World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE BOARD
134th session
Agenda item 10.6

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Combating antimicrobial resistance, including antibiotic resistance[1]

Draft resolution proposed by Australia, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, Japan, Libya, Mexico, Netherlands, Qatar, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on antimicrobial resistance,[2]

RECOMMENDS to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly,

PP1 Recognizing WHO's leadership role in the containment of antimicrobial resistance;

PP2 Recalling resolutions WHA39.27 and WHA47.13 on the rational use of drugs, WHA51.17 on antimicrobial resistance, WHA54.14 on global health security, WHA58.27 on improving the containment of antimicrobial resistance, WHA60.16 on progress in the rational use of medicines and WHA66.22 on follow up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination;

PP3 Aware that access to effective antimicrobial drugs constitutes a prerequisite for most of modern medicine, and that hard-won gains in health and development, in particular those brought about through the health-related Millennium Development Goals, are at risk due to increasing resistance to antimicrobials;

PP4 Aware that the health and economic consequences of antimicrobial resistance constitute a heavy and growing burden on high-, middle- and low-income countries, requiring

[1] Antimicrobial resistance refers to the loss of effectiveness of any anti-infective medicine, including antiviral, antifungal, antibacterial and antiparasitic medicines. Antibiotic resistance refers only to resistance to medicines in bacteria.

[2] Document EB134/37.

urgent action at national, regional and global levels, particularly in view of the limited development of new antimicrobial agents;

PP5 Recognizing that the main impact of antimicrobial resistance is on human health, but that the contributing factors and consequences, including economic and others, go beyond health and therefore there is a need for a coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach at global, regional and national levels, in the spirit of the "One Health" approach and beyond;

PP6 Noting that awareness of the broad scope and urgency of the threat posed has been limited and that previous resolutions of the Health Assembly and WHO's strategies for the containment of antimicrobial resistance have not yet been widely implemented;

PP7 Recognizing that antimicrobial resistance involves a wide range of pathogens including bacteria, viruses and parasites but that the development of resistance among some pathogens, particularly antibiotic-resistant bacteria, is of particular urgency and most in need of immediate attention;

PP8 Welcoming the establishment of the WHO Global Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance and the tripartite collaboration between WHO, FAO and OIE;

(OP1) 1. URGES Member States:

(1) to increase political awareness, engagement and leadership in order to accelerate efforts to secure access to effective antimicrobials and to use them responsibly;

(2) to take urgent action at national, regional and local levels to strengthen infection prevention and control, by means that include application of basic hygiene measures;

(3) to develop or strengthen national plans and strategies and international collaboration for the containment of antimicrobial resistance;

(4) to mobilize human and financial resources in order to implement plans and strategies to strengthen the containment of antimicrobial resistance;

(5) to strengthen overall pharmaceutical management systems, including regulatory systems and supply chain mechanisms, with a view to ensuring access to and availability of effective antimicrobial agents, taking into account financial and other incentives that might have a negative impact on policies for prescribing and dispensing;

(6) to survey the extent of antimicrobial resistance and monitor regularly the use of antibiotics in all relevant sectors, in particular health and agriculture, including animal husbandry, and to share such information so national, regional and global trends can be detected and monitored;

(7) to improve among all relevant care providers, the public and other sectors and stakeholders awareness of (i) the threat posed by antimicrobial resistance, (ii) the need for responsible use of antibiotics and (iii) the importance of infection prevention and control measures;

(8) to encourage and support research and development, including new business models, to combat antimicrobial resistance, develop practical and feasible approaches for extending the lifespan of antimicrobial drugs and encourage the development of novel diagnostics and antimicrobial drugs;

(9) to collaborate with the Secretariat in developing and implementing a draft global action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance including antibiotic resistance, which is based on all available evidence and best practices;

(OP2) 2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to ensure that all relevant parts of the Organization, at headquarters, regional and country levels, are actively engaged and coordinated in promoting work on containing antimicrobial resistance, including through the tracking of resource flows for research and development on antimicrobial resistance in the new global health research and development observatory;

(2) to set aside adequate resources for the work in the Secretariat, in line with the Programme budget 2014–2015 and the Twelfth General Programme of Work, 2014–2019;

(3) to strengthen the tripartite collaboration between WHO, FAO and OIE for combatting antimicrobial resistance in the spirit of the “One Health” approach;

(4) to explore with the United Nations Secretary-General options for a high-level initiative, including a high-level meeting, to increase political awareness, engagement and leadership on antimicrobial resistance;

(5) to develop a draft global action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance, including antibiotic resistance, which addresses the need to ensure that all countries, especially low and middle income countries, have the capacity to combat antimicrobial resistance and which takes into account all available evidence and best practice as well as the recommendations by the WHO AMR strategic technical advisory group and the 2011 WHO policy package, which asks Member States to:

(a) commit to a comprehensive, financed national plan with accountability and civil society engagement;

(b) strengthen surveillance and laboratory capacity;

(c) ensure uninterrupted access to essential medicines of assured quality;

(d) regulate and promote rational use of medicines, including in animal husbandry, and ensure proper patient care;

(e) enhance infection prevention and control;

(f) foster innovation and research and development for new tools;

(6) to apply a multisectoral approach to inform the drafting of the global action plan, by consulting Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, especially other multilateral stakeholders, such as FAO and OIE;

(7) to submit to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 136th session, a draft global action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance, including antibiotic resistance, together with a summary report on progress made in implementing the other aspects of this resolution.

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