

## Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

April 29, 2025

**Chair of the GLG: Her Excellency Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados**

**GLG member participants:** *Hon Jakob Forssmed (of Sweden, Vice Chair); Prof. Chukwu Onyebuchi (of Nigeria); Dr Ahmed Bin Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Saidi (of Oman); Dr Guilherme Antônio da Costa Júnior (of Brazil); Prof Dame Sally Davies (of The United Kingdom); Dr Ernst Kuipers (of The Netherlands); Ms Sunita Narain (of India); Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki (of Japan); Prof Lothar H. Wieler (of Germany); Ms Jennifer Zachary (of USA); Dr Jamie Jonker (of USA); Ms Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar (of Uganda).*

**GLG ex-officio members:** *Dr QU Dongyu (FAO); Ms Inger Andersen (UNEP); Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (WHO); Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran (WOAH, pre-recorded remarks).*

**Process of the meeting:** The 11th official meeting of the Global Leaders Group (GLG) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held virtually by Zoom on April 29, 2025, from 15:00 – 16:30 CEST. The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chair, Hon Mr Jakob Forssmed. The official agenda for the meeting comprised: (1) General update from the Secretariat; (2) Update of the GLG priorities; and (3) Establishment of the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action (IPEA) against AMR.

-----

### Opening remarks by the Vice Chair

Opening the meeting, the Vice Chair Minister Forssmed extended the Chair's apologies for not being able to attend. He noted that the international community is currently facing political and economic headwinds that are placing further pressure on the most vulnerable people, and that the obligation of leaders at such times is to prevent suffering, including through a sustained effort to address AMR. He highlighted the GLG's achievements over the last year, including setting policy benchmarks, wide engagement with stakeholders, participation in global and regional fora, and a significant contribution to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) high-level meeting on AMR. He urged GLG members to continue their work with the Quadripartite organizations to sustain momentum in the AMR response, guided by urgency and solidarity with the most vulnerable, and recognizing that AMR affects everyone, everywhere.

### Opening remarks by the Quadripartite principals

Ms Inger Andersen of UNEP noted that in highly uncertain times, it is important to work across boundaries and borders to achieve change. She welcomed recent news on the agreement of the WHO pandemic accord as evidence that multilateralism is alive and working for and with Member States and urged GLG members to help maintain political momentum on AMR so that commitments are translated into action. She particularly emphasized the importance of scaling up action on discharge of antimicrobial effluent and waste from health care facilities, manufacturing, agriculture and municipalities. She referred to important, forthcoming meetings of the Quadripartite organizations' governing bodies, including UNEA 7 in December, which provides an opportunity for both the launch of IPEA and a face-to-face meeting of the GLG.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of WHO remarked that since its establishment in 2020 the GLG – under the leadership of the Chair – had played a vital role in transforming the political landscape for AMR. The GLG continues to play an important role in addressing the antimicrobial R&D pipeline crisis and ensuring that AMR remains on the agenda for national governments. He said that AMR remains a priority for WHO, which will

continue to host the QJS, integrate AMR into its other work, and collaborate with partners across sectors, including efforts to mobilize resources. He noted that at the forthcoming World Health Assembly in May, WHO will seek a formal mandate for updating the Global Action Plan (GAP) on AMR in collaboration with the quadripartite organizations.

In prerecorded video remarks, Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran of WOAHA noted that even if the multilateralism world has changed since the high-level meeting last September, AMR is still here, requiring urgent and coordinated action, with the GLG's role more important than ever. WOAHA continues to be supporting its membership to meaningfully reduce the quantity of antimicrobials used in animals. She highlighted new findings from the 9<sup>th</sup> ANIMUSE report, which contains data from 107 countries, covering 78% of the global animal biomass. The report shows a 5% reduction in antimicrobial use in animals globally (N= 85 countries), noting that non-responsible antibiotic use still occurs in 22% of WOAHA's membership, with 80% of those concentrated in the Americas and Asia-Pacific regions. While data transparency seems to progress positively, surveillance systems are still fragile in many places, notably in Africa, with strong needs to enable better national ownership.

Dr QU Dongyu of FAO noted that the GLG is helping to drive global efforts to curb AMR in the face of economic challenges and called on all stakeholders to match the global ambition in the 2024 political declaration on AMR with action. He noted that FAO is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and highlighted the organization's work on the RENOFARM initiative launched a year ago to support reduced antimicrobial use in the agri-food sector, as well as and the INFARM surveillance system which is now supporting data gathering and reporting in 52 countries. He urged GLG members to continue working together and with partners to keep AMR high on the political agenda.

## 1. Agenda item 1: General update from the Secretariat

*The GLG reviewed the Secretariat report, which focused on follow-up by the Quadripartite on the UNGA commitments, including the IPEA and GAP, as well as advocacy with the G7 and G20 and recent key events.*

**Recent GLG work has focused on following up on key UNGA commitments.** Dr Jean-Pierre Nyemazi of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR, presented an overview of key activities set out in the Secretariat report, which fell under four areas: 1) Update of the GLG rolling action plan, to be discussed under agenda item 2; 2) GLG advocacy letters to the respective presidencies of the G7 (Canada) and G20 (South Africa) seeking follow-up on the UNGA commitments, and participation to the G7 Health Working Group, at which key GLG recommendations on the antimicrobial R&D pipeline and access crisis were conveyed; 3) Follow-up on UNGA requests to the Quadripartite organizations, including holding a GLG information session on the IPEA in January, which helped in finalizing the QJS roadmap for its establishment; and 4) Key events, including the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on AMR in November, which had strong GLG engagement and participation; participation by GLG member Sunita Narain in an event with the private sector hosted by FAO to promote disease prevention in livestock; and a meeting in April between the GLG Chair and Biopharma CEOs, at which she promoted smart public-private R&D partnerships with a strong access component, and greater private sector engagement in financing the AMR response.

