

## POSITION STATEMENT

### **Civil Society at the Heart of One Sustainable Health A Call to Action 7 April 2026 – Lyon, France**

*This position statement was developed at a historic moment for One Health, as an official deliverable for the One Health Summit, part of France's G7 Presidency in 2026. The position statement aims to ensure that civil society is recognised as a cornerstone of this collective effort. It builds on our last publication, "Healthy Planet for Healthy Life!", which brought together key recommendations from OSH for All Lyon 2025.*

#### **A Defining Moment**

The future of our shared planet stands at a defining moment. Across continents we are witnessing accelerating climate disruption, biodiversity loss, environmental contamination, strained food systems, emerging and endemic infectious diseases, water insecurity, widening inequalities and growing social instability. These crises are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. They reveal a structural reality: the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems is indivisible.

One Health and Planetary Health provide the scientific and ethical frameworks to understand this interdependence. The evidence is clear. What is now required is decisive implementation. The urgency is no longer conceptual; it is structural and operational.

At the same time, the international context is marked by troubling setbacks. Scientific expertise on climate and environmental issues is increasingly questioned, civil society organisations face shrinking civic space, regulatory constraints, funding cuts and, in certain cases, deliberate silencing. Expensive wars shift focus away from preserving life. These trends weaken governance and undermine the capacity to respond to systemic threats. Governments must therefore safeguard scientific integrity, protect freedom of expression and ensure that civil society organisations can operate independently and contribute effectively to transdisciplinary and cross sectoral strategies.

#### **Civil Society: Legitimate and Essential**

Civil society stands at the centre of the transformation. Its legitimacy is not in question. It derives its authority from communities, lived experience, professional expertise, Indigenous knowledge systems where institutions alone cannot reach. Farmers and food workers, human and animal health professionals, educators and scientists, art and cultural practitioners, women and youth movements, workers' organisations, Indigenous Peoples, consumer groups, environmental stewards and community leaders together form a powerful social infrastructure that connects global commitments to local realities.

Civil society is needed for strengthening the science–policy interface. Civil society organisations, scientific communities and local actors often serve as key intermediaries translating scientific evidence and data into policy-relevant knowledge and societal action.

Civil society is not a peripheral stakeholder. It is a partner in governance, a guarantor of trust and social cohesion, and an agent for change and resilience.

### **From Commitments to Measurable Action**

The One Sustainable Health for All Conference held in Lyon in November 2025 made this clear: empowering civil society is necessary, but it is not sufficient. Structural integration, sustained investment and shared governance are essential.

We call upon governments, regional institutions, international organisations and the private sector to ensure sustainable financing and concrete, measurable political commitments in advancing One Health for the benefit of all. Funding must be predictable, long-term, and rooted in shared principles of threat prevention, crisis resilience, justice, and equity for transformative change.

Global, regional and national strategies must translate into local implementation. Declarations without delivery erode trust. Policies without adequate resourcing deepen inequality. One Health will ultimately be judged not by summit communiqués but by the outcomes for the benefit of families, communities, farms, cities, fauna and flora, and our shared ecosystem.

Community-led and local initiatives must be supported and scaled. Equitable access to resources must be ensured. Structural social and economic inequalities that leave certain populations disproportionately vulnerable to environmental degradation, infectious and non-communicable diseases, and food insecurity must be addressed directly. Without justice, there can be no resilience.

### **Accountability and Protection of Civic Space**

An accountability framework must underpin this transition. It should be transparent, publicly accessible and regularly updated. It must measure cross-sectoral progress by linking environmental indicators, health outcomes – mental and physical - and social equity metrics. Civil society must be structurally involved in its design, monitoring and review.

Equally, governments must guarantee an enabling environment for all components of civil society, especially by protecting scientific expertise, enabling data convergence, fighting against disinformation, supporting civil society organisations and promoting civic participation which strengthens governance and enhances the effectiveness of policy implementation.

### **Transforming Food Systems and Addressing the Triple Environmental Crisis**

Food systems lie at the heart of the One Health agenda. From soil and water stewardship to production, consumption and waste management, child labour to animal welfare, they shape planetary boundaries and public health alike. Unsustainable practices drive biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution and disease emergence. Inequitable systems perpetuate malnutrition in all its forms and undermine social cohesion.

