

Report of the 12th Meeting of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

October 22, 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 Jamie Jonker (of USA); Dr Ernst Kuipers (of The Netherlands); Ambassador Fernando Lugris (of Uruguay); Ms Ummu Mwalimu (of Tanzania); Ms Sunita Narain (of India); Ms Maria Panayiotou (of Cyprus); Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki (of Japan); Professor Lothar Wieler (of Germany); Ms Jennifer Zachary (of USA).*

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

Apologies: *Dr Mekdes Daba (of Ethiopia), Ms Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar (of Uganda)*

Absent: *Ms Anahit Avanesyan (of Armenia)*

Process of the meeting: The 12th official meeting of the Global Leaders Group (GLG) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held virtually by Zoom on October 22, 2025, from 16:00 – 18:00 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) Financing for the AMR response, including the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund; and (3) Strengthening governance of the AMR response.

1. Opening remarks by the Vice Chair

Opening the meeting, Minister Forssmed welcomed GLG members, including the five new members who formally joined in May 2025. He highlighted the growing impact of AMR on health systems, food security, economies and ecosystems, and noted that the UN General Assembly's High-level Meeting on AMR in 2024 reaffirmed the need for leadership, financing and action. In the current context of global conflicts, the climate crisis and declining development assistance, he emphasized that the voices of GLG members are more important than ever to help ensure that momentum, effective coordination and ambition are maintained. He noted that the agenda items for this meeting reflected key priorities of the GLG and called for sustained commitment, leadership, smart advocacy, and a shared sense of purpose among GLG members to help change the current trajectory of AMR.

2. Opening remarks by the Quadripartite principals

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of WHO thanked the Vice Chair and his fellow principals and welcomed the new GLG members. He noted that the 2024 political declaration on AMR provided a bold framework for action, but reduced development assistance presents the world – including WHO – with major challenges. New data from the 2024 WHO GLASS report show that 1 in 6 bacterial infections globally are antibiotic-resistant and that resistance is rising 5-15% annually, especially in low-income countries with limited capacity to respond. He stressed that the Quadripartite organizations remain committed to AMR through the updated Global Action Plan and their support to member states, and called on the GLG to help build on recent accomplishments for the next phase of the AMR response.

In pre-recorded remarks, Dr QU Dongyu of FAO thanked the GLG for its continued leadership and welcomed the new members. He noted the threats posed by AMR to global agri-food systems and the need to reduce the need for antimicrobials through sustainable practices, such as those promoted by the FAO RENOFAIR initiative, highlighting the importance of infection prevention; good production, health, and animal welfare practices; strong biosecurity; and the use of alternatives to mitigate AMR risks. He also highlighted FAO's work to improve data collection and monitoring through InFAIR and its engagement with the recent Global Conference on Water, Soil and Agri-Food Systems.

In pre-recorded remarks, Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran of WOAIR joined her counterparts in welcoming the new members. She noted that AMR remains a major cause of mortality globally, expressed her concern about declining attention to global health, and emphasized the continued importance of the GLG's work. She highlighted WOAIR's work since 2024 to brief chief veterinary officers on AMR; update animal vaccine priority lists to reduce the need for antimicrobials; plan the 2026 launch of Truvet, a global alert system for falsified veterinary medicines; and work with the other Quadripartite organizations to update the Global Action Plan and establish the independent panel on evidence for action against AMR. Dr Soubeyran emphasized the need for sustainable funding for animal health systems, effective multisectoral coordination, and sustained commitment to political advocacy efforts by the GLG.

Ms Inger Andersen of UNEP warmly welcomed the new GLG members and noted that the current uncertain times require focused and united efforts to sustain the AMR response. She warned that gaps persist in governance, accountability, and implementation, highlighting the need for a robust governance architecture via the GLG, MSPP and the new independent panel on evidence for action. Financing is likely to remain fragmented among a variety of sources including blended public-private models, catalytic funds and domestic tax earmarks, and will need to leverage co-benefits for both AMR and the environment. She looked forward to welcoming GLG members to the launch of the independent panel during UNEA in Nairobi in December.

3. Introduction of new GLG members

Brief introductory statements were made by the following new GLG members:

- Dr Maria Panayiotou, Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus, emphasized the importance of sustainable development, innovation and strategic partnerships to combat AMR in agri-food production.
- Ambassador Fernando Lugris of Uruguay expressed his strong commitment to working on the challenges of AMR as a GLG member, leveraging his experience in sustainable development and agricultural cooperation.
- Ms Ummi Mwalimu, Member of Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania and former Minister of Health, emphasized AMR as a health, economic, and social issue, and highlighted Tanzania's experience as an early adopter of National AMR Action Plans.
- On behalf of Dr Mekdes Daba, Minister of Health of Ethiopia, Mr Mebratu Massebo from the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia expressed the Minister's regrets at being unable to attend the meeting and noted her strong commitment to One Health and the translation of science on AMR into policy and action.

4. Agenda item 1: General update from the Secretariat

The GLG reviewed the Secretariat report, which focused on follow-up by the Quadripartite organizations on the UNGA commitments, including the establishment of the IPEA and updating of the Global Action Plan on AMR, and finalizing the update of the GLG rolling action plan.

Dr Jean-Pierre Nyemazi, Director a.i. of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR, presented the Secretariat report. Activities since the GLG last met in April 2025 include revision of the GLG rolling action plan to align with the 2024 UNGA Political Declaration on AMR; onboarding and orientation of the five new GLG members;

successful advocacy for inclusion of AMR and One Health in the WHO Pandemic Accord; support for planning the 5th Ministerial Conference on AMR in Nigeria in 2026; support for establishing the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR and updating the Global Action Plan through broad consultation processes; engagement with this year's UNGA High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases; and efforts to strengthen coordination among GLG members. Despite significant resource constraints, forthcoming Secretariat priorities include finalizing and launching the IPEA on December 10; finalizing and disseminating the updated Global Action Plan on AMR; continued support for the 5th Ministerial Conference; GLG member engagement in World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) activities in November and maintaining effective communication between the Secretariat and GLG members.

