



## **Community engagement and climate-smart health products: a new frontline for one healthier planet**

**Building One Health-resilient system to tackle the negative impacts of climate change**

### **Press Release**

**Dubai, December 5, 2023 - PREZODE and Unitaid, in partnership with the Global Fund, co-organized a roundtable during the 28th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change, to underline the key role of community engagement in preventing health and climate change risks. A statement calling for an urgent and comprehensive implementation of the One Health approach across all relevant sectors will be signed following the conference.**

Climate change severely impacts Health, not only at the human scale but at the planet level. Pathways for a new frontline towards One Healthier planet are to be found. It needs to engage communities, experts, and political leaders as well as bring forward climate and health risk prevention systems and climate-smart health products. Recognizing the interconnectedness of these sectors—climate, biodiversity, environment, animal and human health, industrial development, and finance—a call is made for innovative pathways to collaboratively address existential threats to our planet and its environment. need to find new pathways to effectively collaborate and tackle existential threats to our planet and its environment. To explore solutions, PREZODE and UNITAID, in partnership with the Global Fund, organized a roundtable session during COP 28.

Introducing the roundtable, **Agnes Firmin Le Bodo, Minister Delegate in charge of Territorial Organization and Health Profession, France**, emphasized that One Health is mandatory to cope with climate change impacts on health. “It must be a priority for all our policies to understand better and prevent sanitary crises as soon as they occur.”. In that regard, she underlined the commitments of PREZODE, an unprecedented initiative in terms of monitoring and preventing pandemic risks”.

**Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda**, Minister of Health, Malawi, stated that her country, along with others South East countries of Africa, was already enduring health consequences of climate change. “Cyclone Freddy, which hit us twice in February and March 2023, did not only devastate infrastructures, including, health care centers, but provoked the reemergence of diseases that were long gone from Malawi – Cholera- or a peak of Malaria.” She urged for equity in establishing climate-resilient health systems, a hand up, not a hand down”.

**Papa Seck, President of PREZODE Steering Committee**, highlighted the “One Health approach” as a crucial and pivotal anchor in addressing the intricate yet delicate interplay between human health, animal health, and the environment. He outlined that as we grapple with the consequences of climate change, there is a need to advance a resilient system collectively built on One Health to tackle the negative impacts of climate change.

**Thierry Lefrançois PREZODE Global science leader and co-founder**, added: “This system should be secured on science-society-policy dialogue at all levels, reinforcing trust in scientists, including social

scientists - anthropologists and sociologists, among others. All these systems should be community-centered given that communities are the heart of any health system. Therefore, a better understanding of local constraints is key in informing policy, adoption and creating trust. Overall, as we “think local we act globally”, as our local actions have possible ripple effects across borders, yet their impacts are deeply felt at the local level.”

**Harley Feldbaum, Head of Strategy & Policy, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**, said: “Climate change jeopardizes our mission to end AIDS, TB and malaria. We are responding by intensifying our fight against these diseases while building climate and pandemic resilient and sustainable systems for health to bolster countries’ capabilities to equitably respond to future threats. To achieve these goals, we will continue to increase collaboration with key players in the field, including the WHO, the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund, and science-led coalitions like PREZODE.”

**Olivia Ngou, Global Coordinator Civil Society for Malaria Elimination**, and Executive Director of Impact Sante Afrique, explained how Climate change increases the cost of health care as well as difficulties in reaching unreached resistance and other biological threats for communities.

**Grit Schmalisch, Strategic Advisor, World Climate Foundation**, underlined: «As we gather at COP 28, our focus is clear: to promote the One Health approach as a cornerstone in our collective effort to combat climate change and build a health-resilient future. Through the power of cross-sector collaboration, we aim to forge new, innovative pathways to address the urgent environmental challenges we face. This roundtable is not just a meeting of minds, but a call to action for effective, inclusive, and sustainable solutions to safeguard our planet and promote global health security.”

