



PREZODE

MEMBERS MEETING SUMMARY, 21 APRIL 2022



Preventing zoonotic
disease emergence

SUMMARY

On April 21, 2022, PREZODE Initiative organized its first meetings with all its partners.

Almost 200 participants attended the event, organized in two sessions. The Interim Secretariat highlighted the initiative's developments: first achievements, strategic agenda and governance, participative tools.

Many partners and representatives of International Organizations – OIE, FAO, WHO – shared their testimonies and support. They highlighted their expectations towards PREZODE and proposed avenues for collaboration.

Next-steps for the initiative were also discussed. In particular, partners were invited to express their willingness to participate to the elaboration of the terms of reference for the governance, to the labelling process, or to join the secretariat of the initiative.



Opening remarks

Jean-Luc Angot – Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic – welcomed all the PREZODE partners. He emphasized the significant evolution of the initiative since its beginning a year ago, thanks to the mobilization of the community around the world.

He pointed out that the meetings were “informative events” for members to exchange on the 2021 achievements and on the 2022 priorities. They precede the General Assembly that will take place around September 2022 with the aim of validating PREZODE’s governance and the Strategic Agenda.

During the events, partners views and expectations were presented, as well as the status of the initiative, PREZODE vision and missions, the process of preparation of the strategic agenda, examples of collaborations with international organizations and the next steps and the involvement of partners.

Jean-Luc Angot highlighted the international scale of PREZODE initiative has taken on a real with the signature of [more than 150 members from 50 different countries, including 10 governments](#) and the support of relevant International Organizations.

As a conclusion, he restated that, as zoonotic disease emergence is a global issue, a multilateral collaboration is crucial, through bringing together countries and bridging research and operational activities, production of new knowledge and public decision-making. Success will only be achieved through an international mobilization that combines skills and cross-experiences. In that sense, the PREZODE initiative is an emblematic example of the implementation of the One Health concept and of a multilateral approach enabling the development of complementarities and synergies.

Partner’s views and expectations Group 1

Maud Istasse –Expert Senior Environment in SPF Santé Publique, Belgium – mentioned that PREZODE is innovative on the international scene as it aims to optimize research by focusing on preventing pandemics before they emerge. Its bottom-up and participatory approach offers an important level for action in regions with an elevated risk of emergence of infectious diseases. In particular, PREZODE will help better understand the emergence of zoonotic diseases and the mechanisms underlying the human–animal–ecosystems interface.

