



MEMBERS MEETING REPORT

MAY 26, 2023



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1 Introduction

The PREZODE Initiative held a members' meeting on May 26, 2023, to update the members on the progress of the initiative activities, projects, and programs, and to receive and hear testimonies of new country members. The overall meeting was a great success, with more than one hundred participants. We thank the speakers for their commitment and the members for their active participation. This report summarizes the presentations and discussions with the participants held during the two sessions of the meeting (to accommodate the participants' time zones).

2 Overview and status of the Initiative: acknowledgments of PREZODE at the highest level

Jean-Luc Angot, Special Envoy of the French President for PREZODE and Chair of PREZODE's General Assembly opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and speakers and underlined the successes and influence of the initiative, with increasing mentions in high-level meetings. He pointed out that in the [communiqué](#) of their meeting in Nagasaki in mid-May, the G7 Health Ministers' welcomed the PREZODE Initiative: *"We {...} welcome complementary and relevant international initiatives which aim at preventing the emergence of zoonotic diseases, such as PREZODE (Preventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence) and ZODIAC (the ZOonotic Disease Integrated ACtion), as well as the One Health High-Level Expert Panel, its work and its definition of the One Health approach.*

The Initiative was also complemented on several occasions, such as the [One Forest Summit](#) in March (Libreville, Gabon), the [World Health Summit in Geneva](#), and [World Resilience Summit](#) on [May 24](#) and 25.

2.1 The Initiative's development

Jean-Luc Angot gave a quick overview of PREZODE' and its establishment highlighting key milestones for the Initiative's development. He recalled how the initiative move through successive stages since its launch in January 2021. [Read the presentation.](#)



2.2 Introduction of the Secretary-General, Zeev Noga

The Chair concluded its introduction by presenting the **newly appointed Secretary General** of PREZODE, Dr Zeev Noga.

Doctor in Veterinary Medicine, [Zeev Noga](#), presented himself and pointed out his past professional experiences working on veterinary policies on both European and global levels, focusing on Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Public Health, and international collaborations under the One Health concept and approach. Zeev Noga acknowledged the impressive work led by the interim secretary since the launch of PREZODE. He especially thanked the three institutes which provided a significant impulse and are supporting the implementation of the Initiative (CIRAD, IRD, INRAE). He expressed his honor to take charge of the secretariat and emphasized his dedication to his role.



3 Testimonies

The Chair continued by saying that as of May 26, the initiative brings together more than 200



members, including 22 countries: Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Gabon, France, Guinea Conakry, Congo, Haiti, Laos, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Senegal, Thailand, Vietnam, United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe. Jean-Luc Angot invited representatives of new country members – Thailand, Gabon, and the United Kingdom- to share their expectations by joining the initiative. Two overseas territories also joined the initiative.

3.1 Thailand



Director of the Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control within the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, **Dr Soawapak Hinjoy** stated that the adherence of Thailand to PREZODE was formally announced during the official visit of French President Emmanuel Macron on November 17, 2022. She recalled the recent agreement of ASEAN leaders’ [declaration](#) on the One Health initiative promoting the assessment of emergent zoonotic disease, reduction of the risks of zoonotic emergence, implementation of surveillance studies, and early detection – in the region.

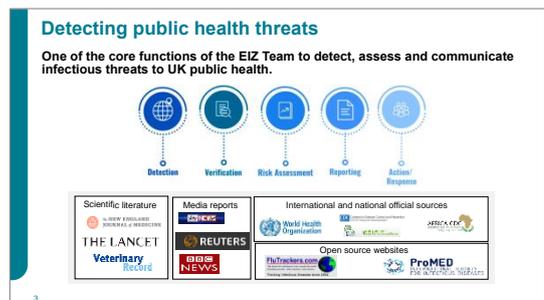
She emphasized the confidence of the Kingdom of Thailand “*that the fruitful collaboration to PREZODE will play an essential part in the One Health (OH) approach for handling public health situations, in the present and the future*”. [Watch her Speech](#).

