

**Statement to the 69th World Health Assembly
on agenda item 14.4 Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance**

Thank you Chair for the opportunity to address the distinguished delegates on behalf of MMI and 36 other CSOs of the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition.

The extensive misuse of antimicrobials in humans and animals have raised levels of resistance posing a global health threat that jeopardizes treatment of infections across the world. Public leadership is needed to enact new needs-driven research and development models, with open research and transparent data which support rational use and equitable access to antibiotics.

It is important to ensure coherence across parallel processes addressing innovation and access the CEWG on R&D, the R&D Blueprint for Emergencies and the UN HLP on Access to Medicines. We urge WHO to apply the CEWG principles of affordability, effectiveness, efficiency, equity and delinkage to any initiative based on publicly-funded R&D. The pharmaceutical companies distort de-linkage to mean an assured return for industry irrespective of the value of the innovation in promoting public health goals.

Proposals should also address innovation of vaccines and diagnostics. Moreover, securing access for everyone in need is as vital as conserving therapies. Price should not be used as an instrument to ration use for humans.

Strengthening of public health and agricultural systems across all countries is a key requirement. Resource-limited settings need support to strengthen infection prevention and control. Sustained investments to address AMR across sectors must become a collective commitment.

With resistance now evident to last line antimicrobials it is urgent that Member States and WHO act decisively. We urge WHO to take a leadership role both here as well as in New York as preparations for upcoming UN High-Level Meeting on AMR continue. We ask that WHO, Member States, and other intergovernmental agencies ensure that AMR becomes a remarkable example of intersectoral coordination that puts the public interest at the center of its discussion.

*The statement will be delivered by: Peter Grabitz
Contact for enquiries: Peter.Grabitz@charite.de*