Countries and communities should have the capacity to shape their own food and agricultural policies, strengthen local production systems and reduce structural dependencies that increase vulnerability to environmental, economic and health crises. Supporting food sovereignty contributes directly to resilient ecosystems, equitable livelihoods and improved outcomes within the One Health approach.

Civil society is already advancing agroecological approaches, strengthening local food networks, improving food safety and promoting nutritious diets at the human–animal–plant–environment interface. These solutions must be scaled through coherent policies, regulatory alignment and sustained investment.

More broadly, the triple environmental crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution demands integrated governance and the promotion of renewable energy technologies. Biodiversity, including the health and welfare of aquatic and terrestrial animal populations, wild or domesticated populations and that of pollinators, must be protected and restored. Freshwater security must be prioritised. Nature-based solutions must move from isolated pilots to systemic policy tools. Indigenous knowledge and intergenerational stewardship must be recognised as strategic assets in safeguarding planetary resilience.

### **Health equity**

Health equity must remain central. Environmental degradation and climate shocks intensify vulnerability and deepen structural inequalities. A gender-responsive, geographically grounded and an overall intersectional lens must guide One Health policies from definition to implementation.

Civil society often provides the first line of prevention, early detection and community engagement— stepping in where governments or private actors may not reach. This includes surveillance for endemic or emerging disease threats and antimicrobial resistance. Strengthening animal health systems everywhere, and as close as possible to local communities, reinforces and enables the work of civil society, ensuring that disease detection and prevention are effective at the local level.

### **Beyond the Summit**

The One Health Summit in Lyon on 7 April 2026 is a pivotal milestone. It must not become a symbolic apex followed by inertia. It should mark the beginning of sustained momentum. One Health must be embedded in national development plans, fiscal strategies, data integration, regional cooperation frameworks and international review processes beyond the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Civil society helps build trust in national and multilateral processes and turns global commitments into real actions locally.

### **A Strategic Choice**

Policymakers face a choice at a time when scientific expertise is challenged in some contexts and civic space is shrinking in others. They may acknowledge civil society’s value rhetorically while limiting its structural influence, or they may act decisively to embed civil society within governance systems and implementation frameworks.

Failure to move beyond recognition risks missing a historic opportunity to align political leadership with societal capacity to respond to systemic risks.

### **Our Commitment**

We, the undersigned civil society organisations, stand ready to partner in implementation and to contribute constructively to policy design and delivery. We will continue to monitor, advocate, innovate and mobilise. We will continue to safeguard transparency and ensure that commitments

translate into measurable outcomes across urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes alike.

The challenges before us are profound.

The cost of delay is measured in lives, livelihoods and ecosystems.

The capacity for transformation is equally real.

A healthy planet requires a healthy society.

A healthy society requires the full and legitimate participation of civil society.

Participation must be structural.

Financing must be sustainable.

Commitments must be measurable.

Accountability must be real.

The time for symbolic endorsement has passed.

The time for implementation is now.

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*Currently endorsed by 220+ networks and organisations in 45+ countries, including:*

**Networks:**

Balkan One Health Network (BOHN) — Balkans

Comité français de l'UICN – France (81 member organisations)

Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) – International (145+ academic institutions/ organisations)

Coordination Sud – France / International (170+ NGOs)

European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUPAHW) – Europe (56+ organisations)

France Nature Environnement (FNE) – France (48 associations federating 6329 associations)

German Health Alliance (GHA) — Germany (110+ members)

Global Citizen — International (10+ million global citizens)

Global Health Advocates — France, Belgium / International

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) – International (130+ member organisations / national associations)

International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation – International (90+ member organisations)

International Student One Health Alliance (ISOHA) – International

Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour l'Environnement (JAE)

One Sustainable Health for All Foundation — France / International (150+ member organisations)

Pasteur Network – International (32 institutes in 25 countries)

Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) – International (1,000+ partner organisations)

Preventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence (PREZODE) – International (230+ member organisations)

Remapsen — Africa

Réseau des Associations de la Réserve de Biosphère Arganeraie (RARBA) — Morocco

Santé en Entreprise (SEE) International — International  
 Women's Major Group — International (500+ organisations)  
 Youth Health Organization — International

