
23 May 2026(Draft) A79/43

Fifth report of Committee A

(Draft)

Committee A held its eleventh and twelfth meetings on 23 May 2026 chaired by Dr Timur Sultangaziyev (Kazakhstan).

It was decided to recommend to the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached resolution and decision relating to the following agenda items:

Provide health

12. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board

12.8 Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

One resolution entitled:

- WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

12.9 Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance

One decision

Agenda item 12.8**WHO Global Code of Practice on the
International Recruitment of Health Personnel**

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the consolidated report by the Director-General;¹

Recalling resolution WHA63.16 (2010) on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel (hereinafter “WHO Global Code of Practice”), as well as resolution WHA69.19 (2016) on the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 and other previous Health Assembly resolutions on the health workforce;

Recognizing that all countries need to strengthen the health workforce to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage, respond to health emergencies and meet evolving public expectations;

Reaffirming all the guiding principles and objectives of the WHO Global Code of Practice;

Noting the findings of the five rounds of reporting by Member States and recommendations by the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel (hereinafter “Expert Advisory Group”) resulting from the three reviews of the relevance and effectiveness of the WHO Global Code of Practice;

Underscoring the growing relevance of the WHO Global Code of Practice, which is voluntary in nature, as evidenced by the increasing international mobility of health workers, significant improvement in reporting and sustained engagement by many Member States;

Noting with concern the persistent challenge of uneven progress in the application of the different articles of the WHO Global Code of Practice and the inequities in benefits to health systems of source countries, despite the adoption of measures on health worker education, regulation, incentives and support;

Recognizing that women constitute the majority of the global health and care workforce and underscoring the need to address gender inequality, including the pay gap and the underrepresentation of women in senior leadership and decision-making roles;

Acknowledging the progress achieved since the adoption of the WHO Global Code of Practice in strengthening health workforce data and the provision of migrant health worker rights, and in integrating ethical recruitment principles into national policies;

Concerned with the continuing challenges of inequitable distribution of health personnel compounded by international mobility of health workers through multiple pathways and the growing pressure on health systems resulting from global health emergencies and funding constraints;

Bearing in mind the findings and recommendations of the third review of the WHO Global Code of Practice by the Expert Advisory Group submitted to the Executive Board at its 158th session,² which show that high income destination countries make substantial savings on the costs

¹ Document A79/5.

² See document EB158/17.

of health professional education through international recruitment, while the desired investments in the health systems of developing source countries have not materialized to yield the expected proportional benefits;

Recognizing that destination countries also contribute to source country health systems through bilateral cooperation programmes and skills partnerships, and that this relationship requires mutual investment from all parties;

Recognizing that proactive actions are needed by both source and destination countries (addressing both push and pull factors) to fully harness the potential of the WHO Global Code of Practice, in alignment with its principles;

Noting the Expert Advisory Group's observation that, in the context of the growing interdependence of health systems, strengthened normative guidance, updated provisions and enhanced accountability mechanisms are necessary to ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of the WHO Global Code of Practice in supporting equitable, sustainable and ethical health workforce mobility;

Emphasizing the importance of intersectoral dialogue involving ministries of health, education, labour, and foreign affairs, as well as health workers' organizations and professional associations, to ensure policy coherence in the management of health workforce mobility;

Recognizing that the WHO health workforce programme of work, integrated in the newly configured WHO Academy, along with other settings, is a tool to support Member States in implementing the WHO Global Code of Practice,

1. ADOPTS the amendments to Articles 2, 5 and 10 of the WHO Global Code of Practice contained in the Annex to this resolution;
2. URGES all Member States, as integral to health system strengthening, to take the following actions to strengthen the application of the WHO Global Code of Practice in line with the recommendations on the implementation of the Code by the Expert Advisory Group in accordance with national context and national priorities:
 - (1) to strive, as applicable, for sustainable health workforce policies, planning, investments and practices that reduce the need for international recruitment and, in parallel, support the strengthening of the health systems;
 - (2) to gather and share data on international flows of students and trainees in health professional education during their training;
 - (3) to report data on migration and implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice through WHO national health workforce accounts and through the WHO Global Code of Practice reporting process every three years;
 - (4) to prioritize research on health and care workforce at both the national and international levels in order to generate critical knowledge to manage migration more equitably and efficiently;
 - (5) to encourage developing mutually beneficial partnerships that facilitate healthcare skills exchange and benefit health systems of both source and destination countries;

