

Urgent call from the Global Leaders Group on AMR to Member States of the United Nations

We need an outcome-oriented political declaration at the UNGA High-level Meeting on AMR

June 2024

The impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is already staggering, and the world has been far too slow to act; as a result, AMR is already associated with up to 4.95 million deaths every year.

It is crucial that the outcome document of the 2024 High-level Meeting on AMR reflects urgency and maintains the outcome-oriented commitments that save lives, ensure food security and protect the environment.

We thank the co-facilitators for their leadership in the negotiations so far, building on key consultations with Member States, civil society and the private sector, and crucially championing the needs of low-income countries and those living in conflict-affected areas, who are disproportionately impacted by AMR.

As negotiations of the political declaration continue, it is up to all of us to elevate the level of ambition to chart a more determined course of response to AMR. Member States should ensure that the political declaration of the UNGA HLM on AMR protects the following priority elements:

- A One Health approach at local, national and global levels, with strong commitments on animal, human, plant and environment systems.
 - At global level, these would build on the work of the Quadripartite organizations (FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOAH).
 - At local and national levels, action would incrementally strengthen systems and sharing data through the global surveillance systems (GLASS, ANIMUSE, InFARM), and promote surveillance on AMR in the environment with guidelines and indicators to support it.
- Equitable access to antimicrobials, especially antibiotics, for all, particularly among vulnerable populations, in low- and middle-income countries, and in countries with the highest burden of AMR.
- Prevention as the cornerstone of the response to AMR.
 - Building resilience of countries and communities through better water, sanitation and hygiene; biosecurity, infection prevention and control; pollution prevention and waste management, and increased access to vaccination in animals and humans.
 - Strengthening animal health systems to use antimicrobials sustainably and responsibly - particularly by phasing out the use of medically important antimicrobials for growth promotion, based on an ambitious, incremental, and country-specific approach consistent with the existing Codex Alimentarius standards on AMR.

- Establishment of an Independent Scientific Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR by 2025 to monitor trends and inform future global targets on AMR. The panel should be based on a One Health approach and ensure strong representation across all sectors and from low- and middle-income countries.
- Development of global targets and goals to inspire action, along with voluntary, evidence-based national targets to galvanize the implementation of national action plans on AMR.
- Effective multisectoral governance for global coordination and action by:
 - Strengthening the standing Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR for coordination;
 - Developing a mechanism for voluntary sharing of best practice among Member States and peer-to-peer benchmarking and reporting against voluntary national targets and the implementation of national AMR action plans; and
 - Updating the 2015 Global Action Plan on AMR including to address environmental dimensions of AMR.
- Adequate, sustainable and predictable financing must be available and accessible– through urging existing financing instruments to expand their scope to include AMR interventions and clearly mark and track what finance is available.

If we maintain the above elements at a minimum, our generation will stand a chance of mitigating AMR and protecting key foundation stones for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including the health of humans, animals, global food security, and the environment.

The Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (GLG) is chaired by Her Excellency Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados. It was established by the Quadripartite organizations at the request of the UN Secretary-General. Comprised of world leaders and experts from across sectors, the GLG's mission is to collaborate globally with governments, agencies, civil society and the private sector to advise on and advocate for political action for the mitigation of drug-resistant infections through responsible and sustainable access to and use of antimicrobials.

The GLG report detailing its recommendations for consideration by UN Member States in the outcome document of the HLM on AMR can be found here: <https://www.amrleaders.org/resources/m/item/glg-report>

For GLG members, visit www.amrleaders.org
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