

Final report of the inaugural online meeting of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. January 26-27, 2021.

Chair: H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados

Participants: *Dr Hamad A. Al-Batshan (Saudi Arabia); Ms Tamara van Ark (Netherlands); Prof. António Correia de Campos (Portugal); Prof C. O. Onyebuchi Chukwu (Nigeria); Dr Guilherme Antônio da Costa Júnior (Brazil); Prof Dame Sally Davies, (UK); Dr Maggie De Block (Belgium); Prof Sir Jeremy James Farrar (UK); Dr Christopher Fearne (Malta); Mr Jean-Christophe Flatin (US); Mr Kenneth C. Frazier, via pre-recorded video message (US), Ms Grace Fu (Singapore); Ms Lena Hallengren (Sweden); Ms Sussan Ley, via pre-recorded video message (Australia); Ms Sunita Narain (India); Ms Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye (Senegal); Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki (Japan); Ms Dechen Wangmo (Bhutan); Dr Jeffrey Scott Weese (Canada); and Prof Lothar H. Wieler (Germany).*

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

Absent: *Dr Hasan Mohammed Abbas Al-Temimi (Iraq), Prof Anna Y. Popova (Russia)*

Process of the Meeting: The inaugural online meeting of the One Health [Global Leaders Group](#) (GLG) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held on January 26 and 27, 2021 (14:00-16:00 Central European Time) with the objectives of introducing the GLG members; sharing ideas, perspectives and vision for its work; and discussing indicative, prioritized actions proposed by the GLG members.

The meeting was chaired on both days by H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, the Prime Minister of Barbados and co-chair of the GLG. H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and co-chair of the GLG, provided opening remarks in a pre-recorded video message. The Directors-General of FAO, OIE, WHO and the Executive Director of UNEP spoke at the opening and closing of the meeting. The GLG members appreciated the commitment of the Tripartite organizations and the engagement of UNEP in the Tripartite response to antimicrobial resistance and emphasized the need to strengthen UNEP's role so that environmental drivers of antimicrobial resistance are adequately addressed.

In advance of the meeting, the Tripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR shared a draft template to collect inputs from GLG members on indicative actions and key performance indicators for an action plan to achieve the objectives of the GLG. The Secretariat prepared a summary of the proposed key actions to assist deliberations during the meeting.

On the first day, each participating member was given an opportunity to share ideas, perspectives and vision for the work of the GLG. The summary actions of the draft action and next steps were discussed on the second day of the meeting. GLG members reiterated their commitment to the Group's mission and reflected on short- and medium-term priorities that need to be included in the action plan.

It was emphasized that the GLG members should set an example in their specific countries and regions by highlighting the importance of antimicrobial resistance in the sectors that they represent and help

catalyze a truly multisectoral One Health approach framed in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-Covid 19 pandemic recovery.

The following key issues were discussed during the meeting:

A. Vision of the GLG

1. **Be a catalyst for action and change with accountability, sense of urgency and focus:** The GLG agreed that all its actions should add value to the global response against antimicrobial resistance and should be guided by evidence and accountability with clearly defined and deliverable key performance indicators. Its focused actions will take a One Health approach and can be informed by the [IACG](#) recommendations. It should support the Sustainable Development Goals to deliver concrete, outcome-oriented and practical changes in countries and sectors.
2. **The greatest impact of its actions should be in all countries, particularly low- and middle-income:** The implementation of ambitious, funded, evidence-based and multisectoral National Action Plans with accountability frameworks for monitoring and reporting on progress and gaps, as well as country ownership, is the bedrock for a successful response to antimicrobial resistance. The GLG will prioritize its actions to ensure this.
3. **The perfect should not be an enemy of the good:** It was recognized that antimicrobial resistance presents complex challenges across the areas of economic development, food systems and climate change, and there is a need for greater cross-sectoral consensus and motivation or incentive for change. The GLG will focus on mutually reinforcing efforts that lead to practical, multidisciplinary solutions.
4. **Popularize antimicrobial resistance as a social concern:** It was recognized that there is a need to intensify political and popular support for efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance across society, including youth. The GLG will use high-level political and multilateral forums, specific and tailored asks, data and success stories to draw the attention and action of political leaders, the private sector, civil society, celebrities, youth and the general public to the challenges of antimicrobial resistance in a consistent and organized manner.