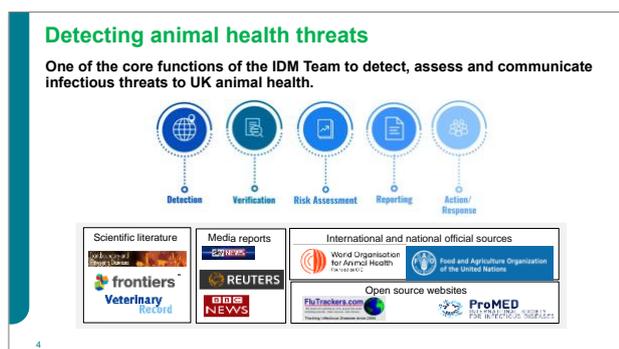
3.2 Gabon

Prof. Jean-Bernard Lekana-Douki, Director General of the Interdisciplinary Center for medical research in Franceville (CIRMF) underlined the significance of Gabon’s membership to PREZODE: “*The localization of the country in the Congo Basin provides this area of central Africa with a high biodiversity and is at high risk of emergence of zoonotic disease*».

3.3 United Kingdom

Helen Roberts, G7 Advisor Exotic Disease Control at Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), introduced the ongoing implementation of the One Health approach in the UK, underlining the willingness of the country to share its domestic experience. Public Health Agency and Animal and Plant Health Agency work very closely. The monitoring systems of health threats use similar strategies regarding human health and animal health. The specific processes implemented use the same path and tools to make One Health work, taking all evidence-based surveillance to build an assessment process.





She continued by expressing her enthusiasm to collaborate internationally with PREZODE members in the future. With the UK Presidency of the G7 during the start of COVID-19, the country supported various actions in the One Health, instruments, and OH intelligence. The UK is currently chairing the Zoonotic Disease Action Package, which provides significant exchanges with countries in the OH area. The UK is also involved in funding strengthening. [Read her presentation.](#)

4 Experiences in mobilizing national authorities.

The Chair thanked the speakers and introduced the following session of the meeting, inviting representatives of academics, ministries, and organizations to share the specific needs of their country in preventing animal disease and pandemics. He first gave the floor to the Philippines.

4.1 The Philippines



Professor Ricardo Ancog, Dean of the School of Environmental Science and Management, University of the Philippines Los Baños, introduced the link to Food security and safety. He explained the serious impact of spillovers, especially African Swine Fever, on the livestock industry in the Philippines. A second leading contributor to Philippine agriculture in terms of GDP, pork production declined 23.4% from January to October 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. Poultry production also declined. This deficit induces severe socio-economic consequences: as the price of meat raised, the population of the Philippines is less able to access proteins of animal origin, thus at risk of malnutrition in the Philippines. Professor Ancog emphasized how disease prevention matters for the country, therefore why he advised the national authorities to join the PREZODE initiative. [Read his presentation.](#)

4.2 Vietnam

Mrs Phuong, Vũ Thị, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, underlined the gratification of Vietnam to be part of PREZODE and explained that Vietnam decided to get involved at an early stage of the initiative, convinced that the values, the One Health approach, and the ambition of PREZODE were in line with their country dynamics. The Prime minister agrees to join an international initiative, with perspectives of collaborations, synergies, and cooperation to address pandemic prevention. She explained that the organization of the One Health platform in Vietnam has a similar organization to the PREZODE initiative. To conclude her speech, she encouraged all participants to engage. She mentioned how institutions members of PREZODE have helped the country to draw a proposal to the Pandemic Fund. [Watch her speech.](#)

4.3 Costa Rica

Andrea Chaves, specialist in Ecology of Diseases and One Health, Conservation Genetics Laboratory, School of Biology, **Costa Rica University**, gave a presentation on PREZODE's



implementation in the country. She reminded the audience that Costa Rica has historically promoted the conservation of natural resources and harmony with nature, involving numerous stakeholders and considering regional and cultural specificities. Researchers from the University of Costa Rica have identified possible variables influencing the potential risk of transmission of zoonotic pathogens: the interface between monkeys and humans, tourism in natural parks, and

urban development with biodiversity loss. A strategy of early warning monitoring is underway, based on identifying areas at risk, promoting the integration of landscape-level ecological factors with human behavioral factors, weighing risks to human health, and connecting practices to public health. PREZODE brings Costa Rica the One Health approach needed to implement that strategy, to build local capacities, and provides appropriate tools. [Watch her presentation.](#)

