

Final Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance 05 October 2022

The Global Leaders Group on AMR is co-chaired by:

Her Excellency Mia Amor Mottley
Prime Minister of Barbados

Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Participants: *Dr Ahmed Bin Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Saidi (of Oman); Prof António Correia de Campos (of Portugal); Prof Dame Sally Davies (of UK); Dr Maggie De Block (of Belgium); Dr Christopher Fearne (of Malta); Ms Sunita Narain (of India); Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki (of Japan); Ms Dechen Wangmo (of Bhutan); Dr Jeffrey Scott Weese (of Canada); Prof Lothar H. Wieler (of Germany); and Ms Jennifer Zachary (of US).*

Ex-officio: *Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (WHO).*

Apologies: *Ms Inger Andersen (UNEP); Ms Nici Bush (of US); Dr Guilherme Antônio da Costa Júnior (of Brazil); Dr QU Dongyu (FAO); Dr Monique Eloit (WOAH); Ms Grace Fu (of Singapore); and Ms Lena Hallengren (of Sweden).*

Absent: *Prof C.O. Onyebuchi Chukwu (of Nigeria); Prof Sir Jeremy Farrar (of UK); Ms Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye (of Senegal); Prof Anna Y. Popova (of Russia).*

Process of the meeting: The fifth official meeting of the [Global Leaders Group](#) (GLG) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held virtually on 05 October 2022 (16:00-17:40 Central European Time).

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados. Co-Chair H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, was unable to attend and her welcoming remarks were read by Dr Zahid Malek, Minister of Health of Bangladesh.

The agenda for the meeting included: (1) Progress since the last meeting; (2) Mainstreaming AMR in the pandemic accord; (3) GLG 2023 report on the global state of AMR; (4) Innovative financing for AMR; and (5) Building towards the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on AMR in 2024. Background papers with suggested actions for each agenda item were provided in advance of the meeting.

The following issues were discussed during the meeting:

1. **Secretariat report on progress since last meeting:** Haileyesus Getahun, Director of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) on AMR, presented progress since the last GLG meeting on 16 March 2022 based on the six priority areas of the GLG rolling action plan. He noted that the adoption of the [UN General Assembly resolution](#) in March 2022 to hold a High-level Meeting (HLM) on AMR in 2024 is a major achievement as it was a key performance indicator under the GLG action plan. Dr Getahun also noted the two high-level side events convened by the GLG on the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the 77th United Nations General Assembly, with attendance from Heads of Government and Ministers across different sectors, which raised the political profile of AMR and highlighted the GLG's leadership. Engagement by the GLG to mainstream AMR in the process of

the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the pandemic accord, with a particular emphasis on the links between AMR and the climate crisis, has been well recognized in the current working draft of the accord. The GLG's engagement with G7 (Presidency of Germany) and G20 (Presidency of Indonesia) contributed to specific commitments in the relevant manifestos aligned with GLG's key asks. A GLG pocket guide for ministers across sectors is being finalized and is expected to be launched in November during the 3rd Ministerial Conference on AMR in Oman. Dr Getahun also updated the GLG on progress on the economics of AMR and the Global Human and Veterinary Medicines Regulatory Authorities Summit and Forum. He reiterated the ongoing challenge of resource constraints in the Secretariat that limit full implementation of the GLG action plan. The GLG took note of the progress with appreciation for the work accomplished.

