

Final Report of the Second Meeting of the Global Leaders Group
on Antimicrobial Resistance
24 August, 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: *Dr Hamad A. Al-Batshan (of Saudi Arabia); Prof. António Correia de Campos (of Portugal); Dr Guilherme Antônio da Costa Júnior (of Brazil); Prof Dame Sally Davies (of UK); Dr Maggie De Block (of Belgium); Prof Sir Jeremy Farrar (of UK); DPM Dr Christopher Fearne (of Malta); Mr Jean-Christophe Flatin (of US); Ms Grace Fu (of Singapore); Dr Julie Gerberding (of US); Ms Lena Hallengren (of Sweden); Ms Sunita Narain (of India); Prof Anna Y. Popova (of Russia); 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: *Ms Tamara van Ark¹ (of Netherlands); Ms Sussan Ley² (of Australia); Ms Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye (of Senegal); Prof Lothar H. Wieler (of Germany).*

Absent: *Dr Hasan Mohammed Abbas Al-Temimi (of Iraq); Prof C. O. Onyebuchi Chukwu (of Nigeria).*

Process of the meeting: The second official meeting of the [Global Leaders Group](#) (GLG) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held virtually on 24 August, 2021 (14:00-17:00 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, greeted GLG members by video message, noting the encouraging progress made by the GLG to date and the importance of sustaining its efforts.

The agenda of the meeting covered four areas: (1) Tripartite Joint Secretariat progress report; (2) Financing for antimicrobial resistance; (3) Follow-up to urgent action plan deliverables and member engagement; (4) GLG call to action on antimicrobial use in food systems. Background papers with summary or suggested actions for each agenda item were provided in advance of the meeting.

The following key issues were discussed during the meeting:

- A. **Tripartite Joint Secretariat progress report:** Haileyesus Getahun, Director of the Tripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR, provided a summary of the Secretariat progress report, highlighting the work

¹ Provided written notes for intervention in advance of the meeting.

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

of technical working groups as well as progress made against key deliverables as defined in the GLG Action Plan. GLG members welcomed the report and commended the work of the Secretariat and UNEP.

- B. **Financing for antimicrobial resistance response:** The devastating consequences of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on economies and investment priorities was recognized as a key challenge in ensuring increased and sustainable financing for the global antimicrobial resistance response. However, it was also noted that the antimicrobial resistance response is highly relevant to pandemic preparedness and response and its multisectoral nature could contribute efficiency and effectiveness. This calls for a holistic approach that could facilitate the better positioning of antimicrobial resistance in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and response.
1. **Positioning antimicrobial resistance as a top priority on the global and national political agenda is critical to mobilize increased financing for antimicrobial resistance response:** The GLG noted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in slowing the overall progress of the global antimicrobial resistance response including financing. It was reiterated that as long as the response to antimicrobial resistance remains under-funded, the costs of mitigating its impact will continue to increase. The Principals of the Tripartite organizations and UNEP welcomed the inclusion of financing as a high priority in the GLG Action Plan and emphasized the need for increased and sustainable financing to ensure a robust One Health response at global, regional and national levels. Understanding and ownership by national authorities, especially Finance and Economic Ministries, and sustainable financing are critical for a robust response to antimicrobial resistance.
 2. **A new estimate of the overall annual cost of the response and analysis of return of investment are essential to build the case for antimicrobial resistance financing:** Advocacy with resource partners and finance ministers for increased investment in antimicrobial resistance is challenging without accurate and up-to-date estimates of costs and return on investment. The GLG acknowledges that the lack of good quality data makes such robust estimates difficult. But this situation cannot be allowed to persist. Improved models and data collection systems need to be developed to galvanize global and national investment in the response to antimicrobial resistance. Immediate and annual impacts of antimicrobial resistance on the economy should be assessed and used to advocate for urgency of action on and investment in antimicrobial resistance. The GLG agreed to request the World Bank to: (a) update its 2017 annual cost estimate for antimicrobial resistance; and (b) provide estimates of the current annual loss to the global economy due to antimicrobial resistance. The GLG emphasized that making the investment case through defining the return on investment in antimicrobial resistance activities is a topmost priority. It agreed to engage with groups to develop analyses that include return on investment for antimicrobial resistance interventions and mainstreaming of antimicrobial resistance into development narratives.