B. Draft action plan for the GLG

5. **IACG recommendations should provide the overall frame for the action plan:** It was agreed not to re-invent the wheel in terms of what needs to be done and to build on existing analyses and recommendations. The five categories of the IACG recommendations (accelerating progress in countries; research and development and innovations to secure the future; enhancing civil society and private sector engagement; investments and sustainable financing; and strengthening global governance with accountability) should provide the overall structure for the action plan. There was a call to expedite the establishment of the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR.

6. **The action plan should enable the GLG to provide collective and accountable leadership:**
The actions should include strengthening accountability, governance, cooperation, coordination of global and national efforts with partnership and engagement from governments, the private sector and civil society, for which GLG members can take action individually in their respective sectors and collectively as a Group. The GLG will also be accountable for its actions.
7. **The action plan should also focus on the root causes of antimicrobial resistance:** It was noted that antimicrobial resistance is an outcome of factors that cut across the human, animal, plant and environment sectors. Sustainable solutions to antimicrobial resistance require addressing its root causes, including antimicrobial use and misuse in all sectors.
8. **The action plan should be ambitious and evidence-based focusing on deliverable actions:**
The action plan should include development of an ambitious, long-term vision to guide the work of the GLG and a framework for delivering the vision, including key performance indicators, outputs and outcomes. However, those actions that can bring change in a shorter timeframe (“low-hanging fruits”) should be prioritized and pursued in a determined manner. Immediate priorities should include generation of data (e.g. AMR burden estimates) to guide global and national policy actions, a platform for sharing and exchanging data, promoting comparability and standardization of data, and using multilateral forums that are taking place in 2021 (e.g. G7 and G20, the UN Food Systems Summit, UNCTAD, COP26, and UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue on AMR).
9. **The action plan should build on opportunities emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic:**
While the COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating impact, it also gives rise to critical opportunities to strengthen global health broadly and the response to antimicrobial resistance specifically, including the need for infection prevention measures and greater understanding of the wide-ranging impact of a global public health emergency.
10. **The action plan should prioritize how to ensure dedicated and sustainable financing:** The availability of sustainable domestic financing is important for impact and results in all countries. External financing is particularly needed for low- and middle-income countries. Sustainable investment is required for research, development and access to new antimicrobials, as well as for applied areas such as infection prevention and control. It is critical that short-term mechanisms such as the AMR Multi-partner Trust Fund of the Tripartite are supported. Long-term financing and development institutions should systematically assess risks and impacts related to antimicrobial resistance in their investment and decision-making (‘AMR lens’).

C. Next steps

11. **Establishment of a Working Group:** A proposal to establish a 'Shadow Working Group' (which would be tasked with working between GLG meetings) was presented and debated with the premise that the GLG will be meeting only twice a year. Although the majority of the GLG members agreed on the need to have such a Working Group to sustain the GLG's work between meetings, it was emphasized that terms of reference should be developed, that it should not be a parallel or duplicative structure to the GLG, but can complete specific tasks to enable the GLG's work and it should be coordinated by the GLG Secretariat. Volunteers to join the Working Group were identified during the meeting by the raise of hand and chat mechanisms and also by follow-up email to the Secretariat. Eight GLG members expressed their interest to serve in the Working Group, while four GLG members proposed their representatives. This high-level interest among GLG members triggered a discussion on the frequency of GLG meetings (item 12). It was agreed that the Chair and the Secretariat will develop draft terms of reference for the Working Group to define the remit, ways of working and proposed membership, along with suggested next steps, for GLG members' consideration
12. **Frequency of GLG meetings:** The GLG members discussed how to maximize their inputs and contributions to the global response to antimicrobial resistance with the utmost sense of urgency. They agreed to the proposal of Co-Chair H.E. Mottley that the GLG should meet every quarter rather than at the six-monthly intervals provided in its terms of reference. / END