

Fifth report of Committee A

(Draft)

Committee A held its twelfth and thirteenth meetings on 25 May 2015 under the chairmanship of Dr Eduardo Jaramillo (Mexico).

It was decided to recommend to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached resolutions relating to the following agenda items:

- 16. Communicable diseases
 - 16.4 Global vaccine action plan
 - One resolution
- 15. Preparedness, surveillance and response
 - 15.1 Antimicrobial resistance
 - One resolution entitled:
 - Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance

Agenda item: 16.4

Global vaccine action plan

The Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on the global vaccine action plan;¹

Emphasizing the importance of immunization as one of the most effective interventions in public health and access to immunization as a key step towards access to health and universal health coverage;

Acknowledging the progress made in global immunization and the commitment under the 2011–2020 Decade of Vaccines to achieve immunization goals and milestones;

Recalling resolutions WHA58.15 and WHA61.15 on the global immunization strategy, resolution WHA65.17 on the global vaccine action plan, resolution WHA61.21 on the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property, resolution WHA54.11 on the WHO medicines strategy and resolution WHA67.20 on regulatory system strengthening for medical products;

Noting with concern that globally immunization coverage has increased only marginally since the late 2000s; and that in 2013 more than 21 million children under one year of age did not complete the three-dose series of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) vaccine;

Recognizing that the availability of new vaccines against important causes of vaccine preventable diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea and cervical cancer can prevent leading causes of childhood and women's death;

Acknowledging that successful national immunization programmes require sustainable political and financial support of Member States;

Appreciating the contributions of WHO, UNICEF, the Gavi Alliance, and all partners in their efforts to support the introduction of new vaccines in developing countries and strengthen immunization services;

Concerned that inequities between Member States are growing, inter alia, due to the increased financial burden of new vaccines and based upon those that are eligible or ineligible for financial and technical support from global partners;

Concerned that many low- and middle-income countries may not have the opportunity to access newer and improved vaccines, particularly because of the costs related to the procurement and introduction of these vaccines; and concerned at the increase of costs of overall immunization programmes because of increase in price of the WHO-recommended vaccines;

¹ Document A68/30.

Recognizing that publicly available data on vaccine prices are scarce, and that the availability of price information is important for facilitating Member States' efforts towards introduction of new vaccines;

Recalling many Member States' interventions on the Health Assembly's immunization agenda item each year, expressing concern over the unaffordable cost of new vaccines and appealing to the global community to support strategies that will reduce prices;

Recalling the WHO global framework for expanding access to essential drugs, and its four components: the rational selection and use of medicines, reliable health and supply systems, sustainable financing, and affordable prices;

Taking into account the importance of competition to reduce prices and the need to expand the number of manufacturers, particularly in developing countries, that can produce WHO-prequalified vaccines and create a competitive market;

Stressing the critical life-saving role of vaccines and immunization programmes and striving to make immunization available to all;

Noting with concern the global shortage of certain traditional routine vaccines, for example BCG vaccine and combined measles-rubella vaccine;

Acknowledging that shortages of vaccines are quite often an important cause of disruption of vaccination schedules and that therefore the establishment of effective and sustainable vaccine production, supply, procurement and delivery systems is essential to ensure access to all the necessary vaccines of assured quality at the right time;

Concerned that scepticism against vaccination is continuing to grow in society despite the proven efficacy and safety of modern vaccines, and that many children do not receive life-saving vaccines as a result of insufficient information to parents or health care workers or even of active anti-vaccination propaganda,

1. URGES Member States:¹

- (1) to allocate adequate financial and human resources for the introduction of vaccines into national immunization schedules and for sustaining strong immunization programmes in accordance with national priorities;
- (2) to strengthen efforts, as and where appropriate, for pooling vaccine procurement volumes in regional and interregional or other groupings, as appropriate, that will increase affordability by leveraging economies of scale;
- (3) to provide, where possible and available, timely vaccine price data to WHO for publication, with the goal of increasing affordability through improved price transparency, particularly for the new vaccines;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

