European Union Statement

WHO
72nd World Health Assembly
(20-28 May 2019)

Agenda item 11.8 - Antimicrobial Resistance

Geneva, 23 May 2019

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –
Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Deputy Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova as well as Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States welcome the arrival of the new senior leadership team at WHO, including Dr Hanan Balkhy as ADG for antimicrobial resistance. We look forward to seeing the impact of this change, including tangible results from the WHO’s decision to make AMR a ‘cross-cutting platform’ across the

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
Organisation. In addition, the EU provisionally welcomes the increased budget allocated to AMR within the proposed Programme Budget for 2020-2021 and the move towards outcomes-based budgeting. However, we would call for stronger AMR indicators within the impact framework element of the Budget, including having measurable, specific targets with baselines and clear delivery milestones.

The EU and its Member States welcome the report from the WHO Director General on the follow-up to the High-Level Meetings of the UNGA on health-related issues. In particular, we note the progress that is being made on AMR in relation to national AMR action plans in line with the One Health approach, and surveillance and the work of WHO on developing a competency framework, optimising the use of antimicrobials in human and animal health and infection prevention, including vaccination. We reiterate the importance of the One Health approach and call on all Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Global Action Plan. It goes without saying that AMR needs to be addressed in the context of Universal Health Coverage.

We look forward to the UN Secretary-General’s report on AMR, following the publication of the Interagency Coordination Group (IACG)’s final report in April. To see real progress in the quest to contain AMR, it is now essential that we maintain country-level political commitment on AMR.

We now ask the Tripartite and UN Environment Programme to work with all Member States in an inclusive process to allow Member States to consider the Secretary-General’s report as requested in the AMR Resolution recommended for adoption at this Assembly. The EU and its Member States call for the establishment of a One Health Global Leadership Group on antimicrobial resistance, supported by a Joint Secretariat managed by the Tripartite agencies—
FAO, OIE and WHO—as recommended by the IACG Report, ‘No Time to Wait: Securing the future from drug-resistant infections’.

Finally, the EU still awaits the publication of the final Tripartite Workplan for AMR, and reiterates its previous request to include further detail on the rationale for costings, timings, division of labour between the organisations and a clear demonstration of efficiency savings within the Workplan. We also look forward to learning how the Tripartite agencies will incorporate the IACG recommendations into the Workplan and by so doing, further strengthen its work.

The EU also requests that clear next steps for the finalisation of the Global Development and Stewardship Framework, which was mandated in the 2016 UN AMR Political Declaration, are included in the Secretary-General’s Report.

Thank you.