



## PREZODE General Assembly STRENGTHENING MEMBER SYNERGIES

### Press Release

Brussel, Paris, Dakar, Bangkok – 16 November 2023

**PREZODE held its second General Assembly this Thursday 16 November 2023. The event was an opportunity to present the achievements of the international initiative since its launch in January 2021, the partnerships with International Organisations, and to inform about the implementation of the governance bodies and chairs. Dr Papa Serigne Seck, from Senegal, is the new President of the General Assembly, and Dr Soawapak Hinjoy, from Thailand, the Vice-President. Under the main topic “Strengthening Member Synergies”, the meeting emphasized the values of cooperation and collaboration which are at the core of PREZODE. PREZODE will launch a call for experts to join the 5 Pillars Working Groups.**

The 2nd General Assembly of PREZODE (PREventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence) took place on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Within a year, the initiative strengthened its community, which increased from 160 members to almost 230 members– including research centers, academia, civil society, international organizations, foundations, and others – and 25 governments<sup>1</sup>, and has achieved its first objectives.

### **Operational Governing bodies**

**Dr Papa Serigne Seck** has been elected President of the General Assembly. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, he is the Technical Advisor to the President of the Republic of Senegal in charge of One Health. He succeeds to Dr Jean-Luc Angot, Special Envoy of the French President for PREZODE to the position. See Dr. Seck's biography [here](#).

A Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and in Public Health, **Dr Soawapak Hinjoy**, incumbent Director of the Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control in the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, has been elected Vice-President. See Dr. Hinjoy's biography [here](#).

Both the President and Vice-President have been elected for a 2-year term mandate.

Established in July 2023, the **PREZODE Steering Committee** has already started its work to implement the Scientific Strategic Agenda. Chaired by [Dr. Musso Munyeme](#), Doctor in Veterinary Public Health, Senior Lecturer and Researcher University of Zambia, the Steering Committee gathers renowned experts to lead scientific working groups on international and regional levels. Read more about the Committee [here](#).

The operational body of the Initiative, the **Secretariat** is now well structured. **Dr. Zeev Noga**, the appointed Secretary-General, has taken office in May. See Dr. Noga's biography [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> \*As of the 15th of November, the country members involved are Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Gabon, France, Guinea Conakry, Congo, Haiti, Laos, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Senegal, Thailand, Vietnam, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The full list of members is to be found [here](#).



## Enhancing Global cooperation

The organization is now up and running. The GA 2023 meeting provided updates on the Pandemic Fund and an example of allocation in Zambia, on the Belgian PREZODE network and on field projects conducted through the PREACTS program in Cambodia, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea-Conakry, and Madagascar, and on the development process of the program in Mexico, Costa Rica, Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lao and Thailand. It also delivered reports from the WHO-PREZODE Working group on risk monitoring and announced the establishment of an FAO-PREZODE Working group on the return on investment of prevention.

PREZODE will launch on December 1st a call for experts to join the 5 Pillars Working Groups to ensure a broad and inclusive co-construction process and to maximize the synergies between disciplines, sectors, and geographic areas. The procedure and information to apply will be found on the PREZODE website on the due date.

### 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 Secretariat General pour l'Investissement supports the PREZODE PEPR, within the acceleration strategy on emerging infectious diseases as a part of the France 2030 program.*

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