- (4) to seek opportunities for establishing national and regional vaccine manufacturing capacity, in accordance with national priorities, that can produce to national regulatory standards, including WHO-prequalification;
- (5) to create mechanisms to increase the availability of comparable information on government funding for vaccine development and work towards strategies that enhance public health benefit from government investments in vaccine development;
- (6) to support the ongoing efforts of various partners coordinated by WHO to design and implement the strategies to address the vaccine and immunization gaps faced by the low- and middle-income countries that request assistance;
- (7) to improve and sustain vaccine purchasing and delivery systems in order to promote the uninterrupted and affordable safe supply of all the necessary vaccines and their availability to all immunization service providers;
- (8) to strengthen immunization advocacy and provide training to health professionals and information to the public regarding immunization issues to achieve a clear understanding of the benefits and risks of immunization;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to explore ways to mobilize funding to fully support collaborative efforts with international partners, donors, and vaccine manufacturers to support low- and middle-income countries in accessing affordable vaccines of assured quality in adequate supply;
- (2) to continue developing and adequately managing publicly available vaccine price databases, like the WHO Vaccine Product, Price and Procurement project, working with Member States to increase availability of price information;
- (3) to monitor vaccine prices through annual reporting of the global vaccine action plan;
- (4) to provide technical support and facilitate financial resources for establishing pooled procurement mechanisms, where appropriate, for use by Member States;
- (5) to strengthen the WHO prequalification programme and provide technical assistance to support developing countries in capacity building for research and development, technology transfer, and other upstream to downstream vaccine development and manufacturing strategies that foster proper competition for a healthy vaccine market;
- (6) to report upon technical, procedural and legal barriers that may undermine robust competition that can enable price reductions for new vaccines, and address other factors that can adversely affect the availability of vaccines;
- (7) to assist in mobilizing resources for countries that request assistance in the introduction of new vaccines in line with the global vaccine action plan and in accordance with national priorities;

(8) to continue to assist Member States to improve and sustain their vaccine delivery systems and to continue to provide technical support to Member States to strengthen the knowledge and skills of their health care professionals in vaccination programmes;

(9) to report back on progress in implementing this resolution to the Health Assembly through the Executive Board in the annual report on the global vaccine action plan.

Agenda item: 15.1

Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance

The Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the summary report on progress made in implementing resolution WHA67.25 on antimicrobial resistance and the report on the draft global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;¹

Recalling resolutions WHA39.27 and WHA47.13 on the rational use of drugs, resolution WHA51.17 on emerging and other communicable diseases: antimicrobial resistance, resolution WHA54.14 on global health security: epidemic alert and response, resolution WHA58.27 on improving the containment of antimicrobial resistance, resolution WHA60.16 on progress in the rational use of medicines and resolution WHA66.22 on follow up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination and WHA67.25 on antimicrobial resistance;

Aware that access to effective antimicrobial agents constitutes a prerequisite for most modern medicine; that hard-won gains in health and development, in particular those brought about through the health-related Millennium Development Goals, are put at risk by increasing resistance to antimicrobials; and that antimicrobial resistance threatens the sustainability of the public health response to many communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS;

Aware that the health and economic consequences of antimicrobial resistance constitute a heavy and growing burden on high-, middle- and low-income countries, requiring urgent action at national, regional and global levels, particularly in view of the limited development of new antimicrobial agents;

Recognizing that the main impact of antimicrobial resistance is on human health, but that both the contributing factors and the consequences, including economic and others, go beyond health, and that there is a need for a coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach at global, regional and national levels, in a “One Health” approach and beyond, involving different actors and sectors such as human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, finance, environment and consumers;

Aware that the inappropriate use of antimicrobial medicines in all relevant sectors continues to be an urgent and widespread problem in high-, middle- and low-income countries, with serious consequences for increasing antimicrobial resistance in a wide range of pathogens including bacteria, viruses and parasites;

Noting that despite sustained efforts over a number of decades by Member States, the Secretariat and partners, most developing countries are still facing a multitude of challenges in improving affordability and universal access to quality, safe and effective antimicrobial medicines and diagnostic tools;

¹ Documents A68/19 and A68/20.