5 Projects, programs, and synergies



Dr Hung Nguyen, co-director of the Animal and Human Health Program at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the lead of the CGIAR initiative on One Health and food systems, moderated the programs and projects presentation session and started by introducing the first speaker, from Mozambique

5.1 Mozambique

Dr. Edouardo Samo Gudo, Executive Director of Instituto Nacional de Saúde, explained how Mozambique is implementing a concrete One Health approach in the country. With the support of the Africa CDC, they started a OH workshop in 2018, to define zoonotic disease prioritization, along with a Joint External Evaluation with the WHO. The country is now launching a training package for human and animal health professionals using the OH approach. The results of the workshops, as well as the learning experiences from the Kenya OH policy, led to defining and finalizing a OH agenda, providing recommendations for National Public Health Security. The structuration of a OH inter-ministerial platform in the country is underway, involving ministries of Health, Agriculture and rural development, Land and Environment, Sea, Inland Waters, fisheries, and the academic system. [Watch his presentation.](#)



5.2 PREACTS

Dr. Marisa Peyre, Director of Research, Epidemiologist/Health Economics (PREZODE/CIRAD) presented the overall goals and strategy of the PREACTS (PREZODE in action in the global South) program. Among its specific objectives, PREACTS aims to strengthen knowledge on the emergence of zoonotic diseases to prevent them by intervening at the animal-human interface and considering socio-cultural contexts, the environment, and local socio-economic uses and constraints; and to

strengthen the capacities and inclusion of local organizations, based on participatory science and the establishment of a permanent dialogue between science, society, and politics.

She continued by explaining that the deployment of the first project of the program, AfriCam, is ongoing. It supports Cambodia, Cameroon, Guinea, Madagascar, and Senegal in their national strategies and policies at the interface of human, animal, and environmental health. She also presented the second project of PREACTS, ASAMCO will officially be launched in the next few months. It will conduct activities in three regions: Mexico / Costa Rica / Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Lao / Thailand. The Agence Française de Développement is funding PREACTS activities with a global envelope of 30 M€. [Read the presentation.](#)



5.3 PEPR

Dr. Benjamin Roche, Research Director, and One Health Specialist with PREZODE / IRD, gave a short overview of the PREZODE Program for Equipment and Academic Research (PEPR). The PEPR is funded by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research (30 M €). The program is to develop academic research on the emergence of zoonotic disease emergence. As PREZODE's scope is to tackle the first factors of zoonosis emergence, the program is dedicated to studying, understanding, and



monitoring the transmission patterns of pathogens between animals and humans. The overall ambition is to draw bridges between academic research and operational activities, within PREZODE's paradigm: prevention with a local-to-global approach. [Read the presentation.](#)

5.4 The Eldorado project

Gerardo Susan, professor at the National University of **Mexico**, showcased the Eldorado project started by saying that the country is globally enduring deforestation, the Peninsula of Yucatan is the most affected area in the country, and, simultaneously, suffers from a raise of emerging infectious disease of animal origin. In line with the PREZODE initiative, the Eldorado project studies the development of multi-vector and multi-hosts, multi-pathogens aiming to understand how biodiversity loss and changes affect human health. The project, co-led by the University of Mexico and IRD, brings together an international community of researchers with an intersectoral collaboration (molecular biology, vertebrates biology, modeling, epidemiology, entomology...) in a One Health approach: *working on surveillance and early detection systems, developing capacity building programs.* [Watch the video of his presentation.](#)



