

Australia - Statement

- At the crux of the three guiding discussion points, Australia sees the principles of education and mainstreaming.
- We all know the intrinsic link between human health and biodiversity.
- We all know that to better prevent and control infectious diseases, systems for human, animal and environment health need to be more closely aligned.
- We all know that this is a cross-sectoral issue that cannot be addressed by a single organisation or international body.
- And, we also know the new global biodiversity framework will establish global targets to address shared drivers of biodiversity decline and pandemics such as land-use change and unsustainable use of wildlife.
- What we need, and what biodiversity needs, is everyone else to know these things as well.
- Few themes will have the leverage to effectively solidify the importance of biodiversity to the mainstream than successfully educating them on how biodiversity loss affects human health and wellbeing.
- That's why Australia sees it as crucial not only that all actors see themselves in the new framework and how they can contribute, but also how their contributions will aid in the health, wellbeing and economic stability of their communities.
- Fostering this transformational change across society will require action.
- Action to reform our education systems, so that our next generation internalise the interlinkages between environment, human and animal health.
- Action to galvanise global frameworks and institutions towards an integrated One Health approach.
- Action which builds on our scientific research capabilities, but also improves our ability to communicate this knowledge in ways that resonates across society and government.
- In the end, the new framework should support individual countries to unite towards a global goal of reducing threats to biodiversity, which in turn will reduce threats to human health posed by biodiversity loss, including high-risk human-wildlife interactions.
- And with proper education and mainstreaming, the pursuit of global reform to prevent future pandemic events arising, will also result in improved animal welfare, habitat protection and biodiversity and conservation outcomes.