

## Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance June 30, 2023

### Chair of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

**Her Excellency Mia Amor Mottley**

Prime Minister of Barbados

**GLG member participants:** *Dr Ahmed Bin Mohammed Bin Obaid Al Saidi (of Oman); Mr Mohammed Mousa Alameeri (of United Arab Emirates); Ms Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar (of Uganda); Dr Maggie De Block (of Belgium); Prof António Correia de Campos (of Portugal); Prof C.O. Onyebuchi Chukwu (of Nigeria); Dr Guilherme Antônio da Costa Júnior (of Brazil); Prof Dame Sally Davies (of United Kingdom); Mr Jakob Forssmed (of Sweden); Ms Grace Fu (of Singapore); Dr Jamie Jonker (of USA); Ms Sunita Narain (of India); Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki (of Japan); Dr Jeffrey Scott Weese (of Canada) and Prof Lothar H. Wieler (of Germany).*

**GLG ex-officio member participants:** *Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (WHO), Ms Inger Andersen (UNEP); Dr Monique Eloit (WOAH).*

**GLG member apologies:** *Dr Chris Fearne (of Malta); Dr Ernst Kuipers (of The Netherlands); Ms Dechen Wangmo (of Bhutan) and Ms Jennifer Zachary (of USA).*

**GLG ex-officio member apology:** *Dr QU Dongyu (FAO, delivered a video message).*

**Invited speakers:** *Ms Priya Basu (The Pandemic Fund), Dr Haileyesus Getahun, Dr Jean-Pierre Nyemazi, Dr Mike Ryan (all from WHO), Ms Maria Helena Semedo (FAO).*

-----  
**Process of the meeting:** The seventh official meeting of the [Global Leaders Group](#) (GLG) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held virtually by Zoom from 15:00 to 17:20 CET on June 30, 2023. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados. The agenda for the meeting covered: (1) Progress in implementing the GLG action plan and current challenges and priorities; (2) Update and discussion on building the global AMR economic and investment case across sectors by the Quadripartite organizations; and (3) Discussion on financing the AMR response with a focus on the role of the Pandemic Fund.

**Opening of the meeting and welcoming remarks:** In her welcoming remarks, the chair, H.E. Prime Minister Mottley, highlighted the value of anchoring the work of the GLG in other key discussions related to potential reform of the global financial architecture and the development of the WHO instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, as well as the critical importance of the Quadripartite work on the economic and investment case for AMR. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Director-General of WHO) thanked the GLG for its important advocacy on AMR and urged members to continue their efforts on long-term funding for the implementation of national AMR action plans and to address the antibiotic pipeline and access crises.

He underscored the timeliness of the AMR economic and investment case work in informing the UN General Assembly High-level meeting on AMR in 2024 for specific commitments for sustainable financing. Ms Inger Andersen (Executive Director of UNEP) also highlighted the importance of the economic and investment case, as well as the need for more research and development related to prevention and the need for AMR financing in the context of the triple planetary crisis. Dr Monique Eloit (Director-General of WOA) highlighted encouraging data in the seventh annual WOA report on antimicrobial use in animals showing further reductions in use, while also noting the need for vigilance and further investments in prevention, including in animal vaccines. In a video message, Dr QU Dongyu (Director-General of FAO) noted the opportunity provided by the UN Food Systems Summit in Rome in July 2023 to highlight the role of agri-food systems in combatting AMR.

## 1. Implementing the GLG action plan and priorities

*The GLG reviewed its work since the February meeting in Barbados to prepare for the 2024 HLM and acknowledged the work of GLG Task Forces on financing, surveillance and the WHO pandemic instrument*

**1.1. Socialization of emerging priorities for the HLM:** Dr Haileyesus Getahun, Director of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) on AMR, highlighted recent events in New York and [Geneva](#) at which the seven areas suggested to date for specific commitments and targets at the 2024 HLM were socialized (these areas are financing, accountable governance, surveillance for action, transformed systems, the environment, and AMR in the context of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response). The GLG has also been working to engage the R&D community through a joint event with [ECSMID](#) in April and several members are working to engage Lusophone countries. Upcoming engagement opportunities include the EU Environment Ministers meetings (June) and COP28 (December).

## 1.2 Reports from GLG Task Forces

- Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki, Co-Chair of the **GLG Financing Task Force**, noted that the [first meeting](#) of the task force was held in May and a second meeting will soon be scheduled to continue discussions on innovative approaches, including antibiotics as global public goods. The GLG aims to lead on this issue in advance of the HLM in 2024. Mr Shiozaki also noted that the Chair of the GLG had sent letters to G7 and G20 leaders on the need for financing to address the R&D pipeline and access crisis and for national AMR action plans, and that AMR was a prominent agenda item at the G7 health ministers' meeting in Japan in May. For the first time, the G7 has decided to hold a high-level expert meeting on One Health that will bring together ministers of health, agriculture and the environment later this year.
- Prof Lothar Wieler, Chair of the **GLG Task Force on Integrated Surveillance**, emphasized the importance of concise and convincing data, especially for persuading decision makers who are yet to grasp the urgency of addressing AMR. He noted that the pocket guide to integrated surveillance for AMR being developed by the Quadripartite with GLG support will soon be published and provides an useful tool for decision makers.

- Dame Sally Davies, Chair of the GLG Task Force on the Pandemic Instrument, noted that GLG members had made several written and video interventions to the INB advocating for inclusion of AMR and One Health and AMR in the pandemic instrument. The Bureau's [draft text](#) of June 2, 2023 represents a crossroads, with options for member states to either include or remove One Health and AMR from the document. She urged GLG members to use the window before the next INB meeting on July 17 to advocate with member states for the inclusion of AMR and One Health. She also noted the need for better governance options on AMR.

