

SECURING THE HISTORIC ANIMAL WELFARE NEXUS RESOLUTION

On 2 March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted the Animal Welfare – Environment – Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution. This was the first time in history that the United Nations adopted a resolution on animal welfare.

In the Nexus Resolution, UNEA unanimously acknowledged the significance of animal welfare.

- “Animal welfare can contribute to addressing environmental challenges, promoting the One Health approach and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.”
- “The health and welfare of animals, sustainable development and the environment are connected to human health and well-being.”
- “The increasing need to address these connections through the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches” and “that there is a strong body of science supporting animal welfare”.



The Resolution requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to,

- produce a report on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), as well as with the One Health High-Level Expert Panel.
- work in partnership with FAO, WHO, and WOAH, on matters including animal welfare and its nexus with human health and the environment, through a One Health approach.
- report to UNEA at its sixth session on the findings of the report.

A major coordinated lobbying effort across the World Federation for Animals and allies brought together around 250 NGOs worldwide, supporting the seven G77 UNEA Member States* that sponsored the Resolution.

This reached a majority of the 193 states ahead of the UNEA conference and was critical to achieving the unanimous support needed for the Resolution’s success.

Sept
2019

Africa Animal Welfare Conference

The idea for the resolution was first tabled at the Africa Animal Welfare Conference, hosted by the Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), and UNEP, in 2019. Subsequently, ANAW, AU-IBAR, and WFA jointly supported the proponent UN Member States.

Feb
2022

Global Major Groups & Stakeholders

WFA was a co-facilitator of a working cluster within the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and worked very closely with NGOs across sectors to mobilise support for the resolution. All Major Groups and Stakeholders, including the Women, Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Farmers, and African Regional groups, united in submitting a [joint global statement](#), in full support of the Resolution, to UNEA and its Permanent Representatives.

Feb
2022

UNEP’s Committee of Permanent Representatives

During the preparatory meetings for UNEA, UNEP’s Committee of Permanent Representatives agreed to propose the animal welfare nexus resolution to the Assembly for approval. This came after a week of intensive discussions and engagement, during which the outcome remained uncertain, and the text was refined to secure unanimous support.

March
2022

The Nexus Resolution

The Nexus Resolution was adopted on 2nd March 2022 at UNEA-5, marking a milestone moment for the animal protection movement.

It stands as a testament to what can be made possible through dedication and collaboration.

*Ghana, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Kenya, Pakistan

Despite delays in the release of the mandated report by UNEP, the Nexus Resolution has already elevated animal welfare at the highest levels of the UN.

In 2023, UNEP published a scoping study report that proposes the approach and indicative budget for the full report. Yet, as of UNEA/7, UNEP had not produced the report as requested by UNEA in the resolution. While disappointing, this has allowed time for an **increasing body of work** on the importance of animal welfare for sustainable development and the environment, including WFA's own report, "**Unveiling the nexus**".

The significance of the Nexus Resolution cannot be minimised. It has already elevated animal welfare in the UN. Language from the resolution has been acknowledged at the UN's highest level, the UN General Assembly, including in resolutions adopted at its **78th** and **80th** sessions.

The Nexus Resolution shows what's possible when we unite. Now is the time to build on this vision and momentum. We welcome more organisations to join us in catalysing breakthroughs in international policy, so that together, we can achieve tangible and systemic change for animals.

Join us



In the photo: Representatives from World Federation for Animals, ANAW, Proyecto ALA, FOUR PAWS, Compassion in World Farming, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), and Mercy for Animals at UNEA 5.2 in Nairobi, Kenya