

Report of the Third Meeting of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance 10 November 2021

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: *Prof. António Correia de Campos (of Portugal); Prof C.O. Onyebuchi Chukwu (of Nigeria); Prof Dame Sally Davies (of UK); Dr Maggie De Block (of Belgium); Prof Sir Jeremy Farrar (of UK); DPM Dr Christopher Fearne (of Malta); Dr Julie Gerberding (of US); Ms Lena Hallengren (of Sweden); Ms Sunita Narain (of India); Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki (of Japan); Ms Dechen Wangmo (of Bhutan); and Dr Jeffrey Scott Weese (of Canada).*

Ex-officio: *Ms Inger Andersen (UNEP); Dr QU Dongyu (FAO); Dr Monique Eloit (OIE) and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (WHO).*

Apologies: *Dr Hamad A. Al-Batshan (of Saudi Arabia); Ms Tamara van Ark (of Netherlands); Dr Guilherme Antônio da Costa Júnior¹ (of Brazil); Mr Jean-Christophe Flatin (of US); Ms Grace Fu (of Singapore); Ms Sussan Ley (of Australia); Ms Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye (of Senegal); Prof Lothar H. Wieler² (of Germany).*

Absent: *Prof Anna Y. Popova (of Russia).*

Process of the meeting: The third official meeting of the [Global Leaders Group](#) (GLG) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held virtually on 10 November 2021 (14:00-16:30 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. Ex-officio members of the group were not present and were represented by deputies from their organizations.

The agenda of the meeting covered five areas: (1) Progress report since last meeting; (2) Further prioritization and focusing the work of the GLG; (3) GLG key asks for G7, G20 and regional political platforms; (4) GLG Call to Action on Antimicrobial Discharges to the Environment; and (5) GLG Call to Action on Financing the Response to AMR. Background papers with summary or suggested actions for each agenda item were provided in advance of the meeting.

¹ Provided written intervention to Secretariat.

² Provided recorded video intervention which was played during the meeting.

The following key issues were discussed during the meeting:

- 1. Progress report since last meeting:** Haileyesus Getahun, Director of the Tripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR, provided a summary of the Secretariat progress report since the last GLG meeting on 24 August 2021. He highlighted key outputs including the [GLG statement](#) on the Codex Code of Practice to minimize and contain foodborne antimicrobial resistance and the Codex Guidelines on integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne antimicrobial resistance; the GLG statement contributed to the [conclusion](#) of the five-year intergovernmental negotiations. The GLG information note on AMR and the climate crisis was also released to coincide with the COP26 conference and raise awareness about these intertwined crises. Discussions have been initiated with the World Bank and the Copenhagen Consensus Centre to follow up on the updated estimates of AMR financing needs and returns on AMR investments. The GLG was encouraged by these preliminary discussions on this high priority and requested its inclusion as an agenda item for the next GLG meeting.
- 2. Prioritization and focus for impact and influence:** The GLG expressed appreciation to the facilitators of the technical discussions (Dame Sally Davies, Ms Sunita Narain and Dr Scott Weese) and the Secretariat for the revised key performance indicators (KPIs), including the application of a long- and short-term approach. The GLG noted that the long-term KPIs should be ambitious and visionary while also recognizing what the GLG can actually be accountable for. For example, the long-term KPI of having at least 50% of all countries with funded and implemented national action plans is important but not fully within the control of the GLG. It was also noted that deeper GLG discussion on innovation is needed (priority 5 of the Action Plan) including how best to place animal health under this priority. The GLG agreed to endorse the KPIs with the revisions made during the meeting and move forward to implement its action plan with clear focus, deliverables and urgency to bring impact and influence on the global response against AMR.
- 3. Key specific asks for G7, G20 and regional political platforms:** Christopher Fearn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health of Malta, introduced the agenda item summarizing the outcome of the GLG technical discussion that he facilitated. The GLG underlined the importance of making specific and targeted asks through proactive outreach to each of the upcoming presidencies of the G7 (Germany and Japan) and the G20 (Indonesia and India) and to support presidencies with advice and recommendations. The GLG agreed to engage with the following regional and other political platforms (African Union, ASEAN, CARICOM, SARRC and G77) with specific asks to enhance and sustain political action against AMR. It was also agreed that the GLG's actions should build on and be informed by existing and ongoing commitments.