**Supporting Organisations:**

Action for Animal Health — International  
 Action Contre la Faim (ACF-France) — France  
 AFEM (Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale) — France / Europe  
 The African Climate Foundation — South Africa / Africa  
 African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) — Kenya / Africa  
 Agence Française de Développement (AFD) — France  
 ANSES (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire) — France  
 Agronomes & Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF) — France  
 Alliance Santé Planétaire — France  
 Alliance Une Seule Santé Mali — Mali  
 Alternatives Humanitaires — France  
 Amel Association International — Lebanon  
 Amref Health Africa France — France  
 ANRS Maladies Infectieuses Émergentes (ANRS MIE) — France  
 Art For Science — International  
 Askaan Santé (ASKAAN) — Senegal  
 Association Bétouré des Femmes — Burkina Faso  
 Association EDUC-ACTION — Cameroon  
 Association Galien Africa – Africa  
 Association Kwata — French Guiana  
 Association marocaine pour la protection de l'environnement et du climat (ASMAPEC) — Morocco  
 Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement Durable de Bizerte (APEDDUB) — Tunisia  
 ASDEN (développement Nguendar) — Senegal  
 Association Sénégalaise des Amis de la Nature — Senegal  
 ATUTAX (Assoc. Tunisienne de Taxonomie) — Tunisia  
 BA International — International  
 Barwaqa Relief Organization — International  
 BioPort — France  
 Bridges – UNESCO (MOST Coalition) — International  
 Brooke – Action for Working Horses and Donkeys — UK / International  
 Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society — Cameroon  
 Capsule d'Art — France  
 CARAM Asia — Malaysia  
 Center for Global Health (TUM Munich) — Germany  
 CERAD (Center for Relief and Development) — International  
 Centre-Alliance for Rare Diseases in Rwanda — Rwanda  
 CSE (Centre de Suivi Écologique) — Senegal  
 Centre Virchow-Villermé — France/Germany  
 Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD) –

France

Les Centres GHESKIO — Haiti

Centre international de droit comparé de l'environnement (CIDCE)

Chaire de recherche en santé durable — Canada

Civil society coalition on transport (CISCOT) — Uganda

Climate Action Accelerator — Switzerland/International

Climate x Health — International

Commission de l'Océan Indien – Indian Ocean Region

Compagnie Nationale du Rhône (CNR) – France

Comunidad de Práctica de Una Sola Salud — Colombia

Connecting Youths Life Foundation (CYLFU) — Uganda

Conseil Économique Social et Environnemental (CESE) – France

Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) — Switzerland/International

Croix-Rouge Française – France

Decentas — Cameroon

Defend NHI Campaign — South Africa

Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR) — Germany

Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) – International

Earth Wake Entreprise – France

Les Eco Maires — France

EHESP International – France

Empowerment Hub — South Africa

Enda Santé – Senegal

European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) – Europe

European Health Forum Gastein – Austria / International

Expertise France (Groupe AFD) – France

Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels (FCEN) — France

Fondation ARHM — France

Fondation CMA CGM – France

Fondation Edmus – France

Fondation pour les Études et Recherches sur le Développement International (FERDi) – France

