

Agenda Item 8.8.B

Progress Reports on Technical Matters: B. One Health: A Comprehensive Approach for Addressing Health Threats at the Human-Animal-Environment Interface

Presentation by Dr Tania Whitby-Best

WONCA welcomes the Progress Report on One Health: A Comprehensive Approach for Addressing Health Threats at the Human-Animal-Environment Interface.

Family doctors and multidisciplinary primary care teams are well positioned to translate the principles of One Health into everyday care and action at community level. They see firsthand how human health is shaped by interactions with animals, the environment, climate change and people's living conditions.

WONCA therefore calls for:

1. Stronger health promotion and communication of risks at community level to prevent and respond to emerging infections, zoonotic diseases, and climate-related health threats.
2. Training and practical tools for primary care teams to recognise and manage heat-related illness, environmental and occupational exposures, zoonotic risks, and to promote responsible antimicrobial use.
3. Closer collaboration across sectors, ensuring that primary care is connected with public health, veterinary, environmental and community partners in One Health planning, preparedness and response.
4. More sustainable primary care practice, strengthening prevention, appropriate use of resources and approaches that reduce avoidable environmental impact while maintaining high-quality care.

By embedding One Health principles within family medicine practice, education, research and advocacy, we can strengthen community resilience and help build healthier and more sustainable communities across the Americas. WONCA stands

ready to work with PAHO and Member States to support capacity building, including train-the-trainer initiatives, and to embed One Health and climate-health competencies within family medicine and primary care.