UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATION HUB

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

FROM LYON TO ROME

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL PATHWAYS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION THROUGH ONE HEALTH

KEY MESSAGE

- The 2026 One Health Summit in Lyon created political and technical momentum around sustainable food systems, antimicrobial resistance, emerging infectious diseases, pollution, data convergence and climate-health integration.
- The One Health approach has been incorporated into national pathways for food systems transformation, especially regarding antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic risks, food safety and intersectoral governance. However, its integration into food systems transformation remains fragmented. National Convenors could benefit from clearer technical guidance on how to apply One Health in pathway implementation.
- The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (the Hub) is strategically positioned to support country-led work on One Health by using Science-Policy-Society Interfaces, the Scientific Advisory Committee and other existing mechanisms to elevate the Lyon commitments within food systems transformation and across the work of the UN Rome-based agencies.

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ONE HEALTH IN FOOD SYSTEMS: A PRACTICAL APPROACH FOR RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

One Health is increasingly operational and policy relevant. It is defined as an integrated and unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of humans, animals and ecosystems.[1] This speaks directly to food systems because food production, supply chains, diets, animal health, plant health, human health, livelihoods, ecosystems and climate risks are deeply connected.[2] The One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026) makes this link explicit. Its action tracks align with priorities already found in food systems transformation agendas. These include managing zoonotic and pandemic risk, strengthening food safety, addressing antimicrobial resistance and integrating environmental health. For the Hub, the strategic question is how to support countries to strengthen One Health implementation in food systems transformation using existing national pathway priorities as practical entry points.[3]



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THE ONE HEALTH SUMMIT IN LYON: ELEVATING POLITICAL COMMITMENT

The One Health Summit, co-convened by France and Ghana in Lyon from 5 to 7 April 2026, sharpened the implementation frame for One Health. Its relevance to food systems is threefold:

A broader technical frame: the One Health Summit presented an integrated One Health ecosystem with four pillars: emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, pollution and sustainable food systems. These are supported by governance, data, and social sciences and humanities.[4]

A clear food systems entry point: The Summit's commitments linked One Health to healthy and sustainable food for all, research on ultra-processed foods, local food systems, food cultures, food sovereignty and sustainable agricultural systems.[5]

A practical implementation agenda: Declarations on climate-health integration and data convergence addressed practical implementation needs, including cross-sectoral planning, interoperable evidence systems, prevention, surveillance and alignment with existing financing mechanisms.[6,7]

FROM LYON COMMITMENTS TO COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION: USING NATIONAL PATHWAYS AS ONE HEALTH ENTRY POINTS

A scan of available national pathways identified explicit references to One Health in 17 country pathways and one regional pathway. These references show that countries have already recognized One Health across a range of food systems priorities, including antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic risk, food safety, intersectoral governance and broader food systems transformation. The Hub therefore has a grounded basis for connecting Lyon commitments to country-owned pathway implementation, using the One Health approach.

Pathway entry point	Examples of One Health framing in national pathways	Possible Hub entry points
Antimicrobial resistance	Denmark links One Health to prudent antimicrobial use in food production and resistance monitoring. Sweden connects One Health and AMR to sustainable farming, animal welfare and global partnerships.	Build on established AMR commitments by connecting them to food safety, animal health, environmental health and national pathway implementation in practice.
Pandemic preparedness and surveillance	Canada frames One Health as a way to integrate environmental, animal and human health in the food systems and reduce risks of pandemics, outbreaks and AMR. The United States links FDA food and public health work with USDA zoonotic disease surveillance.	Use pandemic prevention and surveillance commitments as practical entry points for prevention-focused, multisectoral investment and alignment.
Governance and supply chains	Viet Nam calls for intersectoral coordination across agriculture, health, natural resources and environment in food supply chain management. Belgium commits to incorporating One Health throughout the food chain and policy.	Position One Health as an implementation method for existing governance and supply chain priorities, rather than as a separate agenda.
Broader food systems transformation	Cambodia links One Health and biodiversity protection to resilient food systems, green financing, traceability and adaptation. Serbia links One Health to healthier and more sustainable diets, public procurement, nutrition literacy and affordability.	Use pathway reviews to identify emerging links with nutrition, food environments, biodiversity, pollution, sustainable diets and climate adaptation.