5. Agenda item 2: Financing for the AMR response

The GLG held a discussion on financing the response to AMR, including a presentation and discussion on the toolkit for the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and agreed to strengthen outreach to multilateral development banks.

In advance of the meeting, the Secretariat provided GLG members with an advocacy pack to support promotion of the MPTF in bilateral meetings and international fora. Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General of WOA and Chair of the MPTF Steering Committee, noted that we are at a crossroad in the global response to AMR with only 11 % of 178 AMR national action plans fully funded. For this reason, the UNGA in 2024 called for the urgent mobilization of \$100 million in catalytic financing to support NAP implementation, and the MPTF is central to this effort. Since it was established in 2019, the MPTF has raised \$35 million from five partners (EU, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, UK) and provided funding and technical support to 21 low-and middle-income countries. The MPTF has enabled countries to initiate public awareness campaigns, strengthen multisectoral coordination, harmonize surveillance, and leverage additional financing. Dr Arroyo noted the need to expand the fund's donor base and urged GLG members to help open doors and champion the MPTF in bilateral meetings and international fora, emphasizing that it should be promoted as a strategic investment that yields strong returns. She noted that planning is underway for an MPTF partner roundtable during the 5th Ministerial Conference on AMR in 2026 to announce and attract new funding commitments, and called on GLG members to help inspire action towards achieving the US\$100 million goal.

Key points raised in the GLG discussion focused on both the MPTF and broader financing issues:

- GLG members expressed their appreciation for the MPTF advocacy pack and pledged their support for the MPTF as a proven, multisectoral, catalytic funding mechanism for implementing national AMR action plans and global initiatives.
- Several GLG members undertook to initiate discussions with their governments about potential MPTF support in the lead-up to the resource partner roundtable at the 5th Ministerial Meeting.
- While the MPTF is essential to help catalyze action on AMR, the overall funding envelope for AMR needs to be increased beyond the MPTF. This requires more effort to integrate AMR into broader national development, pandemic preparedness and climate financing frameworks, and with efforts such as the Bridgetown initiative; align domestic budgets with One Health priorities; coordination on One Health approaches with international financial institutions including multilateral development banks, the Pandemic Fund and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria; sustained advocacy with the G7/G20; innovative models of public–private partnerships; and leveraging of philanthropic and blended financing approaches.
- The mapping exercise requested by Member States in the 2024 political declaration on AMR would help to further define GLG advocacy on AMR financing priorities.
- Overall, the GLG narrative on financing for AMR should include a strong focus on prevention, affordability and systems strengthening and resilience, positioning AMR as a net return on investment.
- GLG members highlighted the value of regional cooperation on financing for AMR, and policy coherence across development and finance sectors.

Follow-up: The Secretariat will explore inviting the World Bank and other multilateral development banks to future GLG meetings, and targeted outreach visits by GLG members to these institutions to elevate AMR within their investment pipelines. Members will deploy the AMR MPTF advocacy pack in their upcoming bilateral and multilateral engagements to advocate for strengthening and expanding the Fund. As planning continues for an MPTF partner roundtable during the 5th Ministerial in June 2026, GLG Members are invited to contact the AMR MPTF Secretariat to coordinate specific follow-up actions that will help secure new contributing partners for the Fund from Asia, the Americas and the Middle East.

6. Agenda item 3: Strengthening governance of the AMR response

The GLG discussed governance of the AMR response, with a focus on strengthening cohesion and coherence among existing entities and agreed to develop a position paper to guide its advocacy for effective governance of the AMR response.

Introducing this agenda item, the Vice Chair noted that several new AMR governance entities have been created in the last decade: the GLG, MSPP and QJS, with the IPEA to be launched in December 2025. He noted that the biennial, high-level ministerial meetings on AMR are also increasingly important. Effective AMR governance requires coherence among global, regional, and national AMR coordination mechanisms and entities. However, links between the global entities are currently suboptimal, and gaps in multisectoral coordination remain in many countries. This session aimed to explore how the GLG can support further strengthening of governance in the AMR response, including whether the ministerial meetings can play a stronger accountability role.

The GLG discussion focused on ensuring coherence and cohesion among AMR governance entities:

- GLG members recognized that further discussion on governance is important to ensure coherence and cohesion and will need to continue in the leadup to the 2029 UNGA high-level meeting on AMR.
- It is important to understand and communicate the role of current global entities. The MSPP has been an effective platform for communications and consultations. The GLG has played a valuable role as advocate and as “the conscience” of the response. IPEA will help to fill a critical gap in the evidence base. The QJS remains the central coordinating mechanism to support the global multisectoral response to AMR.
- The GLG could play a role in promoting a shared global vision for the AMR response among the various governance entities that is anchored among all stakeholders.
- It was suggested that a forum in which the IPEA, MSPP and GLG could meet and share updates would help to strengthen communication among these entities.
- The ministerial meeting could play a stronger role as a forum for countries to demonstrate accountability and a whole-of-government approach.
- Sustained attention is needed to promote and support effective coordination at the country level, and the Ministerial Conference could help in this regard.

Follow-up: The Secretariat will work with the GLG under the cofacilitation of Dame Sally Davies and any other member appointed on developing a position paper to guide GLG advocacy and support for strengthened governance of the AMR response.

7. Close of the meeting

The Vice Chair thanked GLG members for their participation and closed the meeting.

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