



**Interactive multi-stakeholder hearing
as part of the preparatory process for the 2024 High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance**

Wednesday, 15 May 2024, 10.00 a.m.

Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The first United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held in September 2016, marking a significant milestone in global commitment to tackling AMR, with its [political declaration](#) calling for greater urgency and action in the response. Subsequently, a high-level Interactive Dialogue on AMR was held in the General Assembly in April 2021.

While some progress has been achieved over the past years, AMR remains a significant health and developmental challenge, being listed as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity. It contributes to 5 million deaths per year, 1 million of which are among children under five years of age. Limiting the emergence and spread of drug-resistant pathogens and sustaining the effectiveness of antimicrobials is critical to preserving the world's ability to treat diseases in humans, animals, and plants, reduce food safety and food security risks, promote economic development and equity within societies, protect the environment and maintain progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Considering the severity and urgency of AMR, and subsequent to the General Assembly resolutions 76/257, as well as 78/269, a second high-level meeting on AMR will be convened by the President of the General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York on 26 September 2024 during the high-level week of the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly, under the theme “Investing in the present and securing our future together: Accelerating multi-sectoral global, regional and national actions to address Antimicrobial Resistance”.

The 2024 high-level meeting will represent a critical opportunity to mount a response to AMR commensurate with its current impact and growing threats. Taking into consideration the commitments made in 2016 and progress since then, the high-level meeting will review the response to AMR at all levels across the human, animal, plant and environment sectors, and identify challenges, gaps and potential solutions. The political declaration, to be agreed in advance of the high-level meeting through intergovernmental negotiations, is a crucial opportunity for world leaders to mobilize political will and action at the national, regional and international levels to address the drivers, sources and challenges of antimicrobial resistance.

As part of the preparatory process for the 2024 high-level meeting, the President of the General Assembly will organize an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, with the support of the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment

Programme, the World Organisation for Animal Health (also known collectively as the Quadripartite organizations) and other relevant partners, in accordance with resolution 78/269.

Objectives

The multi-stakeholder hearing will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the on-going preparatory process for the high-level meeting on AMR. Participants will exchange views on key priorities for the high-level meeting and its political declaration, while exploring key challenges and potential solutions needed for effectively addressing AMR at the national, regional and global levels.

Format

The hearing will include an opening segment, three interactive panel discussions, and a closing segment. Each panel discussion will include remarks from panelists, to be followed by an interactive segment. There will be no pre-established list of speakers and participants will be invited to indicate their interest to intervene by pressing the microphone button during the panel discussions.

The multi-stakeholder hearing will be webcast live on UN Web TV.

Panel 1: Adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing of and investments in the AMR response to support country-level implementation

The current levels of domestic and international financing for AMR are insufficient to address the urgency of the threat it poses. If not addressed, the World Bank estimates that, AMR could result in US\$ 1 trillion additional healthcare costs by 2050, and US\$ 1 trillion to US\$ 3.4 trillion gross domestic product (GDP) losses per year by 2030. While domestic resources on AMR must be optimized for country-level implementation, the current international AMR funding landscape should also be discussed to identify optimal approaches for leveraging additional bilateral and multilateral funding streams.

Guiding questions

- What strategies can countries employ to leverage domestic resources effectively and sufficiently to address AMR across sectors, especially where there are competing development priorities? How can we ensure that AMR national action plans are costed, budgeted and monitored?
- How can bilateral and international funding, including the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund, be optimized to support countries, particularly developing countries, and build their capacity in implementing their AMR national action plans? How can International Financial Institutions contribute to strengthening AMR-related investments?

Panel 2: Addressing antimicrobial access, research and development (R&D), and innovation

Over the past decades, antimicrobials have been used as a substitute for appropriate treatment, resulting in more exposure to antimicrobials and rendering medicines less effective. To minimize the further emergence and spread of AMR pathogens, it is therefore crucial to enable effective interventions, including prevention, accurate and timely diagnosis, and ensuring access to and appropriate antimicrobial use across the human, animal, plant and environmental sectors.

The current antimicrobial R&D pipeline is almost dry, highlighting an urgent need to accelerate innovation for new antimicrobials, diagnostics, vaccines and other tools, guided by the principles of affordability, effectiveness and efficiency and equity. It is therefore important to explore measures to

resolve the lack of funding for AMR R&D, including through investment incentives, new market mechanisms and innovative public-private partnerships.

Guiding questions

- How can equitable access to essential antimicrobials, as a crucial component for resilient health systems and universal health coverage, be ensured, particularly in developing countries?
- What measures can be implemented to address market failures and accelerate R&D for new antimicrobials, diagnostics, vaccines, and other tools? How can we put into practice the delinking of the cost of investment in R&D on antimicrobial resistance from the price and volume of sales, to facilitate access?
- How can we prevent misuse or overuse of antimicrobials in humans, animals and plants, including by securing access to effective and appropriate treatments for infections and disease? What strategies are needed to strengthen the prevention and control of infection and disease, such as water, sanitation, and hygiene across the human, animal, plant and environmental sectors?

Panel 3: Effective governance, leadership, and coordination of the AMR response at the national, regional and global levels

Strong leadership at the highest levels of government and effective and coordinated action across sectors are critical to an effective, sustainable and whole-of-society response to AMR. In the 2016 political declaration, Member States committed to develop multisectoral national action plans, in line with a One Health approach and the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2015.

Effective surveillance and monitoring systems are critical for providing reliable information on AMR and antimicrobial use (AMU) and other trends in AMR and enabling detection of the emergence and spread of AMR. Sector-specific and integrated surveillance of AMR and antimicrobial consumption and use should be strengthened and institutionalized.

Guiding questions

- What strategies can be employed to enhance collaboration and coordination across sectors in countries for AMR response, including by applying a One Health approach? How do we ensure the private sector is engaged and committed?
- How would specific and measurable targets and objectives at global, regional and country levels be a lever to drive multisectoral action on AMR and what should they be? What are the best practices for establishing sustainable and robust sector-specific AMR surveillance systems?
- How can we strengthen global coordination mechanisms (such as the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat), global advisory bodies (such as the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance) and the global knowledge base (such as the proposed Independent Panel on Evidence for Action on AMR¹)?
- What lessons have been learned from the implementation of the Global Action Plan on AMR over the past nine years? And how can the Global Action Plan be further strengthened?

¹ See 2019 [Report](#) of the Ad hoc Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on Antimicrobial Resistance to the Secretary-General

Participation

The multi-stakeholder hearing will bring together representatives of regional organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, and the private sector including the agriculture and food industry, broader communities, ensuring the participation and voices of women, children, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and people of African descent, as well as appropriate senior-level representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local governments, and relevant United Nations entities.

Accessibility arrangements

Delegations are requested to inform the Secretariat of the accessibility requirements of their delegates in order to facilitate participation in meetings. Upon request, adjustments can be made to seating arrangements with a view to enabling the participation of persons with disabilities. For individual requests, please contact the Meetings Support Section of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (email: accessibilitycentre@un.org; phone: 212 963 7348/9) no later than three working days prior to the meeting.

Outcome

The President of the General Assembly will prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting.