Separately from how countries frame One Health in their national pathway documents, some also maintain dedicated national strategies or action plans on One Health or antimicrobial resistance. These are standalone policy instruments in their own right, and where available, offer a fuller picture of national institutional commitment. Denmark has built cross-sectoral AMR surveillance since 1995 through DANMAP, formalized in a joint 2017 One Health strategy, with a further updated strategy now in development.[8] Viet Nam's One Health coordination has been in place since 2003, when the Partnership for Avian and Human Influenza was established. It was transformed into the One Health Partnership in 2016 and re-signed in 2021. A National Multi-sectoral One Health Plan was approved in 2022. By December 2024, more than 100 One Health projects had been implemented or were underway across disease surveillance, antimicrobial resistance and related areas, with activities coordinated through five technical working groups.[9, 10] Bangladesh has revised its national One Health strategy three times since 2008, most recently through a 2025 to 2030 framework that assesses remaining gaps alongside a dedicated AMR action plan approved in 2022.[11] These examples are illustrative rather than representative. They show that, in selected countries, national pathway references sit alongside wider country-level One Health actions, rather than demonstrating a direct pathway-to-implementation link.

PRACTICAL ONE HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HUB

The One Health approach is already embedded in several areas of the Hub's work, including pathway implementation, Science-Policy-Society Interfaces, the Scientific Advisory Committee and knowledge dissemination through the Youth Leadership Programme. In some countries, these pathway entry points also sit alongside dedicated One Health or antimicrobial resistance strategies, creating opportunities to connect food systems transformation with existing national policy and coordination structures. The opportunity is to leverage these existing connections and make them more coherent and more usable for country-led implementation. This would help elevate the profile of One Health within food systems transformation, including through upcoming moments such as the FAO Global Conference for Actions on One Health in Agrifood Systems in Rome in September 2026 and future UN Food Systems Summit processes.

In practical terms, the Hub could document where the One Health approach is already being utilized within the national pathway implementation, identify where Lyon commitments reinforce or extend country priorities, and support countries to connect these efforts through existing evidence, governance and advisory spaces.

Hub mechanism	Possible contribution
National food systems pathways	Use pathway reviews and implementation support to identify existing One Health approach entry points, including AMR, food safety, zoonotic risk, sustainable diets, biodiversity and environmental health. Where relevant, map these against dedicated national One Health or AMR strategies, OHJPA action tracks and Lyon commitments.
Science-Policy-Society Interfaces	Use SPSIs as country-level spaces where scientific evidence, policy knowledge, Indigenous People's knowledge, and local and traditional knowledge can be brought together across sectors, including local authorities, youth, civil society and communities.
Scientific Advisory Committee	Develop practical guidelines on how One Health pillars and action tracks connect to food systems transformation, including metrics, governance, and equity.
Youth Leadership Programme	As the Hub moves into the second phase of the Youth Leadership Programme, youth-led and intergenerational spaces can be used to connect community knowledge, scientific evidence and implementation realities, supporting more grounded and inclusive One Health approaches among early career professionals

Applying One Health depends on long-term commitment, cross-sectoral collaboration and building trust across relevant institutions and communities. These spaces can ensure that community knowledge, including Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, scientific evidence and implementation realities directly inform policy and practice. They can also broaden the practical application of the One Health agenda to include food environments, nutrition, pollution and the affordability and accessibility of healthy and sustainable diets.

Taken together, these mechanisms could help the Hub translate global One Health momentum into practical, country-led food systems action. By working through pathways, Science-Policy-Society Interfaces, the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Youth Leadership Programme, the Hub can embed this approach more firmly within food systems transformation while keeping country priorities at the center.



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DISCLAIMER

This policy brief was prepared under the leadership of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub. The draft was developed by Dr Trish Muzenda and Dr Nicole de Paula, with review and substantive contributions from members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), including Dr Olanike Adeyemo and Shakuntala Thilsted. The brief reflects the personal perspectives of the author(s), and the views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions, policies, or viewpoints of any affiliated organizations, institutions, or entities.


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