



## Press release

27 September

### For or against an IPCC for “One Health”?

A publication coordinated by CIRAD and the Institute of Tropical Medicine, with the participation of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD - French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development), published in *The Lancet Global Health*, a leading medical journal, calls for strengthening the global governance of health by continuing to institutionalise the “One Health” approach. The goal is to improve pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for better global governance of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR). The World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) thus signed a [joint plan of action](#) in 2022 to better institutionalise and operationalise the “One Health” approach.

The crisis also highlighted the importance of coordinating knowledge production at the global level and improving access to it between different countries and populations. In an article published in *The Lancet Global Health*, a team of researchers examines the advantages and disadvantages of creating an **Intergovernmental Panel for One Health (IPOH)**. The “One Health” approach considers human health in connection with animal and environmental health.

Similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an IPOH would facilitate knowledge uptake in policymaking through a multisectoral “One Health” approach, and would thus support the control of infectious disease emergence and re-emergence at the human-animal-environment interface.

*“A structure of this kind would bring together a global network of scientists to produce syntheses of knowledge and to assess avenues for action. This would represent a change of scale for the OHHLEP [Expert Panel](#) set up at the request of WHO, WOAH, FAO and UNEP in May 2021, which is a light structure of 26 experts”,* says Alexandre Hobeika, a researcher in political science at CIRAD and co-lead author of the publication.

According to the authors, the creation of a larger panel with greater scope would be beneficial in that it would keep pandemic preparedness on the policy agenda, **improve the quality of the scientific debate** and **better represent the interests of poor countries** and marginalised populations. However, it would be likely to complicate the system and to lack real impact. But *“its cost would be limited and its effectiveness would mainly depend on the political uptake of its recommendations”*.

The researchers advocate integrating these advantages and disadvantages into the **design of institutional reforms for a more effective world health system**. To limit future risks, the authors insist

on the need to **strengthen prevention, the resilience of socio-economic systems and equity between populations.**

### Référence

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### About

**CIRAD** is the French agricultural research and international cooperation organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions. It works with its partners to build knowledge and solutions for resilient farming systems in a more sustainable, inclusive world. It mobilizes science, innovation and training in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Its expertise supports the entire range of stakeholders, from producers to public policymakers, to foster biodiversity protection, agroecological transitions, food system sustainability, health (of plants, animals and ecosystems), sustainable development of rural territories, and their resilience to climate change. CIRAD works in some fifty countries on every continent, thanks to the expertise of its 1700 staff members, including 1140 scientists, backed by a global network of some 200 partners. It also supports French scientific diplomacy operations. [www.cirad.fr](http://www.cirad.fr)

**IRD - French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development** is a multidisciplinary French public research organization committed to equitable partnerships with countries in the Global South and in the French overseas territories for nearly 80 years. As a contributor to the achievement of the international development agenda, the IRD aligns its priorities with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Together, scientists and the Institute's partners propose concrete solutions to the global challenges facing societies and the planet. This win-win relationship makes science and innovation major levers for development. [www.ird.fr](http://www.ird.fr)

**The Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM)** in Antwerp is an internationally renowned institution for innovative research, advanced education and professional services in tropical medicine and international health. ITM employ about 500 people, including more than 200 academic, scientific or medical staff. ITM's research spans basic to operational research, primarily addressing health challenges in low-resources settings. ITM's advanced laboratory facilities include biosafety level 3+ laboratories for HIV, tuberculosis and Ebola research along with an ACL3 insectary. ITM hosts 14 national and international reference laboratories and the world's largest public collection of tuberculosis strains. The institute works with 25 partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America. ITM focuses on individual and institutional capacity sharing in these cooperation projects. <https://www.itg.be>