Dr Nyemazi noted that following the call for expressions of interest the Secretariat reviewed applications and will present a list of new members to the Chair for approval shortly, with a view to their participation in the next GLG meeting. He also noted the GLG's efforts over the last few years led by Dame Sally Davies to help ensure that AMR was included in the recently agreed WHO pandemic accord, which is expected to be approved in May by the World Health Assembly. His key asks to the GLG were to approve a face-to-face GLG meeting around UNEA 7 in December; provide insights into optimal engagement with the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on AMR in Nigeria next year; and advise on resource mobilization, including for the QJS.

In their discussion related to this agenda item, GLG members raised the following points:

- GLG members welcomed the proposed face-to-face meeting in December associated with UNEA 7 and the launch of IPEA;
- The GLG should consider issuing a statement welcoming the WHO pandemic accord and the AMR-related text in it;
- The GLG should support and provide strategic guidance to the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Ministerial Meeting on AMR, to be hosted by Nigeria in 2026, ensuring that it is action-oriented and highlights best practices and national progress.
- some concern was expressed about a proposed pledging event for the MPTF in 2025 considering similar and competing events planned in the same year.
- The Quadripartite organizations should expedite a comprehensive analysis of current AMR investments and financing mechanisms, as requested in the political declaration, to inform coordinated and evidence-based resource mobilization for AMR.

## **2. Agenda item 2: Update of the GLG rolling action plan for 2025-2027**

*The GLG reviewed the updated draft of its rolling action plan, provided additional comments, and requested that the Secretariat finalize the document and circulate it for final endorsement.*

Dr Nyemazi summarized the key changes to the GLG action plan, which are intended to reflect key UNGA commitments and targets and include updated titles for the existing priorities and some updates to the KPIs. Governance, including the IPEA and updated GAP, has been added as a component of political action under priority 1. Priority 2 has been retained as transforming systems, rather than adopting the structure of the political declaration, to better reflect a multisectoral One Health approach and focus on prevention.

In their discussion related to this agenda item, GLG members made the following suggestions:

- Under priority 2 and/or 5, there is a need for a KPI on improving diagnosis of infections to support responsible use of antimicrobials.
- KPIs should clearly indicate GLG's strategic, advocacy and convening role, rather than implying operational delivery.
- Consider a mechanism to track and publicly report progress against KPIs, such as a simple dashboard to monitor impact across GLG priority areas.
- Consider a stronger emphasis on bacterial disease and resistance in the plan.
- The plan should include a clear link and reference to the 2024 political declaration on AMR.
- The GLG should consider working with partners/stakeholder to develop a simple five-year plan describing the direction of global governance and how the different entities (GLG, IPEA, MSPP, Ministerial Meeting) relate to one another.
- The GLG should consider working with others to develop a shared global vision for the AMR response focused on increasing access and reducing the development and spread of resistance.

The GLG requested that the Secretariat take the comments into account in finalizing the action plan and then circulate it for final endorsement.

### 3. Agenda item 3: Establishing the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR

*The QJS provided an overview of progress under the roadmap for establishment of the IPEA and GLG members provided comments on efforts to date, requesting that an additional discussion session be scheduled in the coming weeks for members to provide more detailed comments on the draft landscape analysis*

Ms Jacqueline Alvarez of UNEP provided an update on progress in implementing the roadmap for establishing the IPEA, which was released in mid-March. The roadmap consists of the following key steps: 1) A landscape analysis of other, selected science-policy panels (January-April 2025); 2) Stakeholder engagement and consultation, including soliciting written inputs on issues such as IPEA priorities, governance model and scope of work (May-November 2025); 3) Development of governance and guidance documents (May-September 2024); launch during UNEA 7 in December 2025. She emphasized that the IPEA needs to have strong political buy-in from Member States and is scientifically sound, transparent, authoritative, action-oriented, flexible, inclusive, owned by stakeholders and part of the global governance architecture. A draft of the landscape analysis provided as background for this meeting examines the approaches taken by comparable entities in terms of their functions, membership, governance and structure, modalities of work, and resource needs.

In their discussion related to this agenda item, GLG members made the following points:

- GLG members welcomed the progress made to date.
- It is important to clearly define the role of Member States in both the consultation process and the structure and composition of the Panel. The Secretariat noted that consultations with Member States could begin as early as May.
- Efforts should be made to articulate both the intended functions of the IPEA and its limitations.
- Industry indicated that it was keen to support the development of the IPEA and emphasized early Member State engagement, along with clear opportunities for input and engagement from civil society and the private sector.
- Given time constraints at this meeting, it was suggested that the Secretariat organize a dedicated discussion session for the GLG to provide further input on the landscape analysis

### 4. Close of the meeting

The Vice Chair congratulated UNEP and the other Quadripartite organizations on their continued efforts in advancing the development of the IPEA. Closing the meeting, he thanked all GLG members for their participation, their dedication to AMR, and their contributions to the range of strategic initiatives currently underway.

*/end*