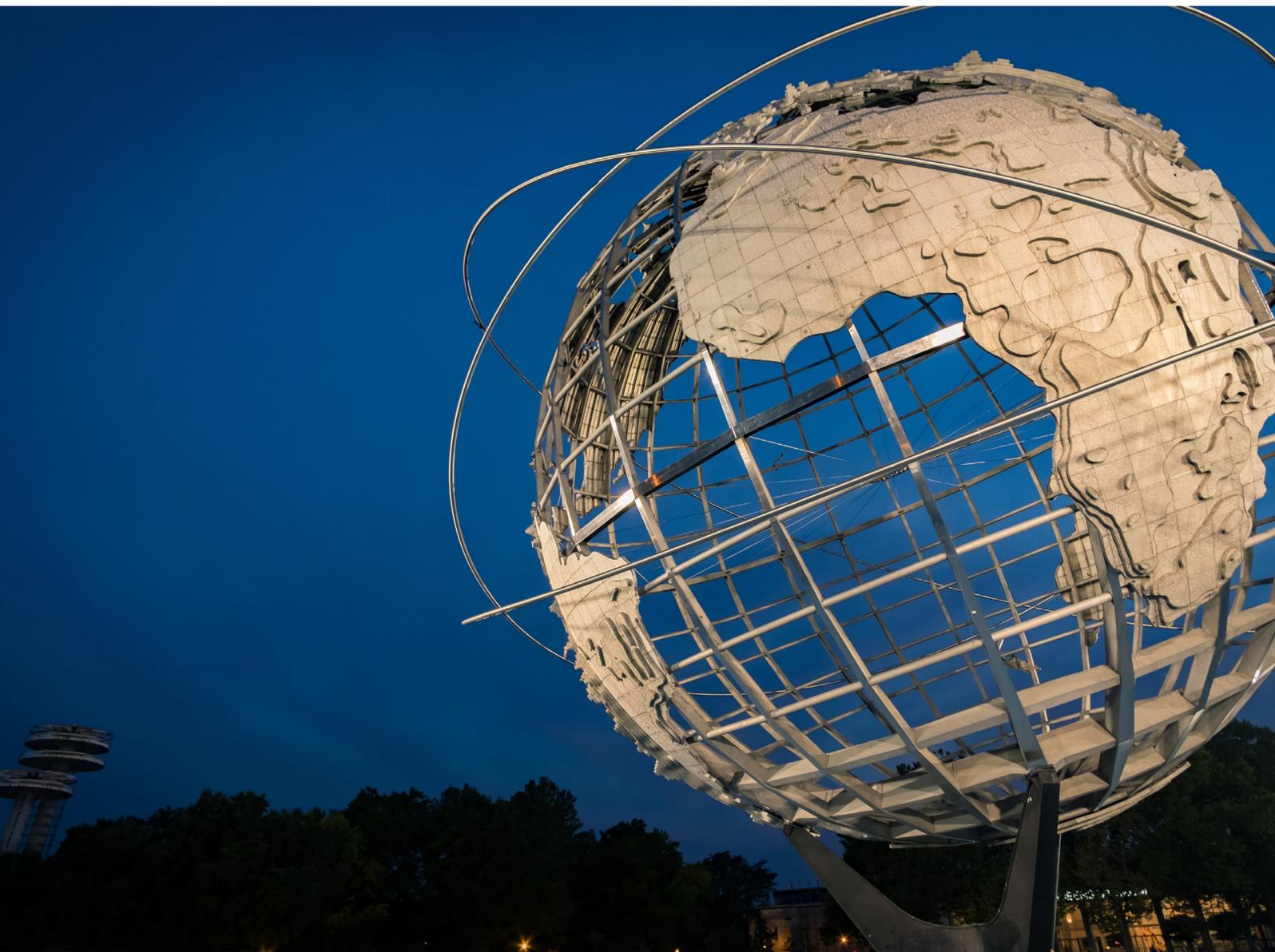
Papa Seck –Technical adviser for the president of Senegal– reiterated the Senegalese Government full support to the PREZODE initiative. He highlighted that PREZODE can make a difference by translating the One-Health approach into actions in countries.

Phượng Vũ – Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam – reminded that Vietnam decided to join PREZODE because of the necessity to join forces and mobilize collaboration around the One Health approach and to foster resource sharing within Vietnam and the Southeast Asia region.

Jean-Pierre Cayol – Departmental Programme Coordinator of the ZODIAC initiative in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – underlined that collaborations like the ones taking place around PREZODE are essential to create sustainable partnerships to support efforts to prevent future pandemics. He emphasised that IAEA and ZODIAC cooperation with PREZODE will develop promising synergies.

Marie Vandewalle – Head of the Eklipse Management Body – mentioned PREZODE and Eklipse share a common vision for a better science-based policy approach. She reminded that PREZODE supported Eklipse in the identification of knowledge needs of links between biodiversity and human health, including zoonotic diseases. EKLIPSE expects PREZODE to contribute to improve the understanding our understanding of the science of pandemics and to build better prevention and response strategies.

Manuella Miller – Livestock Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health Program Manager, Veterinarians Without Borders International – emphasised that PREZODE participatory way of working will facilitate the future programmes to work on the field with local communities. She recognised that PREZODE has already achieved a vast work to mobilize a wide range of actors among Civil Society Organisations.



Current State of the PREZODE initiative

The PREZODE initiative status was introduced by representatives of the PREZODE Interim Secretariat, Benjamin Roche (IRD), Jean-François Soussana (INRAE) and Marisa Peyre (Cirad).

The proportion of zoonoses among emerging human diseases has increased over the past 50 to 60 years, rising from 62% to 75%. The occurrence of associated epidemics has also surged over the past 30 years. The emergence and re-emergence of these diseases are profoundly linked to pressures on the environment, especially on natural habitats and biodiversity. More than ever, the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic reminded us of our need for a One Health approach including human, animal and environmental health in order to fight new pandemics and, above all, prevent them.