3.1. Key and specific asks for G7 and G20: The GLG discussed and generally agreed on the following key asks to G7 and G20 countries: (i) Commit to fully fund their own national action plans on AMR; (ii) Contribute to fund multi-sectoral national action plans of resource-limited countries through support to existing financial structures; (iii) Financially support the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for AMR; (iv) Support financial incentives and mechanisms for the development of new antimicrobials (particularly antibiotics), vaccines, diagnostics, waste

management tools, and safe and effective alternatives to antimicrobials, with a defined timeline; and (v) Follow through on their existing AMR commitments and monitor their progress annually.

The GLG noted that the newly created Joint Finance and Health Taskforce of the G20 to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response offers a unique opportunity to engage with the G20 on these specific asks. Based on his prior engagement with the Task Force and willingness to help, the GLG nominated Sir Jeremy Farrar, Director of Wellcome Trust, to help take this engagement forward.

3.2. Key and specific asks for regional political platforms: The GLG discussed and generally agreed on the following key asks to the regional political platforms: (i) Ensure sustainable domestic financing for the implementation of their national action plans on AMR; (ii) Maintain or strengthen national regulations for responsible and sustainable access to and use of antimicrobials across sectors (iii) Build national integrated surveillance platforms to measure the pattern of antimicrobial consumption, use and resistance in human and animal health systems and in food production; (iv) Make tackling AMR an integral part of national plans and programmes addressing pandemic preparedness and response, along with other programmes on Universal Health Coverage, the environment, infection prevention control, animal welfare, and promotion of sustainable food systems; and (v) Harmonize regional regulatory standards and frameworks to facilitate access to new antimicrobials (particularly antibiotics), vaccines, diagnostics, waste management tools, and safe and effective alternatives to antimicrobials.

4. **Draft GLG Call to Action on Antimicrobial Discharges to the Environment:** GLG member Sunita Narain, who facilitated the technical discussion about antimicrobial discharge from manufacturing, introduced the agenda item on behalf of facilitators of antimicrobial discharge in food systems (Dr Scott Weese) and human health systems (Dr Onyebuchi Chukwu). She noted that the process of the Call to Action breaks new ground by elevating a neglected issue and emphasizing prevention, as well as gaps in regulation, surveillance, oversight and innovation, and can provide the basis for future work. It was noted that standards and benchmarks on good manufacturing practices are needed from international technical organizations to further help move this agenda forward. The GLG will advocate for the specific asks in the Call to Action once it is finalized and released based on final feedback from the GLG.
5. **GLG Call to Action on Financing the Response to AMR:** GLG member Yasuhisa Shiozaki, who facilitated the technical discussion on financing, gave an overview of the statement, noting that it contributes momentum on the need for financing in key areas such as national action plans, innovation, the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and infection prevention and control, as well as the need for closer engagement of ministries of finance. GLG members noted that investment in access to quality and affordable antimicrobials for animal health and welfare is also important and that the private sector and the banking industry could be more closely engaged. The GLG will advocate for the

specific asks in the Call to Action once it is finalized and released based on final feedback from the GLG.

6. **Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) Project data:** Dr Chris Murray from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington presented confidential data on a global bacterial AMR burden estimate and discussed with GLG members its implications for the GLG's work on advocacy and return on investments.
7. **Membership changes:** It was agreed to create a GLG vice-Chair position to assist the co-Chairs in their duties, including chairing meetings in their absence. H.E. Minister Lena Hallengren of Sweden accepted the nomination by the co-Chairs as the first vice-Chair of the GLG. It was also agreed to invite Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Saidi, Minister of Health of Oman, to join as a GLG member. / END