referred to as WMA] is an international professional organisation representing physicians, founded in 1947, and is an independent confederation of national medical associations whose purpose is to serve humanity by endeavouring to achieve the highest international standards in medical education, medical science, medical art and medical ethics and health care for all people in the world.

Highlighting the highly successful and friendly professional collaboration and good-fellowship that has characterised the relationship between the WVA and WMA.

Bearing in mind that collaboration with the World Health Organisation [WHO] is a key focus of WMA's external relations because the WMA's core mission is to promote the health and well-being of physicians and patients. Therefore, the WMA commits itself to actively collaborating with the WHO in the areas of medicine with a strong focus on health systems development and strengthening public health programmes.

Bearing in mind also that WVA has a longstanding collaborative agreement with WHO based on mutually agreed objectives that outlines activities for three-year periods. Main areas of involvement include lowering the burden of zoonotic diseases, increasing food safety and improving the global health status [healthy animals = healthy people]; raising the quality of teaching of veterinarians in food safety issues and zoonoses, addressing food safety and responsible use of antimicrobials.

Recognising that the World Animal Health Organisation (WOAH) is the formally mandated international animal health standard setting body recognised by the World Trade Organisation [WTO] and that a long-term collaborative agreement between WVA and WOAH exists. That WVA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations [FAO] to support international [animal] health capacity building, that extends to public health and food safety and food security. Both parties assist global effort to redress pathogen emergence and re-emergence at the animal-human-ecosystems interface. WVA is an observer in the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WVA AND WMA

Therefore, it is important to have a Memorandum of Understanding between WVA and WMA as well. Conscious of the prospects of a mutually beneficial relationship and the need to establish working arrangements within a framework of their respective rules, regulations and bylaws:

The WVA and the WMA agree to the following:

Section 1: Global Development Objective – Enhanced Focus on One Health

The Parties will collaborate in the **One Health concept**, which is a unified approach to veterinary and human medicine [veterinarians and physicians] in order to improve Global Health. This collaboration will place an **increased emphasis on the fundamental importance of One Health** in addressing complex, interconnected global health challenges, reinforcing its centrality to the joint efforts of both organisations, and aligning with the WVA's collaborative agreements with WHO.

Section 2: Scope of Cooperation – Concrete Activities and Priority Areas

The scope of cooperation proposed by this Memorandum of Understanding will include:

2.1. Support the concept of joint educational efforts between human medical and veterinary medical schools. This will include **exploring and implementing joint educational initiatives such as co-hosting webinars or webinar series** to foster shared knowledge and understanding on critical global health topics.

2.2. Support cross-species disease surveillance and control efforts in order to prevent zoonotic diseases. **Special emphasis will be placed on collaborative efforts to combat rabies** as a key zoonotic disease, as well as other zoonotic diseases, aligning with broader objectives of lowering their burden and in support of WVA's and WMA's cooperation with WHO and WOAH.

2.3. Collaborate in the responsible use of antimicrobials with respect to critical antimicrobial lists for humans and animals. This collaboration will be further **strengthened with an increased focus on addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**, acknowledging its critical global health implications.

2.4. Enhance collaboration between human and veterinary medical professions in medical education, clinical care, public health, One Welfare and biomedical research. This includes **facilitating direct engagement and shared expertise through activities such as cross-inviting leadership for presentations** at key events or conferences.

2.5. Explore additional joint educational and informational initiatives to advance public health and promote the interconnectedness of human and animal health, building upon the spirit of good-fellowship established in previous cooperation.

Section 3: Use of Logos

The use of the WVA-logo is specifically prohibited without prior written approval from WVA. The use of the WMA-logo is specifically prohibited without prior written approval from WMA.

Section 4: Final Provisions

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WVA AND WMA

This Memorandum of Understanding reflects the **ongoing professional collaboration between WVA and WMA on a basis of good-fellowship** and shall represent the understanding of the Parties upon its signing by the WVA and the WMA.

Washington, DC, USA

On behalf of the

World Veterinary Association

President:
Dr John de Jong



Date:

7/18/25

World Medical Association

Chair of Council:
Jack Resneck Jr., MD



Date:

7/18/25