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5.4 The Pandemic Fund

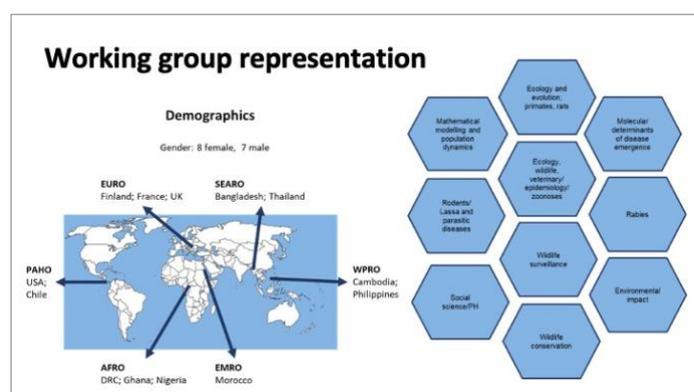
Dr. Franck Berthe, Senior Health Specialist, One Health Lead at the Pandemic Fund, World Bank, explained the purpose and objectives of [the Pandemic Fund](#), developed by the World Bank Group to provide external financing for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPR) to low- and middle-income countries. With US\$ 1.7b in pledges to date from 26 donors, the Fund is designed as a tool that complements existing financing mechanisms, it delivers additional, long-term grant funding for critical PPR functions in eligible countries to support and reinforce the capacity building and implementation of pandemic preparedness. He continued by emphasizing the list of [low and middle-income countries](#) that are eligible to apply for the fund. The Pandemic Fund request these countries to co-invest in their projects. He invited Dr. **Marisa Peyre**, Director of Research, Epidemiologist/Health economics (PREZODE/CIRAD) to explain how PREZODE can support country members (even non-country-members, if they are eligible) to apply to the Pandemic Fund by facilitating proposals through a co-design process and providing a scientific framework and impact-based approach. [Read the presentation](#).



Replying to a question from **Manuelle Miller** (AVSF), on the next date for the project call, **Franck Berthe** announced that a decision will be made by the governing board, probably by the end of the year. Different priorities will be raised. The first call (closed on Friday 19 May 2023, with a funding envelope comprised of 300 to 350 M US\$ had been a learning exercise. He concluded that the pandemic Fund wants to take stock for this pilot to improve the process and make some adjustments. To the question on the level of co-financing needed by countries, raised by **Sabine Hutter** (Costa Rica), **Franck Berthe** answered that there is no fixed ratio. Commitment is not about money, but about policies. And he ensured that the funds are grants, not loans to pay back.

5.5 The WHO – PREZODE Joint working group

Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, COVID-19 Technical Lead at the World Health Organization (WHO) introduced the WHO/PREZODE Working Group on quantitative indicators for the risk of zoonotic disease emergence. She recalled that quantifying the risk of emergence is complex due to its multidimensional and multifactorial nature. The absence of widely accepted indicators hampers the impact assessment of prevention strategies. She continued by saying that the Group gathers 20 experts of varied backgrounds, geographic and gender representation. Its methodology is based on 3 steps:



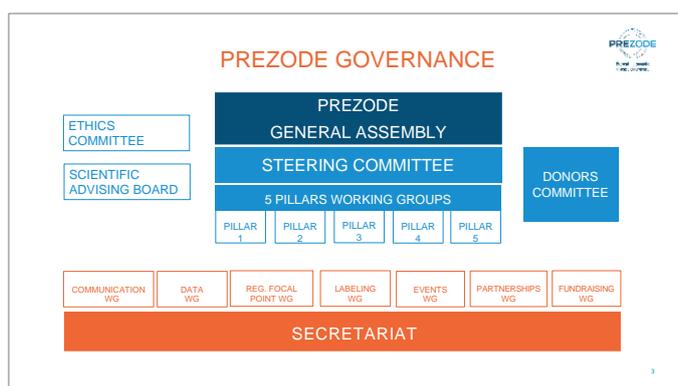
- First step: reviewing existing tools and available data.
- Second step: Developing the score.
- Third step: Testing, validating, and improving the score.

