Executive Board agenda item on
“Antimicrobial Resistance: accelerating national and global responses”

Briefing for Member States

Dr Hanan Balkhy
Assistant Director-General, AMR Division
Regional Director Elect for the Eastern Mediterranean

Dr Kitty van Weezenbeek
Director, AMR Surveillance, Prevention and Control
Background

- Pursuant to document A76/37 (2023) and resolution WHA72.5 (2019), and in preparation for the 2024 high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance;

- The Director-General will present a report on WHO strategic and operational priorities to address drug-resistant bacterial infections, 2025 – 2035.

- The Board will be invited to note the report and provide guidance on next steps.
Rationale (1): UNGA high-level meeting in September 2024, and urgent need for accelerated action on AMR

- Multisectoral Global Action Plan on AMR (GAP-AMR) was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2015 – endorsed by other sectors
- Other sectors (Food and Agriculture Organization, World Organisation for Animal Health, United Nations Environment Program) have all developed a sector-specific strategy or high-level report on AMR
- Human health sector does not have a specific strategy to address drug-resistant bacterial infections (bacterial AMR) in a comprehensive manner – challenge to all modern medicine
- 90% of countries have a multi-sectoral AMR national action plan (NAP); only 25% are implementing effectively, 10% allocated funding through their national budgets to do so; implementation is very fragmented and ad-hoc
- Urgent need to address key drivers of AMR: mis- and over-use of antimicrobials; weak antibiotics (R&D) pipeline + access crisis

Rationale (2): AMR at the 76th World Health Assembly

Director-General’s progress report in May 2023 highlighted 3 key actions

- Support development of UNGA 2024 commitments: targets, financing, access, R&D
- Accelerate AMR national action plan implementation & monitoring: urgent funding & technical support needs
- Develop a strategic & operational framework for drug-resistant bacterial infections in humans
  - Focus: prevention, equitable access, innovation, strategic information, people-centred, aligned with PHC/UHC and HEPR plans; solidarity to address global threat

See A76/37 Director-General’s Progress Reports, pp8-10 [Link]
EB paper: Report on proposed Strategic and operational priorities to address drug-resistant bacterial infections, 2025-2035

**Vision:** Control and reverse the urgent public health and socioeconomic crisis due to drug-resistant infections in humans

**Aim:** Slow the emergence and spread of drug-resistant bacterial infections and preserve effective antibiotics for future generations

**Strategic priority 1:** PREVENTION OF INFECTIONS

**Strategic priority 2:** UNIVERSAL ACCESS to affordable, quality diagnosis and appropriate treatment of infections

**Strategic priority 3:** STRATEGIC INFORMATION AND INNOVATION

**Operational priorities (1):**

THE PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH AND CORE PACKAGE OF COUNTRY-LEVEL INTERVENTIONS

- Core package of 13 interventions for integration in PHC and HEPR

**Operational priorities (2):**

ENABLING ACTIONS TO SUPPORT MEMBER STATES

- Technical assistance + coordination of global or regional action and partnerships
Action for the Executive Board

The Executive Board is invited to note the report [and] to provide guidance on how the Secretariat can best support Member States in:

- Incorporating the strategic and operational priorities to address drug-resistant bacterial infections in AMR national action plans;
- Strengthening financing and governance of AMR national action plans to accelerate and sustain implementation;
- Ensuring the strategic and operational priorities to address drug-resistant infections in the human health sector are reflected in discussions and outcomes of the UNGA high-level meeting on AMR in September 2024.
Next steps

- **Member States consultation** (online)
  - Strategic and operational priorities
    - *The People-Centred Approach and core AMR interventions already underwent a global consultation with MS and other stakeholders + expert advisory input including STAG-AMR*
  - Potential indicators
Thank you;

Questions and answers