



**Antimicrobial Resistance:  
A High-Level Dialogue between Member States and  
the Directors-General of FAO, OIE, and WHO**

Date: 18 April 2016

Location: United Nations Headquarters Conference Room 1, New York

Time: 11:00 – 13:00

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been developing over several decades but is now a pressing global issue with long-term implications for countries and many government sectors. AMR means that microbes—bacteria, fungi, and parasites—are becoming resistant to the medicines used to kill them. Among the contributing causes, the most important is the overuse and misuse of antimicrobial medicines, especially antibiotics, in both the health and agriculture sectors.

The consequences of AMR are critical. One of the most important is the increasing inability of health professionals to treat many serious infections, including common ones such as pneumonia and urinary tract infections. Further, losing this ability is making surgery, childbirth, chemotherapy, and treatment for the infectious complications of chronic conditions, such as diabetes, less reliable and safe. But the adverse implications extend beyond human health. They include risks to animal health and welfare and to sustainable and safe food production. As a result, gains achieved under the Millennium Development Goals (especially in tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and maternal and child health), future attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and the productivity and financial stability of countries are in jeopardy.

Given the breadth of AMR-related challenges, a strong health sector response is essential but not sufficient by itself. Rather, a strong global and multisectoral response will be needed to curb the trend of increased AMR, including the establishment and maintenance of adequate health and agricultural systems and the development, affordability, access to, and use of critical technologies.

In preparation for a high-level discussion of AMR at the 2016 United Nations General Assembly, the three Directors-General of FAO, OIE, and WHO will host a dialogue with Member States and other stakeholders on this critical topic.