Recognizing that, although substantial investments have already been made to tackle antimicrobial resistance, significantly more resources need to be mobilized to support effective action at national, regional and global levels, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance, particularly to low- and middle-income countries;

Reaffirming the critical importance of enhancing infection prevention and control, including good sanitation and hygiene, in both community and health care settings;

Recognizing the importance of immunization as one of the most cost-effective public health interventions, and that vaccines play an important role in reducing antimicrobial resistance;

Underlining the pressing need to develop new antimicrobial medicines as well as effective, rapid and low-cost diagnostic tools, vaccines and other interventions, and recalling the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property and resolution WHA66.22 on follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination, which address drug market failure;

Acknowledging the urgent need for a more coordinated and harmonized surveillance system to monitor antimicrobial resistance at national, regional and global levels, including the need to develop internationally agreed standards for data collection and reporting across the human health, medical, veterinary and agricultural sectors;

Underscoring the need to improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance through effective public communication programmes, education and training as well as in the human health, veterinary and agricultural sectors,

1. ADOPTS the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;
2. URGES Member States:¹
 - (1) to implement the proposed actions for Member States in the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, adapted to national priorities and specific contexts;
 - (2) to mobilize human and financial resources through domestic, bilateral and multilateral channels in order to implement plans and strategies in line with the global action plan;
 - (3) to have in place, by the Seventieth World Health Assembly, national action plans on antimicrobial resistance that are aligned with the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance and with standards and guidelines established by relevant intergovernmental bodies;
3. INVITES international, regional and national partners to implement the necessary actions in order to contribute to the accomplishment of the five objectives of the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

- (1) to implement the actions for the Secretariat in the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;
- (2) 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;
- (3) to strengthen the tripartite collaboration between FAO, OIE and WHO for combating antimicrobial resistance in the spirit of the “One Health” approach;
- (4) to work with the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on antimicrobial resistance, Members States,¹ FAO and OIE, and other relevant partners to develop a framework for monitoring and evaluation in line with principle five of the global action plan;
- (5) to develop and implement, in consultation with Member States¹ and relevant partners, an integrated global programme for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance across all sectors in line with the global action plan;
- (6) to establish a network of WHO Collaborating Centres to support surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and quality assessment in each WHO region;
- (7) to develop, in consultation with Member States¹ and relevant partners, options for establishing a global development and stewardship framework to support the development, control, distribution and appropriate use of new antimicrobial medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines and other interventions, while preserving existing antimicrobial medicines, and promoting affordable access to existing and new antimicrobial medicines and diagnostic tools, taking into account the needs of all countries, and in line with the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, and to report to the sixty-ninth World Health Assembly;
- (8) to work with the United Nations Secretary-General and bodies in the United Nations system to identify the best mechanism(s) to realize the investment needed to implement the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, particularly with regard to the needs of developing countries;
- (9) to elaborate, in consultation with the United Nations Secretary-General, options for the conduct of a high-level meeting in 2016, in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, including potential deliverables, and to report to the sixty-ninth World Health Assembly through the 138th Executive Board;
- (10) to provide support and technical assistance to countries, with a specific focus on low- and middle-income countries;
- (11) to set aside adequate resources for the Secretariat, in line with the Programme budget 2016–2017 and the Twelfth General Programme of Work, 2014–2019 for implementing the draft global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

(12) to submit biennial reports on progress achieved in implementing this resolution to the Seventieth, Seventy-second and Seventy-fourth World Health Assemblies, and to produce an interim report to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly.

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