



High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance convened by the President of the General Assembly

Investing in the present and securing our future together: accelerating multisectoral global, regional and national actions to address antimicrobial resistance.

Thursday, 26 September 2024, UN Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) under the theme *‘Investing in the present and securing our future together: accelerating multisectoral global, regional and national actions to address antimicrobial resistance’* will be convened by the President of the General Assembly on 26 September 2024 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in accordance with resolution A/RES/76/257. The meeting will bring together Member States and observers of the General Assembly, the UN system, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and persons affected by AMR, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

In 2016 the first high-level meeting on AMR resulted in a political declaration that laid the foundation for global action against AMR. This second high-level meeting on AMR takes place at a critical juncture, as the world emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic which exerted considerable shocks on the global health system, perpetuating the long-time problem of overuse of antibiotics worldwide and exacerbating the "silent" spread of AMR.

AMR presents a rising global threat to human, animal, and plant health, as well as food security, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Effective antimicrobial medicines are vital to human animal and plant health; however, inappropriate use leads to the rise of resistant microorganisms, thereby undermining our ability to control and treat infections in human beings, animals, and plants. The environment also plays a critical role in the development and spread of AMR. This presents particular challenges to developing countries, as, without immediate effective actions, the potential severe economic and developmental consequences of AMR will disproportionately impact low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Coordinated multisectoral action based on a One Health approach, adequate investment in prevention, research and innovation, and equitable access to affordable antimicrobials, and their prudent and sustainable production, use and disposal are critical to drive progress on the containment of AMR.

In preparation for the high-level meeting, on 15 May 2024, the President of the General Assembly held a multi-stakeholder hearing, which was attended by over 300 stakeholders from across the globe. The multi-stakeholder hearing consisted of three panel discussions that elicited stakeholder



perspectives, experiences and recommendations on urgent actions and investments necessary to accelerate progress toward addressing global health challenges and the threat of AMR. The summary of the hearing is available [here](#).

Format

As per General Assembly resolution 78/269 on the Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on AMR, the meeting will be held fully in-person and will consist of an opening segment, a plenary, two interactive multi-stakeholder panels, and a closing segment.

The themes of the multi-stakeholder panels are as follows:

Panel 1: Addressing the urgent antimicrobial resistance crisis across the human, animal, plant, and environmental sectors through equity, access, building awareness, and innovation

Guiding Questions

- **Question 1:** How can we ensure equitable access to antimicrobials and other therapeutics, diagnostics and vaccines as required to prevent and treat drug-resistant infections in humans, animals and plants for improved health outcomes?
- **Question 2:** What are the most urgent actions needed to address AMR across human, animal, plant, and environmental sectors? Are there existing best practices that countries can adopt and scale up?
- **Question 3:** How can we ensure responsible and sustainable manufacturing, prudent use and disposal of antimicrobials for effective preventions across sectors?
- **Question 4:** How can we better raise awareness and educate communities for an effective behavioral change ensuring prevention and treatment of AMR in a multisectoral manner?
- **Question 5:** What innovative approaches, as well as high-impact and cost-effective preventive measures can be implemented to improve the national, regional and international aAMR responses, particularly in low-resource settings?

Panel 2: Addressing human health, animal health and welfare, agrifood systems, and protecting the environment to tackle antimicrobial resistance, through integrated surveillance, capacity-building, sustainable resources, financing, and investment

Guiding Questions

- **Question 1:** What are the current gaps in the surveillance of AMR and antimicrobial use? How can we enhance integrated surveillance systems for a better informed and more cost-effective policy-decision making?
- **Question 2:** What capacity-building resources are essential for preventing and addressing AMR in specific sectors and across sectors? What strategies should be put in place to ensure countries have adequate capacities, resources, and skills to efficiently implement and evaluate their national AMR response, including their national action plans (NAPs) on AMR?



- **Question 3:** How can we sustainably fund our response to AMR particularly at the national level? What financial mechanisms or innovations could be leveraged for AMR financing at global, regional and national levels?
- **Question 4:** How can we improve coordination on the AMR response and synergies with other agendas such as environment, food security, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)?
- **Question 5:** What role can the private sector play in achieving equitable access to antimicrobials and complementary diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines? What measures need to be implemented to ensure a sustainable R&D pipeline and roll out of new antimicrobials, as well as alternatives to antimicrobials?

Participation

The high-level meeting is open to Member States, observers of the General Assembly, the United Nations system, representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, and representatives of organizations with special accreditation.

Outcome

The high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented political declaration with a shared vision including the consideration of measurable targets and objectives on, inter alia, mobilizing political will and action at the national, regional and international levels to address the drivers, sources and challenges of antimicrobial resistance, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly.
