

Statement by Medicus Mundi International to the 70th session of the World Health Assembly on agenda item A70/12 Antimicrobial resistance

MMI takes this opportunity to address agenda 12.2. The statement is supported by PHM and other members of the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition.

We commend WHO for its efforts in raising AMR on the global policy landscape, but have some serious concerns. Financial and technical assistance is necessary to support more countries to formulate national action plans, disseminate guidelines for sustainable husbandry, and importantly, support their implementation. For such assistance, the WHO must engage with governments and other actors including civil society. In addition to providing guidance WHO, FAO, and OIE need to develop organized campaigns with clear targets that mobilize key communities of practice.

WHO must ensure transparency in the work of the UN IACG, ensuring this process is free of conflict of interest. Key decision documents such as ToRs need to be available for public scrutiny before adoption. It is unfortunate that the released ToRs exclude civil society from the list of observers, while industry is included. The WHO as co-Chair of IACG should press for inclusion of international organisations with proven track record of work related to AMR, such as UNDP.

WHO and MS must ensure that R&D initiatives on AMR promote principles of affordability, accessibility, efficiency, and equity through delinking the cost of drug development from their price and quantity. The routine use of these drugs must also be phased out in food animal production and, specifically, we urge for a ban on the use of colistin, a high priority critically important antimicrobial.

Moreover, key to the tackling of AMR is strengthening of health systems. We urge WHO and MS to invest in building and expanding capacity in health systems to curb AMR.

Finally, we urge the WHO, FAO, and OIE to be inclusive of civil society through an open consultative process as they move forward.

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