PREZODE (Preventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence) is an international initiative addressing all the challenges related to prevention, surveillance, early detection, and rapid response to risks of zoonotic pandemics. This initiative will constitute a scientific and operational framework to coordinate research projects, health networks and operational activities. With the objective of maximizing the impact of actions against emerging infectious disease, PREZODE aims to help capitalise on the past projects and foster synergies with and between the current ones.

PREZODE initiated a co-construction process in December 2020 before its launch in January 2021, during the One Planet Summit by the President of France with the support of the President of the European Commission and from the Director General of the FAO.

Since then, PREZODE has organised 25 participatory workshops in 9 regions as well as international scientific workshops that potentially mobilized a community of more than 1,500 actors from around 120 countries. This process helps connecting locally and globally the community involved in the prevention of infectious disease emergence and identifying the main obstacles – scientific, organisational, operational... – that need to be collectively addressed to meet the vision and the missions of the initiative.

The year 2022 will see the launch the first two operational programs, with core funding from France (30 million € for research and 30 million € for operational and development activities), the setting up of the Initiative governance, the adoption of the Initiative Strategic Agenda co-elaborated with the partners. More information on the collective mobilization of the partners will be shared during the day.

The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Partner's views and expectations Group 2

Mathew Ferrari – Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics at Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences, Penn States University – mentioned that PSU is impressed by the ambition of PREZODE and thrilled to join this long journey with the initiative. He emphasised that PREZODE, already bringing together a wide number of partners, can maximize potential impact of preventing emerging risks while sparing scarce resources.

Gerardo Susan – Principal Investigator of the Laboratory of Disease and Health Ecology at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México – introduced the project in the peninsula of Yucatan led with various countries to collaborate with academia and governmental sectors. The UNAM supports the initiative, aiming to become an active member of the community, enhancing international collaboration, coordinating research projects, sharing knowledge, and working in collaboration with decision makers, to implement public policies with local, regional and national approaches.

Sabine Hutter – Coordinator of the National Risk Analysis Programme at Servicio Nacional de Salud Animal (SENASA), representative of Costa Rica – emphasised that, at a national level, PREZODE provides a good momentum to initiate a streamlined collaborative discussion between policy-makers and researchers. The initiative could lead to a better exchange on existing research and policy projects, recommendations and implementation. She added that Costa-Rica is pleased to have joined the initiative, with the opportunity to cooperate on such an important topic through the upcoming strategic agenda.

Francine Ntoumi – coordinator of Pan-African Network For Rapid Research, Response, Relief and Preparedness for Infectious Disease Epidemics (PANDORA-ID-NET) – noticed the lack of good coordination between actions and highlighted the role that PREZODE would play to build synergies and avoid overlaps.

Wipawee Usaha – Director, Center for International Affairs, Thailand Suranaree University of Technology – mentioned that the Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand, has joined PREZODE as a way to recognize the intricate balance between biodiversity, human impacts on nature and the emergence of zoonotic disease. By synergizing with PREZODE partners, SUT looks forward to exploring international collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Thomas Mettenleiter – Vice-Chair of OHHLEP and President of the Friedrich Loeffler Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health – restated that OHHLEP has been created by the Quadripartite (FAO, WHO, OIE, UNEP) to provide advice to policy makers. He mentioned that, from the research side, PREZODE is impressive by the wide outreach already achieved. Being part of this global network is highly relevant. Thomas Mettenleiter emphasised that PREZODE, from OHHLEP outlook, is expected to assist in the coordination, collaboration, communication, and capacity building and to make an impact.

PREZODE vision and missions

Jean-François Soussana – Vice President for international Policy at INRAE – introduced the proposed vision of the PREZODE initiative, i.e. its general goals and values, for the long term by 2030, as well as the missions of the initiative, i.e. the actions to accomplish this vision.

Both the vision and the missions emerged from the discussions that took place to a great extent during the regional co-construction workshops.

Partners were consulted to express their degree of agreement with these vision and missions. They showed a strong support to this proposal.

The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

PREZODE process for elaborating the strategic agenda

Manon Lounnas – Postdoctoral researcher for the PREZODE initiative – introduced key information regarding PREZODE's Strategic Agenda, the document that will draw the research timeline and operational road map of the PREZODE initiative for the next 10 years through a co-construction approach.

