



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 February 2020

Excellency,

As I mentioned during my interactive discussion with member states on 13 January 2020, I will convene a high-level interactive panel discussion on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) on 14 April 2020 at the Trusteeship Council Chamber. The one-day panel discussion will provide Member States the opportunities to take stock of progress made since the political declaration on AMR in 2016 and scale up commitments to eradicating the scourge of AMR. It will facilitate a veritable platform for robust engagement and shared experiences, as well as proffer practical solutions to accelerate progress in combating and eliminating AMR. Also, the panel will leverage on the existing best practices to identify gaps and promote measures that could accelerate progress in eliminating AMR at the national level.

The panel members will reflect geographical and gender balance and be drawn from policy makers, academia, civil society and professionals with background in medical, pharmaceutical, scientific, agricultural, gender and other diverse fields in order to facilitate constructive engagement on the subject.

While attaching herewith the concept note and tentative programme of the event, further information, including the detail programme will be circulated in due course.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a flourish.

Tijjani Mohammad-Bande

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations
New York



UN General Assembly High-level Interactive Dialogue on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Date: 14 April 2020
Venue: Trusteeship Council Chamber
Time: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Concept Note

Background

In September 2019, the UN high-level meeting on universal health coverage (UHC) adopted a political declaration which included a paragraph specifically on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This calls for a discussion on AMR during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly:

“Enhance cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to address antimicrobial resistance, using an integrated and systems-based one-health approach, including through health system strengthening, capacity-building, including for research and regulatory capacity, and technical support and ensure equitable access to affordable, safe, effective and quality existing and new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines and diagnostics as well as effective stewardship, as antimicrobial resistance poses a challenge to achieving universal health coverage, noting the work of the ad hoc inter-agency coordination group on antimicrobial resistance and its recommendations as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on antimicrobial resistance, and look forward to the discussion thereof during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, taking into account World Health Assembly resolution 72.5 of 28 May 2019.”

AMR is the ability of a microorganism (like bacteria, viruses, and some parasites) to stop an antimicrobial (such as antibiotics, antivirals, and antimalarials) from working against it. As a result, standard treatments become ineffective, infections persist, and may spread to others.

AMR challenges the effective delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Currently, at least 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases. If no action is taken, drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050 and damage to the economy as catastrophic as the 2008-2009 global financial crisis; and by 2030, AMR could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty (source: WHO and UN Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Coordination Group on AMR).

In recent years, there has been good progress on tackling AMR, and so this is the right moment to take stock and look ahead to what more can be done. In May 2015, the World Health Assembly adopted a Global Action Plan on AMR, also adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). In September 2016, the first ever UN high-level meeting on AMR witnessed the adoption by member states an ambitious political declaration on AMR.

In April 2019, the UN Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Coordination Group on AMR delivered its final report to the UN Secretary-General, “No time to wait: securing the future from drug-resistant infections”. This included 14 recommendations that call for action to: accelerate progress in countries; innovate to secure the future; collaborate for more effective action; invest for a sustainable response; and strengthen accountability and global governance.

In May 2019, the UN Secretary-General (SG) issued his report, “Follow-up to the political declaration on the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on AMR”. This took stock of progress and critical challenges at national, regional, and global levels; and identified five critical shifts focused on urgency, a One Health approach, stakeholder engagement, implementation of national action plans (NAPs), and resource mobilisation. The report requested that a Tripartite Joint Secretariat (TJS) be established to implement the IACG recommendations. Also, in May 2019, the World Health Assembly, the FAO Conference, and the OIE General Session adopted resolutions which called for stronger actions at all levels to tackle AMR.

Objective:

- This UN General Assembly High-level Interactive Dialogue on Tackling AMR will provide an important opportunity to take stock of progress, recommit to actions, and agree on further practical steps that can effectively address challenges to tackling AMR through a ‘One Health Approach’ and support delivery of the SDGs.

Participants:

- President of the General Assembly (PGA) (convener)
- UN Secretary-General
- UN Deputy Secretary-General (DSG); also Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group
- Member States
- Tripartite organisations (WHO, FAO, and OIE)
- Other relevant UN and multilateral organisations e.g. UNEP and signatories to the SDG3 Global Action Plan
- World Bank and other relevant international financial institutions
- UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
- Civil society
- Private sector
- Parliamentarians
- Media

Programme

- Opening Plenary: 10–11 a.m. Trusteeship Council Chamber

Statements to be delivered by:

- H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the UN General Assembly
- H.E. Antonio Gueetres, UN Secretary-General
- Tripartite Leadership on AMR – DGs WHO, FAO and OIE

- Main interactive panel discussions: 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.

- **Overview of global progress so far on AMR – 11 a.m.–12 p.m.**
Overview of the current global progress including work of the Tripartite – WHO, FAO and OIE on AMR, recommendations by the Inter Agency Coordination Group (IACG) on AMR, and mapping of global commitments to date.
- **Tackling AMR at country level and National Action Plans (NAPs) – 12-1 p.m.:** case studies of AMR national action plan (NAP) design and implementation; linking AMR to development work e.g. data/surveillance, SDG indicator on AMR, and UN development cooperation frameworks; overview of AMR-sensitive issues e.g. AMR links to TB, UHC, food systems, and climate change; and sharing of best practice.
- **Break.**
- **AMR, Women and Realising Sustainable Development Goals – 3-4.30 p.m.**
Linking AMR and specific vulnerabilities of women and the realisation of the Sustainable development goals e.g. impact of AMR on rural women, inaccessibility to high resistance drugs, poverty, sanitation, poor consumption and nutrition.
- **Ensuring Sufficient and Sustainable AMR Financing 4:30p.m.-5.45pm.**
- **Closing – 5. 45- 6 p.m.**