



28 April 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that I have received the attached letter dated 27 April 2021 from the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom, Ambassador James Roscoe, on behalf of the Co-chairs of the Group of Friends on Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (People's Republic of China, Ghana, Mexico, Republic of South Africa, and the United Kingdom), requesting the circulation of the text titled, "Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance – 2021" ahead of the High-Level Interactive Dialogue on Antimicrobial Resistance to be convened at 10 a.m. on 29 April 2021 in the General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters.

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



Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Ghana  
to the United Nations  
New York



**MÉXICO**  
Misión Permanente de México  
ante las Naciones Unidas



United Kingdom  
Mission to the  
United Nations

27 April 2021

Excellency,

The Permanent Missions of China, Ghana, Mexico, South Africa, and the United Kingdom to the United Nations, as Co-chairs of the Group of Friends on Tackling AMR, have the honour to transmit the “Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance – 2021” ahead of the High Level Interactive Dialogue on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) to be convened on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2021.

Antimicrobials transformed the modern world as critical tools for fighting diseases in humans, animals and plants – but a century of progress in human and animal health is at risk. Drug-resistant diseases already cause at least 700,000 deaths globally a year, and if no action is taken, AMR is predicted to lead to 10 million deaths a year and a cumulative economic impact of \$100 trillion annually by 2050, forcing up to 24 million people into extreme poverty. At the same time, there is a lack of scientific innovation with few new antimicrobial technologies being developed.

Covid-19 has demonstrated the critical importance of effective vaccines and treatments, and the urgency of tackling AMR as a crucial part of future pandemic preparedness and health systems strengthening. The time is now for new commitments to address the growing threat of AMR.

The Group of Friends on Tackling AMR - a diverse, cross-regional grouping - has worked collaboratively to deliver a text to both raise global ambition on AMR whilst accommodating diverse national circumstances.

In this regard, we would be grateful if you would circulate this letter ahead of the High Level Interactive Dialogue.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Ambassador James Roscoe,  
Chargé D’Affaires,  
United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations

On behalf of the Co-chairs of the Group of Friends on Tackling AMR (China, Ghana, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom)

**H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir**  
**President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

## Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) - 2021

With the aim of strengthening One Health and multisectoral actions to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR), learn from the COVID-19 pandemic to address the growing threat of AMR, which has been referred to as a “silent tsunami”, and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we commit to the following actions at global, regional, and national levels:

### AMR coordination, accountability, and governance

1. Keep AMR high on the political agenda, build awareness and understanding, and strengthen coordination, political leadership, and collaboration on AMR actions through a One Health approach, joining efforts of Member States, the “Tripartite Plus” (WHO, FAO, OIE, and UNEP), other relevant UN agencies, civil society, private sector, academia, and research institutions.
2. Strengthen and accelerate implementation of previous commitments to tackle AMR as included in the 2015 Global Action Plan on AMR, 2016 UN political declaration on AMR, relevant resolutions of the governing bodies of the “Tripartite Plus” and other organisations, and AMR national action plans.
3. Support effective implementation, as appropriate to national circumstances, of the recommendations of the Inter Agency Coordination Group on AMR (IACG) to be led by Member States with the assistance of the Tripartite Joint Secretariat and UNEP through a defined process involving the One Health Global Leaders Group on AMR, relevant UN agencies, and other key stakeholders in a comprehensive and collaborative approach.
4. Actively engage with the Tripartite Joint Secretariat and One Health Global Leaders Group, welcoming the ongoing efforts to establish the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against AMR and the AMR partnership platform.
5. Support the strategic role and work of the One Health Global Leaders Group on AMR in further enhancing global collaboration to tackle the growing threat of AMR.

### AMR at country level and the SDGs

6. Address the growing global threat of AMR in all countries through a coordinated, multisectoral, inclusive One Health approach to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, universal health coverage, and strengthening of health systems and future pandemic prevention and preparedness.

7. Encourage all Member States to have a multisectoral AMR national action plan, in line with One Health, that is fully funded, implemented, and evaluated through multisectoral coordination contributed to by appropriate focal points from human health, animal health, the environment, and food production including through engagement with academia, civil society, philanthropic organizations, and the private sector.
8. Maintain and strengthen appropriate stewardship of antimicrobials, including in COVID-19 patients, to avoid inappropriate use that may exacerbate AMR; in that regard, maintain routine immunisation and effectively address the issues of equitable vaccine distribution to help prevent infectious diseases, including COVID-19, and in turn the urgent threat of AMR.
9. Engage in initiatives led by relevant international organisations to track and mitigate AMR at the country, regional, and global levels, including global AMR surveillance systems, annual country self-assessment surveys and guidance on effective stewardship of antimicrobials.
10. Make tackling AMR an integral part of programmes addressing pandemic preparedness, health systems strengthening, universal health coverage, the environment, patient safety, infection prevention and control, promotion of sustainable food systems, food safety and food security, and include AMR in country-led UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and UN funds and programmes' strategic plans and country programme documents, based on national priorities, and country-led Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of SDG implementation, supporting effective reporting against the SDG3 indicator on AMR adopted by the UN Statistical Commission, March 2020.
11. Strengthen effective and integrated AMR surveillance systems, addressing AMR in infection prevention and control, stewardship, monitoring, regulatory frameworks, enforcement; promote integrated target setting and share best practice, scientific knowledge and technical assistance between countries and regions, upon their request.

#### AMR financing

12. Work towards sufficient and sustainable funding for AMR-specific and AMR-sensitive actions across One Health, including as part of Covid-19 recovery plans and achieving universal health coverage including at country level, the "Tripartite Plus" organisations, and other relevant UN and multilateral organisations, including the AMR Multi Partner Trust Fund.
13. Support integrating AMR into the UN Financing for Development (FFD) agenda, including through greater capacity building, for greater One Health and multisectoral

coherence and impact, and duly take into account the issue of AMR in development investments.

14. Develop global and national economic studies, as appropriate, that account for addressing AMR across One Health, incentivising and prioritising investment needs.
15. Develop and sustain strong partnerships with the relevant private sector, investors, central and development banks, academia, and research institutions to tackle AMR including by incentivising AMR financing, research and development, innovation and equitable access.

#### AMR next steps

16. Continue to enhance national and global efforts to tackle AMR, and implement the 2015 Global Action Plan on AMR, 2016 UN political declaration on AMR, AMR national action plans, and other commitments and initiatives in cooperation with the “Tripartite Plus”, relevant UN agencies, the Global Leaders Group on AMR, and other relevant key stakeholders through a comprehensive and collaborative approach.
17. Develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated global advocacy and communications strategy to tackle AMR, led by the “Tripartite Plus” and supported by One Health global coordination structures, including the Global Leaders Group on AMR, involving all relevant key partners.
18. Ensure a strong and relevant AMR focus as part of the work for the UN food systems summit in 2021, UN high-level meeting on universal health coverage in 2023, and other activities related to the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs, and the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).
19. Evaluate implementation of these commitments on tackling AMR through ongoing work of the “Tripartite Plus”, existing governance mechanisms of the “Tripartite Plus” organisations, and sharing of best practice, challenges, and opportunities including in the informal Group of Friends on Tackling AMR in New York.