The methodology encompasses,

- the identification of key scientists and stakeholders, literature review,
- the consultation process through co-construction and scientific workshops,
- the synthesis of ideas and first draft, and finally iv) the review and validation.

The proposed structure of the Strategic Agenda as well as its timeline and review process were introduced and can be found here.

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Partner's views and expectations Group 3

Sebastien Calvignac-Spencer – Helmholtz Institute for One Health – mentioned that the understanding the drivers of zoonotic disease emergence urgently needs larger and more collaborative efforts. PREZODE can help structure the community to collaborate more, to share more so we can all reach our common goals faster. For instance, PREZODE could help us to move towards efficient shared practices including well managed data sharing. PREZODE can also be a powerful collective voice to address decision makers.

Pious Makaya – Director of the Division of Veterinary Technical Services-National Veterinary Services, and Representative for Zimbabwe – emphasized that PREZODE is the ideal programme to coordinate national, regional, and international projects for surveillance, detection and early response of emerging zoonotic disease.

Hung N'Guyen Viet – Co-leader of Animal and Human Health Program, International Livestock Research Institute – underlined that is a very important global network and that can contribute to translating research evidence into practice and interventions, thus being a very good platform to complement the work of ILRI and CGIAR in this regard.

Chris Walzer – Executive Director of Health at the Wildlife Conservation Society – agreed on the value of PREZODE to bring together actors and institutions, and highlighted that PREZODE also works across sectors. WCS is expected PREZODE and all its partners to contribute finding common solution against zoonotic disease emergence.

Rens van Dobbenburgh – Vice-President of Federation of Veterinarians of Europe – mentioned that FVE missions and visions align perfectly with the PREZODE initiative. In particular, contributing to PREZODE is important to FVE, as veterinarians play a vital part in the prevention and understanding of emerging infectious zoonotic diseases, as well as in the development and implementation of innovative methods to improve their prevention and early detection.

Examples of collaborations with international organizations

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

Jean-Philippe Dop – Deputy Director General of the OIE – emphasized that a strong economy can only rely on a strong global Health, which requires itself the implementation of a strong One Health approach, that needs the commitment of all the actors, and in particular of the scientific community.

He underlined that the meetings happening this day, with the great diversity of participants, showed that PREZODE has reached an important stage in the internationalization of the initiative. On this regard, OIE expects towards PREZODE to keep engaging interactions with other initiatives at a global level.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Sylvie Briand – Director of the Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness Department (GIH) at WHO – mentioned the importance of a strong international coordination to tackle emerging infectious diseases. She highlighted the need to be better prepared for the next pandemics, but also to prevent them. Thus, it is crucial to work both on the prevention of emerging new pathogens, creating localized outbreaks, and on the amplification, where the pathogen spread to other countries.

She suggested various collaborations between WHO and PREZODE such as the preparation of a framework for risk management or the elaboration of indicators measuring and monitoring risks of emerging zoonosis and pandemic in order to reduce threats with appropriate interventions. The initiative could also help WHO implement more impactful actions.

Sylvie Briand concluded that WHO intends to work with the PREZODE network on a risk prevention framework as fast as possible to make a difference in the coming months and years.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Sophie Von Dobschuetz – Global Surveillance Coordinator at FAO – introduced the various early warning and surveillance tools that could be provided to the PREZODE initiative, such as the surveillance evaluation tool that assesses national animal health surveillance systems, or tools at global systems such as Empres-i + or Glews, set up with the WHO and the OIE. She also presented pilot tools, such as the Joint Outbreak Investigation Tool that helps standardizing zoonotic and non-zoonotic field outbreak investigation.

Katinka De Balogh – Senior Animal Health and Production Officer/One Health focal point at FAO – introduced collaborative work with PREZODE focusing on return on investment of One Health strategies. It aims at developing assessments and decision-making tools to identify cost/benefits of these strategies. The outcome of this work will be a return on investment framework for strengthening One Health systems.