“The evidence is clear; climate change will affect the key health products we rely upon today. The world needs climate-smart health products that enable sustainable and equitable access to healthcare for all,” said **Unitaid board chair Marisol Touraine**. “At Unitaid we always have our sights set on the future. I am proud of our organization, which recently adopted a climate and health strategy that directs Unitaid towards “climate-smart” healthcare, that is, healthcare that is greener, more sustainable, and more responsive to climate change through a concrete set of technical priorities, investments and partnerships,”

The round table brought together:

- **Agnes Firmin Le Bodo, Min. Delegate for Territorial Organization & Health Profession, France**
- **HE. Khumbize Kandodo, Minister of Health, Malawi**
- **Harley Feldbaum, Head of Strategy & Policy, The Global Fund**
- **Marisol Touraine, Unitaid Board Chair**
- **Papa Seck, Chair of PREZODE General Assembly**
- **Thierry Lefrançois, One Health special advisor, CIRAD, PREZODE**
- **Louis da Gama, Unitaid Community Representative**
- **Nikolaj Gilbert, President and CEO, PATH**
- **Olivia Ngou, Executive Director impact Sante Afrique Civil Society representative**
- **Grit Schmalisch, Strategic Advisor, World Climate Foundation**
- **Ludovic Plee, FAO, Emergency Management Centre**
- **Ailan Li, World Health Organization**
- **David Whineray, Director of Global Health, United Kingdom**

## A declaration calling to collectively build one health-resilient system.

After the roundtable, country members of the PREZODE initiative and Unitaid signed a common declaration calling “to collectively build one health-resilient system to tackle the negative impacts of climate change”. Recalling that climate change poses a growing threat to human health, animal health, and ecosystems, as it affects vital elements such as air and soil quality, access to water, biodiversity, food security, and quality and nutrition, the Statement calls for an urgent and comprehensive implementation of the One Health approach across all relevant sectors, notably environment and health systems. The signatories of this declaration urge for:

- Mitigating climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and promoting health altogether in a comprehensive way through the One Health approach to build or restore healthy and resilient socio-ecosystems;
- Mobilizing in a collaborative way governments, donors, and relevant stakeholders to develop improved solutions and support sustainable ecosystems management for global health;
- Raising awareness on the importance of the One Health approach;
- Reinforcing health systems with the One Health approach: considering climate change and its effects on health systems and also minimizing environmental impacts of health systems;
- Transforming our food systems to make them sustainable, including through landscape management that respects the One Health approach, contributes to tackling biodiversity loss, and fosters climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Fostering a greater engagement for and empowerment of frontline communities, especially the most vulnerable ones, in actions aimed at preventing pandemics and tackling climate change;
- Ensuring that financial instruments support One Health joint actions (prevention of zoonoses, climate change mitigation, support to ecosystem conservation, health risk reduction);
- Considering the establishment of Interdisciplinary One Health Committees or task forces comprising scientists and experts from across a variety of sectors (environment, animal health, human health as well as socio-economic and political sciences), policymakers, and other stakeholders. These committees should analyze scientific evidence, propose relevant and adapted strategies, and guide decision-makers.

### About PREZODE

***PREZODE is an international initiative promoting prevention, early detection, and resilience to rapidly respond to emerging infectious diseases of animal origin. Acronym for Preventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence, it fosters multilateral collaboration with and between countries and other initiatives, to improve ecosystem management and to strengthen surveillance, with a multi-actor dynamic to maximize impacts. The PREZODE initiative is based on a One Health approach, linking human health, animal health, and environmental health. It develops a research framework to understand macro processes and drivers leading to zoonoses' emergence in a context of global changes. It enables the implementation of risk-reduction public policies and actions to reduce pandemic risks. It facilitates knowledge sharing and is a resource center for decision-makers while ensuring food security and livelihoods for the poorest communities. PREZODE was launched in January 2021, during the One Planet Summit on Biodiversity, and co-funded by CIRAD, IRD, and INRAE. Agence Française de Développement brings financial support to the Operational projects PREACTS and the Secrétariat Général pour l'Investissement supports the PREZODE PEPR, within the acceleration strategy on emerging infectious diseases as a part of the France 2030 program.***