

A truly global gathering of experts provides platform for champions of real world One Health implementation and launches call for action

Press Release - Lisbon, PORTUGAL 8 September 2026:

- Convening over 1.300 experts from 107 countries, the 9th World One Health Congress in Lisbon, Portugal took place under the patronage of UNESCO, featuring almost 600 scientific posters and more than 80 sessions.
- Mobilizing the global community with a shared promise to advocate for One Health and urging decision makers to translate One Health commitments into funding and policy implementation, a [Joint Statement and Call to Action](#) was launched.
- Announcing the location of the next World One Health Congress: representing Oceania, Australia will host the 10th edition in Brisbane, from 10 to 13 October 2028.

More than 1.300 leading experts in One Health science and policy gathered in Lisbon to share state-of-the-art scientific evidence and governance models. The event featured almost 600 scientific posters and hosted more than 80 sessions - including keynotes, panel discussions, and workshops.

The 9th World One Health Congress received UNESCO patronage and was endorsed under the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development. **Shaofeng Hu**, Director of the Division of Ethics, Research & Technology at UNESCO, emphasized that “One Health must be embedded in education systems - it must reach classrooms and universities”. Ensuring that the next generation can think across human, animal and environmental health, is “one of the most important contributions we can make”. Discussions throughout the Congress emphasized the importance of including traditional knowledge from indigenous peoples and local communities. Summarized by **Elisabeth Betsi Dibongue**, Secretary General PREZODE: “prevention works better when the people who face the risk shape the solution themselves.”

With a Scientific Track and a Scientific Policy Interface Track, the program celebrated state-of-the-art science, models and best practice for governance and implementation, and included a focus on ensuring that science can reach decision makers.

In a challenging global context, the importance of a One Health approach for ensuring global health resilience and security was emphasized, with recognition of the need for greater integration of biohealth threats and strengthened biosecurity.

Taking place in Europe for the first time since 2015, there was a spotlight on European One Health implementation. **European Commission** and **European Parliament** representatives joined the five agencies of the **European Union Cross-agency One Health Task Force**, to reflect on progress to overcome fragmentation, embed structural cooperation, and “unite in diversity”.

The Congress launched a [WOHC2026 Joint Statement and Call to Action](#) to mobilize the collective voice of the One Health community, with a shared promise to advocate for One Health and a call for decision makers to:

- **Meet agreed targets of international conventions for health, sustainability & equity**
- **Fund One Health research and implement actionable policies through a One Health lens**
- **Formally recognize that integrating human, animal, plant, and ecosystem health is vital to global health security, and disease prevention resilience.**

The Congress closed by celebrating outstanding scientific contributions with the presentation of two prestigious awards sponsored by Springer Nature and One Health Outlook Journal. Shauna Thomas, DVM, earned the **Best Oral Presentation award** for her research titled "*Environmental Drivers of Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture: A Comparative Governance Analysis of Canada and Norway*," and Kimberly Edwards received the **Best Poster award** for her investigation into the resurgence of human A/H5N1 cases and novel reassortant clade 2.3.2.1e transmission in Cambodia.

In recognition of the importance of transformative cross-disciplinary leadership, **Carlos Gonalo das Neves** was honored with the **One Health Champion Award**. He reflected that the Congress “was a true testimony that we are indeed moving from words to action” and celebrated the contribution of all participants: “this award recognizes all of us who, for the last four days, have showed what we try to do on a daily basis across the world: implementing solutions that help solve real problems, complex challenges, and improve the way we live and share this planet”.

The World One Health Congress will mark its 10th edition in **Brisbane** from **10 to 13 October 2028**. Hosted in Australia representing Oceania, the 10th World One Health Congress aims to serve as a catalyst for building capacity, advancing equity, and shaping a healthier, more resilient future for all - highlighting indigenous and First Nations’ knowledge and the perspective of the wider Pacific region and small island states.

Quotes:

“Realizing the promise of One Health requires trust, investment in capacities, sharing of knowledge, political leadership and sustained commitment to implementation within and beyond sectors. Let us therefore move beyond boundaries by connecting our strength.”

Emmanuelle Soubeyran, Director General, World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

“The European Health Union is built on partnership, just like One Health should be. We need to work together because diseases, climate change, and antimicrobial resistance cross borders, so our response has to cross borders too.”

Sandra Gallina, Director General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission.

“As scientists, it is very important that we are able to simplify our message and tailor it to all audiences so that we can gain the most important thing of all, trust.”

Jomana Musmar, AMR Strategic Coalition

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About the global One Health Community

The global One Health Community (GOHC) is a unique, independent and global community gathering One Health voices geared towards building bridges and strengthening communications between science and policy in a rapidly changing world. The objectives of the global One Health Community are to:

- Promote a cross-sectoral and collaborative approach to improve the health and well-being of humans, animals and their environments;
- Foster scientific research into zoonoses and vector-borne infectious diseases;
- Create synergies and facilitate the sharing of data between researchers;
- Disseminate and ‘translate’ novel scientific findings to anyone who might benefit from them;
- Develop the most appropriate communication tools to convey these novel scientific findings and to communicate widely on One Health issues;
- Training of young researchers;
- Improve stakeholder communications;
- Advocate for a One Health approach; and
- Facilitate the science and policy interface.

Related links

- [WOHC 2026 Joint Statement and Call to Action](#)
- [WOHC 2026 Pre-Congress press release: “The World One Health Congress returns to Europe to lead international discussions on pioneering scientific data and policy challenges”](#)
- [WOHC2028 Expression of Interest: Join the mailing list](#)
- [WOHC 2026 Promotional toolkit](#)
- [Join the conversation using #WOHC2026 on social media](#)
- [One Health Day 2026](#)
- [What is One Health?](#)
- [World One Health Congresses](#)
- [Quadripartite Collaboration and Joint Plan of Action \(2022 - 2026\)](#)
- [Quadripartite collaboration extends the One Health Joint Plan of Action to 2029](#)
- [One Health Commission](#)

Contacts for media

- Goretti Cortina, gOHC Secretariat goretti.cortina@globalohc.org
- Danielle Rooke, gOHC Secretariat danielle.rooke@globalohc.org