



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 August 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to my previous communications, dated 29 July and 5 August 2016, concerning the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance that will be convened by H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 21 September.

I am pleased to transmit the attached concept note.

Delegations wishing to speak during the plenary segment are kindly requested to inscribe with the list of speakers, General Assembly Affairs Branch (Mr. Jose Tanoy – tanoy@un.org; tel. 1 (212) 963-7855). Speakers will be kindly invited to limit their interventions to *three minutes*.

All other relevant documents concerning the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance will be available on my website (<http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/high-level-meeting-on-antimicrobial-resistance/>).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Concept Note on UNGA High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance

21 September 2016

Background

Antimicrobial medicines save millions of lives, but antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is making them increasingly ineffective. Around the world, bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites are becoming resistant to the medicines used to treat them, pushing us into an era where common infections can once again kill.

Serious diseases such as gonorrhea, TB and life-threatening infections acquired in communities or health-care facilities are becoming untreatable, resulting in increased numbers of deaths. AMR is eroding the ability of health systems to protect those who are at risk of infection, such as patients with certain non-communicable diseases, those undergoing surgery or childbirth, and those who are immunocompromised due to transplantation or chemotherapy. The situation is made worse because the pipeline for the development of new classes of antibiotics is dry and new classes of effective medicines are not immediately available.

Multisectoral impact beyond health

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize the importance of AMR (paragraph 26 of the Declaration). The attainment of many of them will depend on the availability of and access to affordable and effective antimicrobial medicines and other technologies such as diagnostic tests. AMR seriously threatens the health and lives of vulnerable populations, such as newborns, children, and women, as well as sustainable food and agriculture production, in particular the pharmaceutical, food and agricultural industries, as well as a healthy environment. AMR is reducing our ability to protect the health of animals and therefore is threatening safe and sustainable food and agriculture.

UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR

In December 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted the Global Health and Foreign Policy resolution (A/Res/70/183), which included a decision to hold a high-level meeting on AMR at the UN General Assembly in 2016. On 18 March 2016, the UN Secretary-General produced a report (A/70/790) on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting, inviting the President of the UN General Assembly to initiate a process with Member States to finalize the proposed modalities and outcomes. Under the leadership of the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Member States have been engaged in open, transparent and inclusive consultations to develop the organizational arrangements, including a possible outcome, for the high-level meeting. The General Assembly on 25 July 2016 adopted resolution A/Res/70/297, which finalized the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high level meeting.

On 21 September 2016, the President of the UN General Assembly will convene a one-day high-level meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York on Antimicrobial Resistance, with the participation of Member States, non-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society, the private sector and academic institutions.

The primary objective of the meeting will be to summon and maintain strong national, regional and international political commitment in addressing AMR. The meeting will emphasize the important role and the responsibilities of governments, as well as the roles of non-State actors, the private sector and relevant inter-governmental organizations, particularly the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in establishing, implementing and sustaining a cooperative global, multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral approach.

It further recalls the World Health Assembly Resolution WHA 68.7 entitled "Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance," which reflects a global consensus that AMR poses a significant public health challenge, and emphasizes the paramount significance of achieving the five strategic objectives of the Global Action Plan.

The High-Level Meeting will comprise a plenary and two panels on the following themes:

Panel 1 "Relevance of addressing antimicrobial resistance for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the health-related goals"

Panel 2 "Addressing the multi-sectoral implications and implementation challenges of antimicrobial resistance in a comprehensive manner"

The opening segment will include statements by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General; the Director-General of WHO, the Director-General of FAO and the Director-General of OIE, each speaking from their perspective and in accordance with the mission and mandate that each institution represents.

The two interactive hour-long panels will each be composed of up to six discussants, with three Heads of State and Government and three relevant stakeholders each, bearing in mind an equitable balance of gender, level of development and geographical representation. The President of the General Assembly has sent a letter to Permanent Representatives in New York asking regional groupings to nominate Heads of State or Government as panelists. Both panels will take place during the morning session, in parallel with the plenary segment.

The audience in both rooms will be Member States and other stakeholder applicants who have been accepted for attendance. A small number of places will be designated for media representatives. The event is expected to be webcast on UN TV.

It is expected that after the High-Level Meeting, AMR will remain high on the development agenda. National multisectoral efforts will be amplified and used to catalyze global and whole-of-society responses to combat AMR.