**1.3 Discussion:** The Chair requested, and Dame Sally agreed, to work with the Secretariat to provide text that GLG members could use to advocate with member states regarding the status of AMR and One Health in the pandemic instrument. GLG members commended the Secretariat and Task Forces for their work and made interventions noting the importance of including One Health and AMR in the pandemic instrument, the need for the Quadripartite to update the Global Action Plan on AMR (notably to include environmental dimensions), and the value of the [One Health global research agenda](#) recently published by the Quadripartite. The important role of the EU in supporting negotiations for the HLM in 2024 and the need for a strategic vision in advance of the HLM (such as “A world free of untreatable infections” or “Securing sustainable and equitable access to antibiotics for all”) were also noted.

## 2. Building the AMR investment case across sectors

*The GLG reviewed and commended progress on work being led by the Quadripartite organizations to develop an economic and investment case for action on AMR*

**2.1 Goals, process and early data presented:** Dr Jean-Pierre Nyemazi from the QJS Secretariat presented on the background to the work on the economic and investment case, the process undertaken, preliminary findings and next steps. The work is being conducted by a Quadripartite Core Team of experts in collaboration with the World Bank and the GLG has been providing political guidance. The study aims to determine the costs and benefits of the AMR response across sectors and will produce four key deliverables: 1) an estimate of the economic impact of AMR across sectors; 2) a package of key interventions; 3) an estimate of the cost and return on investment of AMR action across sectors; and 4) a toolbox for developing country AMR investment cases. He reminded GLG members that the G7 and G20 have recognized the importance of the study for securing additional external and domestic financing for the AMR response. Furthermore, the study will provide a basis on which member states could agree to bold and specific financing commitments at the HLM in 2024. Some initial systems mapping, selected interventions to reduce AMR impact and emerging data on costs of AMR in humans and livestock were presented in confidence to the GLG. Next steps include continuing the cross-sectoral economic analyses and supporting countries to develop national investment cases.

**2.2 Discussion:** GLG members welcomed the presentation, progress made and proposed next steps on the study. Questions and comments were made on several topics. These included clarifying the relevance of animal biomass to the investment case; the need for better understanding of the economic impact of antimicrobials on the environment; the importance of addressing antimicrobial contamination to enable manure recycling; the need for robust data and analyses to persuade the international economist community; and the need for simple messaging from the study to influence decision makers.

### 3. Financing the AMR response: Lessons from the Pandemic Fund

*The GLG reviewed opportunities related to financing the AMR response and explored lessons from the Pandemic Fund's first round of funding in 2023*

**3.1: The Pandemic Fund holds promise for the AMR response, but is unlikely to be adequate:** Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of FAO, introduced the agenda item by noting that the AMR response is seriously underfunded, and that lack of resources is a common challenge across sectors. She noted that AMR appears in the results framework for the Pandemic Fund and that the Fund presents an opportunity for additional funding for the AMR response. The first round of Pandemic Fund financing in 2023 attracted 179 proposals, of which 39 specifically mentioned AMR, but other activities for which funding was requested, such as surveillance and laboratory infrastructure, can also benefit the AMR response. Ms Semedo noted that lessons from the first round of proposal development include the need to involve regional bodies, such as the African Union, in One Health investment planning; the importance of coordination among national institutions to develop a single funding proposal; and the intention that financing from the Pandemic Fund should trigger national co-investment requires a whole-of-society approach.

Ms Priya Basu, Executive Head of the Pandemic Fund, emphasized that because the first funding round focused particularly on disease surveillance, laboratory and the health workforce, it had particular relevance to the AMR response. She noted that the first round was eight times oversubscribed based on available funding, and that proposals included significant attention to One Health and multisectoral and cross-border collaboration on surveillance and other issues. She expressed her willingness to brief the GLG in more detail on the funding round after the Board had approved proposals at the end of July.

Dr Mike Ryan, Chair of the Pandemic Fund Technical Review Panel, noted that one of the successes of the process to date was that the Board of the Pandemic Fund was particularly focused on supporting national, multisectoral plans for health security, based on joint external evaluations, and that more integrated plans are better for governments and funders. He saw significant funding opportunities in the overlap between the AMR response and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in areas such as One Health, laboratory and surveillance and the health workforce, but noted that AMR has some different drivers and requires some specific policy and legal responses. Ultimately, the Pandemic Fund is likely to fund only part of the One Health, AMR and pandemic response agenda, and other multilaterals and development banks must also play a role. At the same time, governments increasingly wish to see alignment among funding institutions. Dr Ryan concluded by noting that climate change is having a worrying impact on global health, particularly in terms of vector-borne diseases, and that this represents a growing challenge across sectors. While surveillance, access to medical countermeasures and health care are attracting increased funding, significantly more investment is required in community protection, i.e. the systems that enable communities to engage in health responses and for interventions to be made in a way that maintains community trust.

**3.2 Discussion:** GLG members noted the importance of the Pandemic Fund supporting water, sanitation and hygiene, and the need in countries for technical and financial support for proposal development. The importance of harmonized messages to enable community awareness and readiness to prevent pandemics - including AMR - was also emphasized. The GLG requested the Secretariat to work with Dr Ryan and develop simple awareness messages to support countries and communities in preventing pandemics, including AMR.

/END