



Snapshots of IO Practices

FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite Collaboration

Organisation(s): Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization (WHO)

The Snapshots of IO Practices present examples of specific efforts undertaken by an international organisation to work towards more effective international instruments. They aim to highlight examples of practices within the five focus areas of the Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking (IO Partnership), namely the variety and development of international instruments, their implementation, evaluation, ensuring stakeholder engagement, and co-ordination among IOs. The snapshots are submitted by the secretariats of the relevant international organisations implementing the relevant practice. The practices were compiled by the OECD Secretariat and focal points of the IO Partnership (UNCITRAL, OIE, WHO, ISO, WCO, BIPM, and SIECA), with a brief review to ensure consistency and comparability of the information provided within the snapshots. The inclusion of a practice in these snapshots implies no endorsement or assessment of that practice on the part of the OECD Secretariat or the focal points of the IO Partnership.

1	Overview of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
1.1	Organisation	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and World Health Organization (WHO)	
1.2	Area of relevance among the IO partnership focus themes (variety of instruments, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, co-ordination)	Co-ordination across IOs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparatory work in the development of instruments - Co-ordination in the development of instruments - Co-ordination in the implementation of instruments - Co-ordination in the provision of assistance 	
1.3	Name of the Practice	FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite Collaboration	
1.4	Name of person(s) completing the template		

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2	Description of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
2.1	Please describe the practice shortly, providing information on its core features.	<p>The collaborative work of FAO, OIE and WHO aims to prevent and control health risks at the human–animal–ecosystems interface. These three Organisations develop global strategies and tools jointly to ensure a consistent, harmonised approach throughout the world, and to better co-ordinate human, veterinary and environmental health policies at the national and international levels. This Collaboration aims to put the “One Health” vision into practice.</p>	
2.2	What are the objectives of the practice?	<p>The FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite Collaboration aims to support their member countries and partners to undertake collaborative efforts to address challenges and threats at the human-animal-ecosystems interface. To advance the “One Health” approach, the Tripartite identified in 2011 three technical topics – antimicrobial resistance, rabies and zoonotic influenza – to showcase the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration for effective risk management.</p> <p>There are different areas of co-ordination, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-ordination on research and development to achieve a common understanding of the highest priority zoonotic diseases. - Co-ordination in the development of instruments, by ensuring consistency across the standard-setting activities of the three organisations (the international standards of the OIE, the International Health Regulations [IHR] of the WHO and the international food standards of the Codex Alimentarius developed by a joint FAO/WHO Programme). - Co-ordination in the implementation of instruments by supporting the implementation of global strategy, including development of awareness campaigns. - Co-ordination in the provision of assistance, by building capacity for the national authorities in human health, animal health and food safety. 	

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2.3	What have been the key results of the practice?	<p>The Tripartite is being increasingly recognised by the global community. For example, in September 2016, at the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance held at the United Nations General Assembly, Heads of Governments and global stakeholders recognized the advantages of multi-sectoral approaches and the benefits of reinforcing collaboration between agencies and sectors. The Tripartite collaboration on antimicrobial resistance is further organized through a joint secretariat of the Interagency Co-ordination Group established by the political declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016.</p>	
2.4	In what year was the practice introduced?	<p>The FAO, OIE and WHO have worked together for many years to prevent, detect, control and mitigate health threats to humans, originating – directly or indirectly – from animals. The Tripartite was formally laid down in 2010 with the publication of the Tripartite Concept Note.</p>	
2.5	Has the practice been updated/reformed since then? If yes, when and how has it evolved over time?	<p>In October 2017, the OIE, the FAO and the WHO released their second Tripartite strategic document reaffirming their commitment to provide multi-sectoral, collaborative leadership in addressing health challenges. The scope of their collaboration will be enlarged to more broadly embrace the “One Health” approach recognising that human health, animal health and the environment are interconnected.</p> <p>In May 2018 the Directors General of FAO, OIE and WHO signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the co-operation to combat health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interface in the context of the “One Health” approach and including Antimicrobial Resistance. This Memorandum requested the development of a Tripartite Work Plan to be adopted at the Annual Tripartite Executive Meeting.</p>	

