

# The Global Leaders Group on AMR at COP28

GLOBAL LEADERS GROUP  
ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2-3 December 2023

The Global Leaders Group (GLG) on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) hosted two side events at the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference (COP28) to galvanize political action for AMR in advance of the High-Level Meeting (HLM) at the UN General Assembly in 2024.

Both events encouraged high-level attention to AMR and the need to transform agrifood systems to optimize animal, plant and environmental health, ensure responsible and sustainable use of antimicrobials and promote innovation for evidence-based and sustainable alternatives to antimicrobials.

## **Political action for AMR and environment on the road to the UNGA HLM on AMR in 2024**

On 2 December, 2023, the GLG hosted a side event entitled 'Political action for AMR and environment on the road to the UNGA High-Level Meeting on AMR in 2024'. In her welcome remarks, Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), emphasized the critical need for action to preserve the ability to treat disease in humans, animals and plants, reduce the risk of food safety security and protect the environment to achieve UN sustainable development goals.

Dr QU Dongyu, Director General of FAO, noted the need for collaborative action across sectors to address AMR and commended having such dialogue at international fora. He also stated that support, passion and action are critical and that FAO stands ready to work with everyone to combat AMR.

Hon Chris Fearne, Deputy Prime Minister of Malta and Vice Chair of the GLG stated that drug resistance is on the rise, making infections difficult or impossible to treat. He noted the High-Level Meeting on AMR at UN General Assembly in 2024 is a unique opportunity for decisive action on AMR. He noted the importance of agreeing to global targets for AMR across sectors, commitments to financing for national action plan implementation, and solutions to the antibiotic pipeline and access crisis.



Hon Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar, Minister of State for Environment in Uganda and GLG member emphasized the need for collaboration across sectors. She encouraged effective communication for increased understanding of AMR among policymakers and stated that addressing AMR is about saving lives of humans, animals and plants.

Hon Mohammed Mousa Alameeri, Assistant Undersecretary for the Food Diversity Sector, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in United Arab Emirates and GLG member noted that policies must be put in place to manage discharge from farms and fields to reduce antimicrobial pollution from entering ecosystems. He stated that to contribute to the global response to AMR, government ministries must work together to develop legislation to transform health and agrifood systems.

Ms Sunita Narain, Director-General, Centre for Science and Environment in India and GLG member shared that now is the time to seize opportunities to build sustainable, resilient agriculture systems to address AMR. She noted that the GLG plays an important role in linking AMR to the environment, food systems, climate change and these areas affect biodiversity and livelihoods.

### **AMR and environment: Linking AMR to the triple planetary crisis and Launch of the GLG pocket guide on integrated surveillance**

On 3 December, 2023, the GLG hosted a side event entitled ‘AMR and the Environment: Linking AMR to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste and Launch of the GLG pocket guide on integrated surveillance’ at the UN Environment Programme Pavilion. Dr Haileyesus Getahun, Director of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) on AMR and the Global Coordination Department of WHO moderated a discussion with GLG members Hon Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar and Ms Sunita Narain.



Ms Sunita Narain emphasized the need to address the issue of pharmaceutical waste and control pollution with cost-effective solutions. She also noted that prevention is key in addressing the global crisis of AMR including alternatives to antimicrobials. Country guidance on how to integrate environmental dimensions into National Action Plans with a focus on prevention would also be a useful tool for communities to address AMR.

Ms Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar shared her experience advocating for AMR across ministries in Uganda including an event during World AMR Awareness Week with the Minister of Health, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Environment. She noted that Uganda developed policies that brought government agencies together to address the climate crisis, and that addressing the challenge of AMR requires the same approach. She noted the need to incorporate traditional solutions to AMR and the importance of benchmarking for effective policymaking.

The GLG launched the ‘Integrated surveillance of AMR and antimicrobial use pocket guide’ at COP28. This advocacy tool was developed to increase awareness and commitments among policymakers about integrated surveillance of AMR and AMU to drive decisions and actions in the AMR response.