3. **Leveraging of existing multilateral and development bank financing mechanisms should be prioritized:** GLG members agreed that existing financing mechanisms should be the primary focus of advocacy for increased and sustainable funding for the antimicrobial resistance response, including the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The GLG will work with the World Bank to support the implementation of its operational framework on the “AMR lens” as well as with IMF to advocate for the inclusion of pandemic preparedness (including antimicrobial resistance) in its Article IV discussions. The GLG will also identify multilateral financing mechanisms with the most potential for impact across sectors for its advocacy and engagement. The GLG noted that the different capacities and needs of countries need to be taken into account while leveraging resources for antimicrobial resistance.

 4. **Innovative funding approaches and novel opportunities are needed across sectors:** Positioning antimicrobial resistance to take advantage of novel opportunities across sectors was mentioned as one way to promote financing for antimicrobial resistance. Another way is to develop a narrative on the economic case for antimicrobial resistance, including returns on investment, which can be used to help justify resource allocations. Members agreed to commission a GLG position paper to advocate for the inclusion of antimicrobial resistance response in any new and upcoming financing mechanisms including for pandemic preparedness and response and broader infectious disease responses. Exploring opportunities to expand the base for antimicrobial resistance financing through engagement of new actors (e.g. health insurance companies to invest on research and development for new antibiotics) was also mentioned as an opportunity to enhance overall antimicrobial resistance financing.

 5. **Finance Ministries are critical for enhancing antimicrobial resistance response financing:** Finance ministries and line ministries responsible for resource allocation need to recognize and support the urgency of responding to antimicrobial resistance and adequately fund antimicrobial resistance-related activities. The engagement of Finance Ministers continues to be critical, building on ongoing discussions at the G7 and G20. Feasible and practical areas to enhance and leverage domestic financing need to be identified for focused advocacy efforts (e.g. framing antimicrobial resistance within the broader human and animal infectious diseases agenda). The GLG agreed to proactively continue engagement with Ministers of Finance including through the Development Committee, a ministerial-level forum of the World Bank Group and the IMF for intergovernmental consensus-building on development issues. It also agreed to develop a position statement on how to enhance domestic financing for the antimicrobial resistance response across all sectors.
- C. GLG rolling action plan monitoring and member engagement:** The GLG reviewed progress in the implementation of the Action Plan and its deliverables for 2021 as well as engagement of GLG members to promote antimicrobial resistance in political fora in their respective sectors.

6. **Effective implementation and monitoring of the GLG Action Plan requires refining and further prioritizing the key performance indicators (KPIs):** GLG members agreed that the KPIs in the GLG Action Plan require further refining and prioritization to ensure that the GLG focuses clearly on areas within its mandate and acts quickly on major opportunities for impact. A technical group will be convened to refine the KPIs and prioritize them in a practical way, based on risk assessment.
 7. **GLG engagement for influence should be focused and action-oriented:** GLG members discussed their recent engagements and critical upcoming political opportunities for influence. A preliminary analysis by the Secretariat on the commitments and declarations of the G7 and G20 shows that antimicrobial resistance was relatively well and recurrently covered in the declarations, predominantly in the area of health. The GLG's political advocacy focus should be built on these commitments and call for bolder and more concrete actions. The World Bank annual meetings and World Health Assembly special session on a potential pandemic treaty were highlighted as high priorities. Opportunities to highlight antimicrobial resistance at the United Nations Food Systems Summit, COP26, the Nutrition for Growth Summit and the upcoming UN Environment Assembly were also noted.
- D. GLG call to action on antimicrobial use in food systems:** Scott Weese, who led the technical working group that developed the call to action, gave an overview of the process that led to a consensus statement to promote the responsible and sustainable use of antimicrobials in food systems. It was reiterated that access to quality and affordable antimicrobials for animal health and welfare are also very important.
8. **Implementation of the call to action should be priority:** The call to action was endorsed by the GLG with emphasis on the need to expedite its implementation. The principals of OIE and FAO voiced their support for the call to action as it facilitates their efforts. They reiterated that the call to action builds on the positive trend of reduced use of antimicrobials for growth promotion and that research and innovation for alternatives to antimicrobials should be priorities. The need to ensure consistency of guidance and messaging among the Tripartite organizations in this area was noted in the discussion.
- E. Other business**
9. **Approval of the GLG Communications Strategy:** GLG members expressed appreciation for the strategy developed by the GLG Communications Team and formally endorsed it.
 10. **Next GLG meeting potentially in-person in Barbados:** H.E. Prime Minister Mottley invited GLG members to participate in the next meeting in November in-person in Barbados if the pandemic situation allows. GLG members expressed appreciation for the invitation. / END