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2.6	<p>What do you consider to be the primary strengths of the practice?</p>	<p>On multiple occasions, the three Organizations demonstrated that bringing together their knowledge, insights and technical capacities in food, agriculture, and human and animal health can generate strong synergies, which will yield more robust, effective and cost-efficient solutions to the complex problems facing the world today.</p> <p>The Tripartite's leadership and co-ordination at the global level encourages and supports similar collaborations amongst regional, national and local networks.</p>	
2.7	<p>What do you consider to be the main challenges faced during the implementation of the practice?</p>	<p>Consistent implementation of activities in organisations that have differing governance approaches. In other words, in some cases there is a decentralized approach to managing regional and/or countries offices or in other cases a centralized approach, this can mean that the organisations may not be in agreement on priorities.</p> <p>Financial offices have differing contract procedures and legal instruments.</p>	
2.8	<p>Does the practice have a formal/normative basis within the organisation or is it conducted informally? Does this basis make the practice mandatory or voluntary?</p> <p>If there is formal basis, please provide the relevant link or documentation.</p>	<p>The formal basis of the FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite Collaboration is the Tripartite Concept Note, supported by a second Tripartite strategic document and a Memorandum of Understanding.</p>	
2.9	<p>At what frequency is the practice applied? i.e. is it conducted once or on an iterative basis?</p>	<p>It is an on-going practice. There is a secretariat that monitors the agreed to activities amongst the three organisations and which is chaired by one of the organisations on a yearly rotation</p>	

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		and leading up an annual Tripartite Executive Meeting where activity related issues and agreements are discussed.	
2.10	Is this practice applied systematically, (e.g. with respect to every normative instrument, according to specific criteria or on an ad-hoc basis)?	The Tripartite collaboration has identified three technical topics – antimicrobial resistance, rabies and zoonotic influenza – as areas to showcase and implement the “One Health” approach. The three Organizations have also been working on a number of other topics that require multi-sectoral leadership (e.g. zoonotic tuberculosis, vector borne disease, impact of climate change).	
2.11	Please provide specific details or examples to illustrate the practice (including supporting links and documents).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination on research and development to achieve a common understanding of the highest priority zoonotic diseases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – OIE/FAO global network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU): www.offlu.net The objectives of OFFLU are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ exchange scientific data and biological materials (including virus strains) within the network, and to share such information with the wider scientific community. ✓ offer technical advice and veterinary expertise to Member Countries to assist in the prevention, diagnosis, surveillance and control of avian influenza. ✓ collaborate with the WHO to contribute to the early preparation of human vaccines ✓ highlight avian influenza research needs, promote their development and ensure co-ordination. • Co-ordination in the development of instruments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The OIE and Codex Alimentarius collaborate closely in the development of their respective standards relevant to 	<p>The OIE/FAO Global Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza (OFFLU) represents an intersection between co-ordination (WG5) and implementation (WG2).</p> <p>The OIE-WHO Operational Framework for Good Governance at the Human-Animal Interface highlights an intersection between the development of international instruments (WG1), their practical implementation and evaluation (WGs 2 and 4), and the co-ordination of rulemaking activities (WG5).</p> <p>The National IHR/PVS Workshops demonstrate an example of the intersection between co-ordination (WG5) and implementation (WG2).</p>

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		<p>the whole food production continuum, taking care to avoid gaps and contradictions. Contact persons in each organization have been designated, to participate in each other's standard setting processes and to share information on issues of mutual interest related to animal production food safety. Both the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius are recognised as international standard setting organisations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination in the implementation of instruments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Tripartite organisations collaborate to support the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (GAP). Adopted by the membership of WHO, FAO and OIE in 2015, the GAP was further endorsed by political leaders in 2016, when Heads of State issued a high-level political declaration on AMR (resolution A/RES/71/3) during the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, committing them to implementing the GAP at the global, regional and national levels. The GAP articulates five objectives for tackling AMR, and sets out the tasks required to achieve them, highlighting roles and responsibilities for country governments, the One Health Tripartite organizations (FAO, OIE and WHO) and other national and international partners. To ensure that all stakeholders assume their roles and responsibilities, and to assess whether they are collectively effecting the necessary change in AMR, the Tripartite organizations co-developed a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the GAP. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination in the provision of assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WHO and the OIE have developed the tool “OIE–WHO operational framework for good governance at the human–animal interface: connecting the tools of WHO and the OIE to evaluate national capacities” to assist their Member Countries to implement their respective standards and help them to identify tailored and co-ordinated strategies to deal with national health risks at the human–animal interface, by evaluating the capacity of the animal health and human health sectors and identifying gaps in the implementation of health standards. – FAO, OIE and WHO have jointly developed the tool “Taking a Multisectoral, One Health Approach: A Tripartite Guide to Addressing Zoonotic Diseases in Countries.” This Guide, referred to as the Tripartite Zoonotic Guide (TZG) is flexible The TZG provides principles, best practices and options to assist countries in achieving sustainable and functional collaboration at the human-animal-environment interface. Examples and lessons learned from countries experiences are also included. – National IHR/PVS Workshops: the OIE and WHO organise national IHR/PVS seminars in those Member Countries that want to strengthen collaboration between their human and animal health sectors, to manage priority health threats in the most effective way possible. 	
3	Design of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
3.1	Who designed the practice (e.g. Was it developed internally, in collaboration with other organisations, etc?)	The three Organisations: FAO, OIE and WHO. The impetus for formalising “the tripartite” was spear headed through the Directors General of the three organisations. While all three organisations have been collaborating in some form or another on issues of mutual interest to their members, for decades,	

