

Global Leaders Group (GLG) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Reception at WHA 76: The Road to the UNGA High-level Meeting on AMR in 2024

Geneva, 22 May 2023

GLOBAL LEADERS GROUP
ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

In advance of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on AMR in 2024, the GLG hosted a reception for Ministers of Health and other officials during the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland on May 22, 2023. The event was moderated by Hon Dr Chris Fearne, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health of Malta and GLG Vice Chair. Ministers of Health from around the world shared powerful remarks on the need for political action on AMR. The event provided an opportunity for government officials to discuss key areas identified by the GLG that require bold and specific commitments in the 2024 political declaration on AMR at UNGA 2024, including financing; accountable governance; surveillance for action; transformed systems; environment; AMR and pandemic preparedness and response; and targets. Through engagements at global fora, the GLG continues to galvanize political action for the global AMR response.



H.E. Chris Fearne welcomed attendees and introduced the speakers. In his remarks, Dr Fearne noted the need for urgent action on AMR which directly causes over one million deaths per year. He emphasized the need for increasing awareness about AMR among governments and the public and encouraged attendees to maintain focus on building consensus ahead of the HLM, describing it as a seminal moment for the world to recognize the threat posed by AMR and the solutions to it.

GLG member H.E. Dechen Wangmo, Minister of Health of Bhutan, shared Bhutan's challenges and strategies related to AMR. She reiterated the importance of implementing sanitation systems and laboratory services as effective interventions to combat and mitigate AMR. She also discussed the importance of political momentum, commitments and support for the AMR agenda. She urged political leaders and government officials to support a bold political declaration on AMR in 2024.



GLG member H.E. Ernst Kuipers, Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport of The Netherlands, noted that without action to mitigate AMR, common infections presented in patients today are becoming untreatable due to drug resistance. He emphasized that AMR can affect people of all ages and particularly affects vulnerable populations, including children and immune-compromised people. He highlighted the commitments in the [Muscat Manifesto](#) and the importance of target setting. He urged attendees to advocate for more funding for the AMR response and affirmed that AMR is pivotal in the development of a common strategy to

prevent future pandemics. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of the UNGA high-level meeting on AMR in 2024 to deliver on GLG key priorities and to ensure that AMR is high on the global development agenda.



H.E. Fahad bin Abdurrahman Al-Jalajel, Minister of Health of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, recognized the work of the GLG and urged collaboration across sectors to address the complex issue of AMR. He noted that urgent, collective, global action is necessary for effective and sustainable solutions. He reiterated the role of the UN and G20 to strengthen and expand existing efforts to address AMR, and reaffirmed the priority given by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to this issue. He announced that the 4th Ministerial Conference on AMR taking place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be in November 2024 and that it will offer a key opportunity

to build on the outcomes of the High-level Meeting in 2024 and the AMR targets set in the Muscat Manifesto in Oman in 2022. This will accelerate action to address AMR across countries.



H.E. Jerome Walcott, Minister of health and Wellness and Senior Minister Coordinating Social and Environmental Policy of Barbados, asked attendees to urge their heads of government to make bold and specific commitments to tackle AMR during the High-level Meeting in 2024. He also highlighted the opportunity for raising awareness and enlisting greater support at the three UNGA high-level meetings on health in 2023. He noted the need for meaningful financial support to implement national action plans on AMR, as well as to address research and development of new drugs. He shared Barbados' vision as defined in the Bridgetown Initiative, proposing reform of the global

financial system which will lead to more equitable global public goods to address AMR and the climate crisis.