2. **Mainstreaming antimicrobial resistance in the Pandemic Accord:** On behalf of the GLG Task Force on a pandemic accord, Dame Sally Davies shared an update on GLG engagement with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body process to develop an international instrument for pandemic preparedness and response. The GLG noted its engagement in the public consultations and commended the progress of the negotiations to make the instrument legally binding. The GLG agreed with changes proposed by the Task Force to the first working draft of the accord and reiterated that AMR needs to be addressed in the definitions and use of terms article of the accord. It also agreed to the four priority areas of focus identified for intensified AMR input based on the current working draft of the accord: achieving equity; strengthening and sustaining health systems' resilience and capacities; One Health; and research and development. The GLG emphasized the importance of including animal health systems strengthening as a prominent part of the accord and an important means of stemming AMR. It was suggested that the GLG can engage with ambassadors of the Friends of AMR countries¹ based in Geneva to continue its advocacy on AMR in the context of the accord.
3. **GLG Report on the Global State of AMR:** Haileyesus Getahun introduced the process for developing the GLG Report on the Global State of AMR based on inputs from GLG members. The GLG agreed with the proposed process and that the report will include recommendations on the global response that can inform the outcome document of the UNGA HLM on AMR in 2024. The GLG suggested additional key areas for further discussion and consideration, namely the role of education and awareness in animal health and food systems to reduce the use of antimicrobials; incentives for research and development; the value of vaccinations both in humans and animals; access to new antibiotics and vaccines; global and regional standardization and interoperability of data for monitoring and surveillance; the role of regulatory agencies and regulation; and public awareness and knowledge, particularly drawing on lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. The GLG emphasized the role of sustainable financing in the global AMR response including for implementation of national action plans and research and development, and agreed that relevant recommendations should be included in the GLG report.
4. **Bold and innovative measures to AMR financing:** The GLG discussed different aspects of financing the AMR response. It reiterated that the development of the economic case of AMR is an urgent priority, particularly to catalyze political action and domestic financing, and noted the progress made so far by the Secretariat. The GLG also acknowledged emerging opportunities to support AMR interventions at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response. However, the GLG noted that current, unprecedented global events have led to fiscal and financial stress in countries that

¹ Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil Canada, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, UK, US, Zambia

compromises prospects for meaningful financial mobilization on AMR. This, in turn, requires bold and innovative measures to enhance financing of the global AMR response. In this context, H.E. Prime Minister Mottley shared a summary of the [Bridgetown Initiative](#) developed with key partners that outlines principles for reforming the global financial architecture and how this could help to address pressing challenges such as AMR. She emphasized that the World Bank, as an international bank for reconstruction and development, should move beyond the elimination of poverty and could develop institutional mechanisms for ensuring the availability of and access to global public goods, including effective antimicrobials. She also called for a windfall tax on the profits of companies that benefit egregiously from both the causes of and solutions to current global crises. She stated this could be at the rate of 3-5% of the profits to establish a global funding mechanism for global public goods, including the AMR response.

The GLG noted that innovative financing opportunities are crucial and underlined the importance of bridging the agendas of the climate crisis and AMR. It was noted that climate financing could be leveraged for AMR in animal health as it is linked to food production systems. More discussions are encouraged during the 6th GLG meeting in Barbados next year.

5. **Building towards the UNGA High-level Meeting on AMR in 2024:** Advocating for a United Nations General Assembly HLM on AMR for 2024 or 2026 was one of the key performance indicators for the GLG. The UNGA resolution A/RES/76/257 was adopted on 29 March 2022 and established the UNGA HLM on AMR in 2024. The resolution specifically called for the GLG to support the HLM. The GLG has agreed to work towards the HLM on AMR so that the outcome document includes bold and specific commitments.
6. **The 3rd Global High-level Ministerial Conference on AMR:** The 3rd Global High-level Ministerial Conference on AMR will be held in Muscat, Oman on 24-25 November 2022. Dr Amal Al Maani, Director of the Central Department of Infection Prevention & Control of Oman presented the proposed draft outcome document for the conference (“Muscat Ministerial Manifesto on AMR”) on behalf of the conference organizing committee. She noted the intention of the Government of Oman that the content of the Manifesto should inform bold and specific commitments at the upcoming UN HLM on AMR in 2024 following consultation and discussion among member states. The GLG noted the three AMR targets included in the manifesto: Reduce the total amount of antimicrobials used in the agri-food system by at least 30-50% from the current level by 2030; Zero use of medically important antimicrobials for human medicine in animals for non-veterinary medical use and in crop production for non-phytosanitary use in the agri-food systems; Ensure that ACCESS group antibiotics are ≥60% of overall antibiotic consumption in humans by 2030. While recognizing the challenge of target setting and implementation, the GLG noted the strategic value and importance of the Ministerial Conference and the Muscat Manifesto to inform and guide the UNGA HLM in 2024, including the need for targets and bold and specific commitments.

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