

Draft global action plan on antimicrobial resistance

Report by the Secretariat

1. The Executive Board at its 134th session adopted resolution EB134.R13 on combating antimicrobial resistance. The Board resolution included a draft resolution for consideration by the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly, in which the Director-General is requested to develop a draft global action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance, including antibiotic resistance, and to submit a draft of that plan to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in 2015. Following consideration of that draft resolution by the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly in May 2014, the events and activities set out below will need to be undertaken in the next 12 months.
2. The Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance has been convened to advise the Director-General on the main areas of concern, priorities for action, and medium- to long-term objectives for inclusion in the draft global action plan. A report on the outcome of the second meeting, during which the Advisory Group also heard the views of over 30 representatives from a wide range of organizations and stakeholders with an interest in antimicrobial resistance, will be made available through the WHO website.
3. The Secretariat will lead the development of a draft global action plan that reflects the commitment, perspectives and roles of all relevant stakeholders, and in which everyone has clear and shared ownership and responsibilities.
4. The draft plan will include:
 - context, including what has already been done or is in progress
 - main areas of concern or priorities for action
 - guiding principles and values
 - key targets and quantifiable objectives (outcomes, impact, achievements over next 10 years)
 - ways in which progress can be monitored, measured and periodically reported (indicators)
 - key stakeholders (i.e. who will be responsible for actions required)
 - plans for implementation (roles, responsibilities, collaborations, timelines, resources)
 - support functions and mechanisms (including the role of WHO).

Engagement of stakeholders

5. Over the next 12 months, the following activities will be undertaken:

WHO governing bodies. The draft global action plan will be presented for the consideration of the governing bodies throughout its development. The key meetings (listed chronologically) are:

- September–October 2014: Regional Committee sessions
- January 2015: a draft global action plan will be presented to the Executive Board
- May 2015: the draft global action plan will be submitted to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly
- Additional informal consultations may be held with Member States as needed.

Strategic and technical consultation. WHO will work with its Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, first convened in 2013, to engage with a wide range of organizations and experts in order to set out the scientific and policy issues, develop proposals for targets and indicators, and review the draft action plan prior to its submission to the governing bodies in 2015.

Cross-sectoral and multinational commitment. The Secretariat will work with Member States and key stakeholders to convene high-level political and interagency discussions to contribute to the draft global action plan. The meetings, which will take place during the summer and autumn of 2014, may include:

- a meeting co-sponsored with a Member State, and in collaboration with FAO and OIE, to bring together human and animal health, and agriculture;
- a second co-sponsored meeting to promote the development of global surveillance capacity, systems and standards;
- bilateral and multilateral engagement to address the economic impact of antimicrobial resistance;
- other strategic and technical consultations to address, for example: antimicrobial medicine use, access and quality; innovation in research and development and “business models”; and infection prevention and control measures to control the spread of antimicrobial resistance in health care.

Public engagement. In parallel with the above, the Secretariat will invite public contributions. This will be based on publication (on the WHO website) of a report on the meeting of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance held in April 2014, with an invitation to Member States, organizations and interested groups to submit comments. It will also include consulting with civil society and patients’ organizations and other networks in order to obtain their contributions.

Drafting of the global action plan. This will be undertaken by the Secretariat, based on the above external engagements and contributions.

6. Development of the draft global action plan on antimicrobial resistance will be undertaken through the WHO global task force on antimicrobial resistance (comprising staff from all regional offices and relevant technical programmes) and a dedicated working group. WHO is also working closely with FAO and OIE.

Monitoring and evaluation

7. The global action plan is expected to evolve to reflect the changing context, as new knowledge is acquired, new issues are identified, and progress is made. The principal roles anticipated for the Secretariat in the implementation of the global action plan are likely to include:

- to support and monitor the implementation of actions by Member States and other organizations
- to collect relevant data and report on the agreed indicators
- to periodically report on progress towards the agreed targets
- to lead a process for periodic revision and renewal of the global action plan.

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