The expected results are two deliverables:

- The first draft of methodology, identification of knowledge/data gaps, and outline of critical research avenues/data needed to substantially improve the first set of indicators.
- Draft sets of preliminary indicators that can be measured quickly and used by national and international health authorities when the implementation of prevention strategies are discussed. [Watch the video of her presentation.](#)

Replying to a question from the audience “How the outcomes of this Working Group are going to be incorporated as indicators used in PREZODE strategic agenda’s implementation?” **Dr. Benjamin Roche**, Research Director, and One Health Specialist with PREZODE / IRD explained that the starting point of this working group was identified during the co-design process of PREZODE. There is a lack of quantitative measures to estimate the risk of zoonotic diseases and to quantify the effectiveness of prevention strategies. Therefore, the group will develop indicators supporting the design and evaluation of the development of prevention strategies. These indicators should become more institutional and used by PREZODE programs, WHO programs, Pandemic Funds, etc. The idea is to have by next year a set of indicators that can help to understand how the risk of emerging zoonotic diseases can be reduced based on prevention strategies. [Read the presentation](#)

6 Structuring the governance and organizing activities



Thanking everyone for their wishes in his new functions, Zeev Noga congratulated the impressive work done since the launch of the initiative. He renewed his enthusiasm for joining PREZODE as the first Secretary General, with a primary role in structuring the secretariat to make sure that all parts of the initiative’s governance work together to fulfill the vision and mission of PREZODE. He detailed the governance structure, recalling the role of

each body as stated in the [terms of reference](#), emphasizing the interface of the Steering Committee with pillar groups it will run, in line with the scientific framework of PREZODE described in the [strategic agenda](#). He continued by presenting the proposal for the structure of the Secretariat, and the election procedure for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the GA 2023.

6.1 Introduction of the Steering Committee

The final process of the implementation of the Steering Committee is ongoing. Zeev Noga recalled the main functions of the body: to elaborate the strategic orientations for the initiative before submitting them to the GA and to take decisions on several actions related to the initiative. He pointed out the composition of the steering committee as such:

Distribution of the SC seats by college

The Scientific College:
5 internationally acknowledged scientific experts, in their individual capacity, one per pillar of the initiative.



The Regions' College:
5 delegates, one per world region (elected by the PREZODE members of the same region).

The Civil Society College:
3 representatives from non-profit NGOs.

The Donors Committee College:
1 representative nominated by the Donors Committee.

The One Health International Organizations College:
1 representative per signatory organisation (with a limit of 4 representatives in total).

He reiterated that, by the terms of reference of the PREZODE initiative's governance, a call for candidates was launched on January 23 and closed on April 6. With 22 nominations received, the online election was open to members' representatives between May 11 and May 25.

Though the results were not known, and thus not announced during the meeting, we find it of great significance to include a summary in this report, as the implementation allows the Initiative to reach a key milestone in its development. With an overall turnout reaching an average close to 60 %, 17 experts were to serve on the Steering Committee, representing the scientific, the regions, and the civil society colleges: Christophe Cordevant, Nitish Debnath, Lucy Keatts, Gabriel Magezi, Manuelle Miller, Prisca Mugabe, Musso Munyeme, Aitor Nogales, Sarah Olson, Waraphon Phimpraphai, Vannaphone Phouthana, Magda Robalo, Ricardo Soares Magalhaes, Gerardo Suzán, Wim van der Poel, Casimiro Vizzini, Neil Vora.



The next steps to complete the SC establishment are the nomination of representatives of the Donors Committee and for the One Health Organizations College, the organization of the first meeting, and the selection of the Chair to the SC. [Read the presentation.](#)

6.2 Structuration of the secretariat structure

Zeev Noga introduced a [first draft](#) of a functional secretariat. The idea is to provide all necessary support to assist efficiently the bodies and coordinate the different aspects of PREZODE. Each officer in the Secretariat will be assigned to coordinate relevant tasks and working groups. A Secretariat Executive Committee, composed of representatives of organizations contributing to the Secretariat (financially and in-kind). He concluded by saying that some positions are vacant, and that needs and gaps will be assessed in the coming weeks and months. The Secretariat will then solicit the members for contributions to support the initiative's secretariat.