Fondation evertéa – France

Fondation de France – France

Fondation GL Events – France

Fondation Mérieux – France

Fondation Pierre Fabre – France

Fondation Véolia – France

Foundation S – The Sanofi Collective — France / International

French Water Partnership / Partenariat Français pour l'eau (FWP / PFE) – France

France Villes & Territoires Durables – France

France for One Health – France

Friendship NGO – France, Bangladesh, Luxembourg

Frontiers Research Foundation — Switzerland / International

Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ) — Brazil

Fundación Pondera — Spain

Geneva Health Forum — Switzerland/International

Geres – France / International  
 Le Geste d’Or — France  
 Ginger Group — France  
 Girls not Brides — United Kingdom / International  
 Gilles Leroux Industrie (GLi) — France  
 Global Health Association of Kenya — Kenya  
 Handicap International - Humanity & Inclusion — France / International  
 Health Diplomacy Alliance — Switzerland / International  
 Humatem — France  
 Impact Santé Afrique — Cameroon / Africa  
 Indian Institute of Science — India  
 Initiatives pour l’Avenir des Grands Fleuves / Initiatives for the Future of Great Rivers — France/International  
 Integrated Community Based Initiatives (ICOBi) — Uganda  
 International Alliance for Biological Standardization (IABS) — Switzerland / International  
 International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) — France / International  
 International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) — Denmark / International  
 International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) — Austria / International  
 International Youth Council-Yemen (IYCY) — Yemen  
 Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI) — France  
 Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (INRAE) — France  
 Institut Pasteur — France  
 Institut Pasteur de Dakar — Senegal  
 Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) — France  
 International Science Council — International  
 International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation — International  
 Jane Goodall Institute — United States / International  
 The Jena Declaration — Germany / International  
 Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour l'Environnement (JAE) — France / International  
 Jeunesse du Monde en Action — France / International  
 Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) — Uganda  
 The KCCR at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology — Ghana  
 Korean Advocates for Global Health — South Korea  
 Kosovo Interministerial Committee for One Health — Kosovo  
 Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization — Sri Lanka  
 Lectorio — Germany  
 Lithuanian Medical Students Association (LiMSA) — Lithuania  
 La Maison de l’Artemisia — France  
 The Lancet One Health Commission — International  
 Malaria Research & Training Center, Bamako — Mali  
 Malteser International — Germany / International  
 Mauritian Wildlife Foundation — Mauritius and the Outer Islands  
 Mbou-Mon-Tour (MMT) — Senegal  
 Médecins du Monde — France / International  
 Medizinische Hochschule Brandenburg  
 Metabolism of Cities Living Lab — International

Nadia Umbrella Academy NPC — South Africa  
 National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistance Research & Education (NIAMRRE) — United States  
 Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association — Nigeria  
 Nile Consulting — France  
 Northern Frontier Medical Association (NOFMA) — Kenya  
 Norwegian Veterinary Institute — Norway  
 Nutriset — France  
 Ocean & Climate Platform — France / International  
 One Health Alliance Jordan — Jordan  
 One Health Maroc — Morocco  
 One Health in Action Initiative — International  
 One Health Society — Tanzania  
 One Health Trust — United States, India / International  
 ONG Palmeirinha — Guinea-Bissau  
 Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) — United States  
 Pak One Health Alliance — Pakistan  
 Paris Peace Forum — France/International  
 PASO Colombia (Sustainable Peace for Colombia) — Colombia  
 Physicians Association for Nutrition (PAN International) — International  
 Planet Score — France  
 PSL Université Paris — France  
 Première Urgence Internationale — France  
 Reborn from the Forest  
 Rend-Fort — France  
 Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences — China  
 Réseau Association Khnifiss — Morocco  
 Re(sources) Think Tank — France  
 Respect Ocean — France  
 Results Canada — Canada  
 Sabyinyo Community Livelihood Association (SACOLA) — Rwanda  
 Samasha Medical Foundation — Uganda  
 Santé Mondiale 2030 — France  
 Santé Sud – Groupe SOS — France / International  
 Santé Terre Vivant — France  
 Savoir(s) Patient(s) — France  
 Sciensano — Belgium  
 Shanghai University, Research Center for Health and Wellbeing — China  
 Società Italiana di Medicina Ambientale (SIMA) — Italy  
 Solthis — France / International  
 Sorbonne Université — France  
 SOS SAHEL International France — France / International  
 Support on AIDS and Life Through Telephone Helpline (SALT) — Uganda  
 Surfriider Foundation — France / International  
 Thriving Youth Leaders Initiative — Africa  
 Triangle Génération Humanitaire — France  
 Ubuntuess — International



Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar — Senegal  
Université de Genève — Switzerland  
Université de Montréal — Canada  
Université Paris Cité — France  
Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ) — Lebanon  
University of Namibia (UNAM) — Namibia  
VetAgro Sup — France  
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) International — International  
Virchow Foundation — Germany  
Virchow Prize — Germany  
Vital Strategies — United States/International  
VITAM – Centre de recherche en santé durable — Canada  
Vivae — France  
We are here Venice — Italy  
Wildlife Impact Network — United States  
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) — United States / International  
Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) — France / Europe  
Women In Health Meeting point Uganda — Uganda  
World Climate Foundation — Denmark / International  
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International — International  
Yenda Africa — Morocco / Africa  
Youth Advocacy Development Network — Uganda  
Zinvara Medicentre Foundation — Cameroon  
Zoologisk Have København — Denmark

*To align with the remaining G7 activities in 2026, the position statement will remain open to endorse.  
If you would like your organisation to be added to the signatories, please fill out the form here:*  
<https://forms.gle/QjG8NshmCC7kqRos9>