

Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance

The Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the summary report on progress made in implementing resolution WHA67.25 on antimicrobial resistance and the report on the draft global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;¹

Recalling resolutions WHA39.27 and WHA47.13 on the rational use of drugs, resolution WHA51.17 on emerging and other communicable diseases: antimicrobial resistance, resolution WHA54.14 on global health security: epidemic alert and response, resolution WHA58.27 on improving the containment of antimicrobial resistance, resolution WHA60.16 on progress in the rational use of medicines and resolution WHA66.22 on follow up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination and WHA67.25 on antimicrobial resistance;

Aware that access to effective antimicrobial agents constitutes a prerequisite for most modern medicine; that hard-won gains in health and development, in particular those brought about through the health-related Millennium Development Goals, are put at risk by increasing resistance to antimicrobials; and that antimicrobial resistance threatens the sustainability of the public health response to many communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS;

Aware that the health and economic consequences of antimicrobial resistance constitute a heavy and growing burden on high-, middle- and low-income countries, requiring urgent action at national, regional and global levels, particularly in view of the limited development of new antimicrobial agents;

Recognizing that the main impact of antimicrobial resistance is on human health, but that both the contributing factors and the consequences, including economic and others, go beyond health, and that there is a need for a coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach at global, regional and national levels, in a “One Health” approach and beyond, involving different actors and sectors such as human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, finance, environment and consumers;

Aware that the inappropriate use of antimicrobial medicines in all relevant sectors continues to be an urgent and widespread problem in high-, middle- and low-income countries, with serious consequences for increasing antimicrobial resistance in a wide range of pathogens including bacteria, viruses and parasites;

¹ Documents A68/19, A68/20 and A68/20 Corr.1.

Noting that despite sustained efforts over a number of decades by Member States, the Secretariat and partners, most developing countries are still facing a multitude of challenges in improving affordability and universal access to quality, safe and effective antimicrobial medicines and diagnostic tools;

Recognizing that, although substantial investments have already been made to tackle antimicrobial resistance, significantly more resources need to be mobilized to support effective action at national, regional and global levels, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance, particularly to low- and middle-income countries;

Reaffirming the critical importance of enhancing infection prevention and control, including good sanitation and hygiene, in both community and health care settings;

Recognizing the importance of immunization as one of the most cost-effective public health interventions, and that vaccines play an important role in reducing antimicrobial resistance;

Underlining the pressing need to develop new antimicrobial medicines as well as effective, rapid and low-cost diagnostic tools, vaccines and other interventions, and recalling the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property and resolution WHA66.22 on follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination, which address drug market failure;

Acknowledging the urgent need for a more coordinated and harmonized surveillance system to monitor antimicrobial resistance at national, regional and global levels, including the need to develop internationally agreed standards for data collection and reporting across the human health, medical, veterinary and agricultural sectors;

Underscoring the need to improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance through effective public communication programmes, education and training as well as in the human health, veterinary and agricultural sectors,

1. ADOPTS the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;
2. URGES Member States:¹
 - (1) to implement the proposed actions for Member States in the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, adapted to national priorities and specific contexts;
 - (2) to mobilize human and financial resources through domestic, bilateral and multilateral channels in order to implement plans and strategies in line with the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;
 - (3) to have in place, by the Seventieth World Health Assembly, national action plans on antimicrobial resistance that are aligned with the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance and with standards and guidelines established by relevant intergovernmental bodies;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

3. INVITES international, regional and national partners to implement the necessary actions in order to contribute to the accomplishment of the five objectives of the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General:
- (1) to implement the actions for the Secretariat in the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;
 - (2) to ensure that all relevant parts of the Organization, at headquarters, regional and country levels, are actively engaged and coordinated in promoting work on containing antimicrobial resistance, including through the tracking of resource flows for research and development on antimicrobial resistance in the new global health research and development observatory;
 - (3) to strengthen the tripartite collaboration between FAO, OIE and WHO for combating antimicrobial resistance in the spirit of the “One Health” approach;
 - (4) to work with the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on antimicrobial resistance, Members States,¹ FAO and OIE, and other relevant partners to develop a framework for monitoring and evaluation in line with principle five of the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;
 - (5) to develop and implement, in consultation with Member States¹ and relevant partners, an integrated global programme for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance across all sectors in line with the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;
 - (6) to establish a network of WHO Collaborating Centres to support surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and quality assessment in each WHO region;
 - (7) to develop, in consultation with Member States¹ and relevant partners, options for establishing a global development and stewardship framework to support the development, control, distribution and appropriate use of new antimicrobial medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines and other interventions, while preserving existing antimicrobial medicines, and promoting affordable access to existing and new antimicrobial medicines and diagnostic tools, taking into account the needs of all countries, and in line with the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, and to report to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly;
 - (8) to work with the United Nations Secretary-General and bodies in the United Nations system to identify the best mechanism(s) to realize the investment needed to implement the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, particularly with regard to the needs of developing countries;
 - (9) to elaborate, in consultation with the United Nations Secretary-General, options for the conduct of a high-level meeting in 2016, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, including potential deliverables, and to report to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly through the 138th Executive Board;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

(10) to provide support and technical assistance to countries, with a specific focus on low- and middle-income countries;

(11) to set aside adequate resources for the Secretariat, in line with the Programme budget 2016–2017 and the Twelfth General Programme of Work, 2014–2019 for implementing the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;

(12) to submit biennial reports on progress achieved in implementing this resolution to the Seventieth, Seventy-second and Seventy-fourth World Health Assemblies, and to produce an interim report to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly.

Ninth plenary meeting, 26 May 2015
A68/VR/9

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