Presentations from FAO,

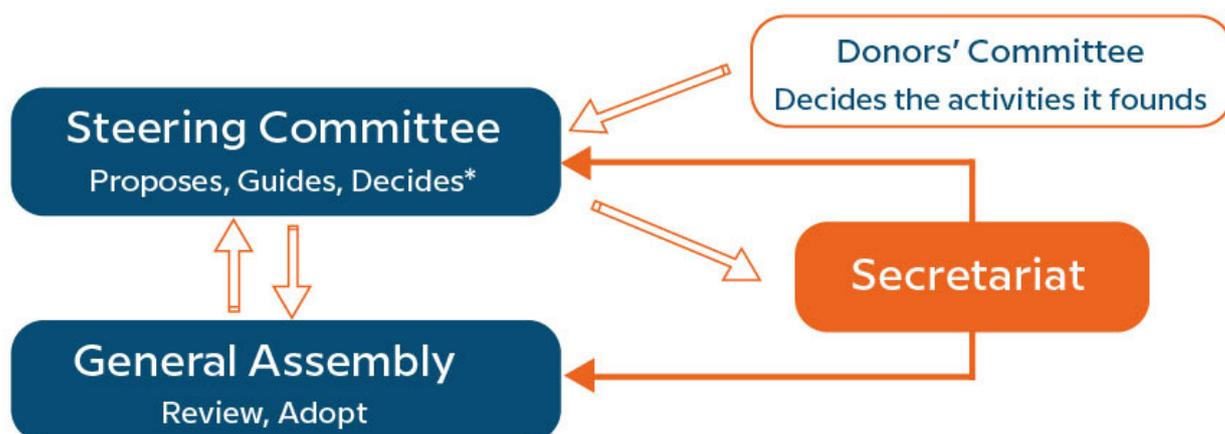
- Return on Investment of One Health is available [here](#)
- FAO Early Warning and Surveillance Tools is available [here](#)

Next steps and involvement on different topics

Governance

The [draft governance proposal](#) was shared and discussed. It is based on a simple structure with 4 bodies: a General Assembly (GA) with all the members aiming mostly to decide on the main orientations of the initiative; the Steering Committee (SC), with a set of representatives, aiming mostly to propose strategic orientations to the GA; the Donors Committee (DC), with representatives of the donors, aiming mostly to decide on activities funded by the donors; the secretariat, managing the initiative's day to day and facilitating communications between the other bodies.

Draft Governance Proposal



* on specific items

Participants largely considered that the proposal was adequate.

Further discussions on the opportunity to integrate the DC into the SC were also conducted. Participants expressed potential risks and suggested keeping them apart.

PREZODE Partners were invited to indicate their will to participate in a working group to define the Terms of Reference of the different bodies.

Secretariat: organisation and potential involvements

The PREZODE Interim Secretariat is currently composed of representatives from three French research organisations (Cirad, INRAE, IRD).

PREZODE Partners were invited to indicate their will to participate in the secretariat of the initiative and/or dedicate resources to the secretariat.

Reflect on labelling

The preliminary thoughts on a PREZODE [labelling scheme for programs or projects were also presented](#). This tool could be a way:

- to indicate a willingness to contribute to the global effort for zoonotic disease prevention;
- to show operational collaborative work to prevent zoonotic disease emergence;
- to foster synergies between activities through active cooperation, collaboration and communication.

Labelled programs or projects would keep their autonomy and could thus have access to a large network, with a knowledge platform and tools to build new collaboration and synergies, and gain visibility.

The labelling process would be built on a set of criteria based on PREZODE scientific postulates and values. It would not be an assessment of the scientific excellence. This process could go through the Steering Committee with groups of external reviewers to guarantee its independence.

Partners were invited to indicate their will to participate in the reflexions of the criteria.

Working groups involvements

The creation of working groups on the aforementioned topics as well as on science was suggested. Participants were invited to indicate their interest in joining them.

All partners are still invited to add their names in the boxes corresponding to their topic(s) of interest: <https://app.klaxoon.com/participate/board/XNQZPZ5RQP3Q>

Final words

Jean-Luc Angot thanked participants and partners for highlighting the various benefits of contributing to PREZODE. He mentioned that these information meetings were valuable and constructive, proving that PREZODE meets concrete needs, especially to build synergies. He also highlighted that support from partners is crucial to move forward with the definition of the terms of reference for the governance, with the elaboration of the strategic agenda and with the strengthening of the secretariat. The aim is to act the final governance and the strategic agenda during the first General Assembly that will take place around September 2022.





For more information, please visit

<https://prezode.org>

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