

The Global Policymaking Framework

The World Renderers Organization was founded in 1999 to represent the international rendering community, serving as a vehicle for exchanging points of view on rendering issues and, where appropriate, to advocate renderers' positions to governments and world organizations. Therefore, it is important to understand how the global policymaking framework functions. Beyond the individual countries that make their own regulations, there are no international laws — so far — that are applicable for every country.

Under the umbrella of the United Nations, there are partnerships and programs that exist to harmonize animal health (and animal by-product) requirements for countries to trade with each other. Why the U.N.? At the end of World War II, countries came together and established the U.N. to promote global stability and cooperation to maintain international peace and security. That was the initial goal. Over the years, the U.N. has taken on other objectives as well.

For example, in 2015, all U.N. member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is described as a “shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.” Part of this includes 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), which are “an urgent call for action by all countries — developed and developing — in a global partnership.”

If you're not aware of what the U.N. SDGs are, you should start paying attention to them. They cover everything from poverty and gender equality to responsible consumption and production, and each goal has about 10 targets. The goals and targets are joined together focusing on a more sustainable world from the U.N.'s perspective. I can tell you the vast majority of climate

actions that countries are adopting comes from this agenda.

Under the U.N., next we have the Food and Agriculture Organization, and its goals are to guarantee that everyone has access to sufficient and high-quality food, promoting healthy and productive lives for all individuals. Inside the FAO, we have two groups — the Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model and the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership.

GLEAM is the group that evaluates the emissions and environmental impacts of every livestock activity. LEAP is the technical group that develops the methodology to address the environmental emissions, so they create the tools.

Then there is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It's a U.N. body founded in 1998 to evaluate and contribute to the scientific study of climate change. It doesn't do research, but it does bring together scientists, academia and society to drive policymaking and give governments information to create their own policies. It also launches guidance on climate change. So, back to the beginning, countries have their own policies following U.N. and IPCC guidance.

WRO has worked hard over the years to gain a place at the table with all these entities (and more) to offer valuable input as technical experts with reliable information on animal health and rendering practices. Our main focus now is LEAP, as ensuring proper understanding of rendering is crucial in this field where metrics are established, and science-based policies can be developed. The Guidance on Circular Bioeconomy, to be launched in 2025, may become one of the most important steps toward achieving our goals. We are there representing the international rendering industry as policies are made and altered at the global level.

It takes time to work through the processes and procedures with each group. We believe this dedicated work, however, has resulted in renderers being better positioned to enhance their industry's global contributions to improving the environment and sustainably meeting the growing global demand for feed, food, biofuel and industrial raw materials without adversely affecting human food production.

Editor's Note: For more information, visit WRO online at worldrenderers.net. R