6.3 Working groups

Following up, Zeev Noga raised the importance of working groups (WG), that are or will be created for PREZODE to fulfill its commitments. 4 of them are set or almost set up. He gave the floor to projects leaders to present the work progress of their WGs:

6.3.1. The Labeling Working Group

Marisa Peyre detailed the ongoing methodology for the Labeling working group, which develops principles for the development of the PREZODE endorsement process for projects, programs, and initiatives. She provided a list of criteria required to apply to the PREZODE label, necessarily in line with PREZODE values and agenda. In conclusion, she underlined the benefits of the process:

- **Recognition in embracing** the principles and values, and goals - including collaboration and synergy between activities and promoting PREZODE paradigm change to prevent the next pandemic.
- **Joining a community of practice** – benefiting from its knowledge and experience.
- **Visibility** through PREZODE communication means and community, and interaction with international organizations and other high-level & political institutions.
- Ensuring that the activities are complementary and not redundant – **maximizing impact**.
[Read the presentation.](#)



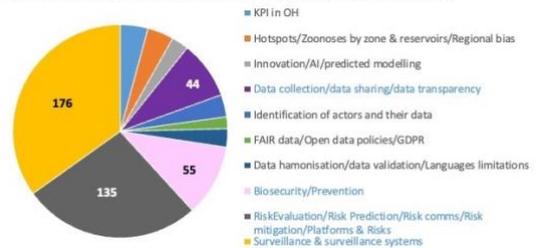
6.3.2 The Evaluation and Impact Working Group

Marisa Peyre also announced that an **Evaluation and Impact working group** in collaboration with FAO will be created shortly. It will review the PREZODE Scientific impact pathway regularly, with an evaluation process that will be co-designed. This work aims also at influencing the integration of prevention in the future pandemic agreement. [Read the presentation.](#)

6.3.3 The PREZODE International Data Working Group

Dr Paula Caceres, PREZODE's Chief Data Officer, gave a presentation on the **Data working group** she conducts. She first mentioned that the Data Working Group is related to the needs defined in the Strategic Agenda, especially in Pillar 4 -a prototype of a global information system for surveillance and early detection. During the co-construction workshop that resulted in PREZODE Strategic Agenda, 1556 gaps in data were identified, with a high rate of platform requests.

Information gaps that can be addressed through platform building (504)



Almost 200 types of platforms were proposed to fill the need for data platforms. The main request is a portal that offers interoperability with other platforms, with the possibility to have an observatory. Paula Caceres emphasized the importance for PREZODE to work internationally in a coordinated way, to avoid duplicating existing solutions. The Data WG already brings together a **multidisciplinary team**. Its first objective is to establish a strategy and a platform concept to be adopted by the next GA. [Read the presentation.](#)

6.3.4 The Communication Working Group

Catherine Dervis, Communication delegate for PREZODE, introduced the PREZODE 2022-2025 communication strategy by recalling the need for communication to meet the overall ambition of PREZODE: assert the initiative's singularity towards other zoonotic surveillance and prevention programs, the specificity of its "bottom-up" co-construction approach and its full inclusion in the realization of the One Health approach. In that regard, PREZODE communication pursues 3 main objectives:



To bring together the science community to collaborate and share knowledge, and information.

To advocate PREZODE values & missions among relevant stakeholders

To highlight the effectiveness of the multidisciplinary & international approach

Catherine Dervis explained the design of a long-term strategy based on 5 stages, with key actions and objectives per year:

- 2021: Create: the communication of the initiative was launched thanks to the support of the three organizations at the start of PREZODE, INRAE, CIRAD, and IRD
- 2022: Design, initiate and develop a long-term strategy, to support work in progress, affirm synergies, and develop communication within the PREZODE community.
- 2023: Implement and develop communications tools, to strengthen advocacy and support field deployment.
- 2024 - present the first results of the operational projects, strengthen advocacy towards public policies, and increase awareness among the public.

-
- 2025 - Confirm PREZODE as a key scientific reference, demonstrate sound results, and pursue the objectives

She concluded by presenting communications tools and inviting participants to subscribe and share digital support. An international working group to foster collaborative and effective communication will be launched in September. [Read the presentation.](#)

7 Conclusion

Zeev Noga concluded the Working Groups session by inviting the participants and experts in their organization to join the different working groups and said that a call for interest to join the PREZODE WGs will be launched in the coming months.

The Chair, Dr. Jean-Luc Angot, gave a summary of the meeting and thanked all speakers for their presentations and the participants for their active participation and reminded them that the next appointment with all PREZODE members will take place in October/November at the General Assembly virtual meeting.