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		describing the tripartite and the collaboration did not come until 2010.	
3.2	Which stakeholders were engaged with in the design of the practice?	-	
3.3	How long did it take to design the practice?	The FAO, OIE and WHO have worked together for many years. In 2010, the three Organisations published a Tripartite Concept Note , describing their collaboration and objectives in the prevention and control of health risks at the human–animal–ecosystems interface. The lead up to the 2010 concept note started in 2008 with a consultation document on “one world, one health” with a much larger cast of organisations. http://www.fao.org/3/aj137e/aj137e00.pdf	
3.4	What resources were needed to design the practice initially (i.e., staff, budget etc.)?	-	
3.5	What challenges were encountered during the design of the practice and how were they overcome?	-	
3.6	Has the practice been tested before implementation (i.e. pilot phase)? If yes, please describe.	-	

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4	Implementation of the Practice		
4.1	Which units are responsible for implementing the practice within your IO?	<p>The executive level of the Tripartite is the respective Directors General or their designated Deputy or Assistant Directors General of the FAO and WHO and the OIE, who meet in person at least once annually, and by teleconference as necessary, to discuss and reach consensus on strategic issues.</p> <p>A rotating "Tripartite Secretariat" was established in 2012 to ensure a structured and robust follow-up of the decisions taken. The overall mandate of the Secretariat is to ensure, between executive-level meetings, a direct line of communication among the three agencies, to inclusively and consistently address technical and policy issues of mutual concern throughout the year and take appropriate decisions, in support of the collective executive level direction. Nevertheless, prior to 2012, the three Organisations have been meeting at the Executive level for the past 27 years.</p>	The Tripartite Secretariat represents an intersection between the co-ordination of rulemaking activities between the FAO, WHO, and OIE (WG5), and the implementation of international instruments (WG2).
4.2	Are IO members involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	-	
4.3	Are external actors beyond the organisation or its membership involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	-	
4.4	Which resources are needed to implement the practice (e.g., staff and budget)?	Each organisation contributes sufficient human and financial resources to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the "Tripartite Secretariat".	

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5	Outputs and Evaluation of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
5.1	Has the practice been evaluated or reviewed?	No formal evaluation, however feedback is gathered regularly by the Tripartite Secretariat on challenges related to the implementation of the Tripartite work plan.	
5.2	If yes, who carried out the evaluation (please specify whether it was done internally or externally)	Not applicable	
5.3	If yes, please describe the evaluation methodology? (e.g. were any quantitative or qualitative indicators/criteria used to measure/assess the outcomes of the practice?).	Each year the executive meets in February. Typically, a report of the activities is provided on the areas the three organisations are collaborating. Several areas have long standing collaboration such as AMR, rabies and zoonotic influenza – and often funding to run the work. Other areas such as climate change – are recognised as mutually interesting and important but do not have programming or support for collaboration that is seen in other areas.	
5.4	If yes, what were the conclusions of the evaluation, and has the practice evolved subsequently? If possible, please attach related documents or provide a link.	Not applicable	
6	Additional comments and information	Answers	Comments and intersections
6.1	Is there any more information or documentation that would be valuable to share in relation to the practice (e.g. links, reports, meeting minutes, supporting documents)?	<p>Portals on FAO website:</p> <p>FAO theme portal: http://www.fao.org/themes/en/</p> <p>Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): http://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/en/</p> <p>Rabies: under the development</p> <p>Avian Influenza: http://www.fao.org/animal-health/en/</p>	

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		<p>Portals on OIE website:</p> <p>One Health: https://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/onehealth/controlling-health-risks/collaboration-internationale/</p> <p>Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): https://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/amr/</p> <p>Rabies: https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/rabies-portal/mobilisation-internationale/</p> <p>Avian influenza: https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/web-portal-on-avian-influenza/</p> <p>Portals on WHO website:</p> <p>Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): https://www.who.int/health-topics/antimicrobial-resistance</p> <p>Avian influenza: https://www.who.int/health-topics/influenza-avian-and-other-zoonotic#tab=tab_1</p> <p>Rabies: https://www.who.int/health-topics/rabies#tab=tab_1</p>	
Sources			