3. ENCOURAGES destination countries benefiting from international recruitment of health personnel to establish mutually agreed, structured, measurable and transparent co-investment arrangements to deliver proportional benefits in the health systems and workforce development in source countries including, for example, skills partnerships; official overseas development assistance; health, education or other budgets; or other financial mechanisms in line with WHO's guidance on bilateral agreements and health worker mobility;
4. INVITES partners to contribute to strengthening the implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice, specifically calling for:
 - (1) professional associations, regulators, private sector recruiters, employers and civil society to share data and information related to the health workforce and international recruitment practices, respecting each country's sovereign rights over its respective data and information;
 - (2) civil society, regulators and professional associations to strengthen advocacy efforts on ethical recruitment, including among private sector recruiters, employers and education institutions;
 - (3) donors and development agencies, where appropriate, to promote and fund co-investments in the health systems of source countries and mutually beneficial partnerships to support health workforce sustainability, including taking into account the unique circumstances in developing countries, small island developing States, and fragile and conflict-affected settings;
 - (4) development partners, private sector and academic institutions to support developing the core capacity, particularly of developing countries, to monitor the dynamics of health workforce flows and measures of health workforce education, employment and retention to address the drivers of health workforce migration;
 - (5) academic and research institutions to support research on health and care workforce migration to identify barriers and enablers of effective implementation of equitable management of international mobility of health personnel;
5. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to publish an updated version of the WHO Global Code of Practice that includes the additional text contained in the Annex, as agreed by Member States;
 - (2) to give all possible support to Member States, as and when requested, for the implementation of the updated version of the WHO Global Code of Practice;
 - (3) to regularly update the WHO Health Workforce Support and Safeguards List (on a three-yearly basis, with the next update scheduled for 2026), incorporating the flexibility in the application of the List as recommended by the Expert Advisory Group, whereby: (i) Member States on the List may communicate to the Secretariat their willingness to allow active international recruitment; and (ii) Member States not on the List may communicate to the Secretariat their desire for the support and safeguards measures of the List to be extended to them;

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- (4) to develop operational procedures for applying the flexibility under the WHO Health Workforce Support and Safeguards List, including standardized notification and confirmation processes for countries on the List to indicate willingness to allow active recruitment under defined conditions, and for countries not on the List to seek extension of safeguards, and guidance to ensure any recruitment under this flexibility remains aligned with ethical recruitment, mutuality of benefits and health system sustainability in source countries;
 - (5) to support the implementation efforts of the practical guidance on bilateral agreements and mutually beneficial partnerships among Member States, including co-investments and financing mechanisms between source and destination countries, and to update the guidance when necessary, cognizant of the practical situations faced by countries;
 - (6) to provide technical support to Member States, as may be requested, on the application of the WHO Global Code of Practice, including through technical assistance on the development of bilateral agreements with proportional benefits as well as mutually beneficial outcomes for health systems, on operationalizing co-investments and on facilitating policy dialogue among Member States;
 - (7) to engage with source and destination countries, upon request, on international recruitment of health personnel, for the implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice;
 - (8) to integrate reporting on the implementation of this resolution including in relation to both source and destination countries, within the existing reporting mechanism and cycle for the WHO Global Code of Practice, with the next reports on implementation of the Code to be submitted to the Eighty-first World Health Assembly in 2028 and the Eighty-fourth World Health Assembly in 2031, and the next review of the relevance and effectiveness of the Code to the Eighty-fifth World Health Assembly in 2032, respectively;
 - (9) to implement in line with the Fourteenth General Programme of Work, 2025–2028, and the prioritization process, those actions and workstreams dedicated to supporting policy development and implementation, normative and technical cooperation activities, and data and evidence gathering that support the actions outlined in this resolution, in the WHO Global Code of Practice, the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, and related Health Assembly resolutions, respectively.

Annex

Additional text to the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel (2010)

- (1) The provisions of the Code also apply to health personnel who migrate and take up employment positions as care workers in destination countries.
- (2) The recommendations of the Code are universally applicable in all countries, including during pandemics and other health emergencies, environmental disasters and humanitarian, economic or crises situations that require additional or surge support to manage health service delivery.
- (3) Member States which rely on international health personnel, irrespective of the pathway of mobility or type of recruitment, are encouraged to partner with source countries on mutually beneficial strategies and targeted co-investments in specific areas of the health workforce and health systems in the source countries.
- (4) Development banks, donor agencies and financial and development institutions with responsibility for emergency financing should consider modalities to mitigate the risk of health workforce loss during crises.
- (5) Donor agencies, global health initiatives and international financial institutions are encouraged to co-invest in priority areas of health systems identified by countries as requiring support, with investments across the entire health worker life cycle (education, employment and retention) to optimize the management and performance of the health workforce and improve population health.

Agenda item 12.9**Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance**

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, having considered the report on the draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance,³

Decided:

- (1) to adopt the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance 2026–2036, as contained in the Annex;
- (2) to request the Director-General to report on progress achieved in implementation of the updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, as part of consolidated biennial reports on antimicrobial resistance, to the Eightieth and Eighty-second World Health Assemblies in 2027 and 2029, respectively, as well as to the Eighty-fourth World Health Assembly in 2031.

³ Document A79/5 Add.2.

Annex

Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance 2026–2036⁴

I. Introduction

Growing threats of antimicrobial resistance

1. This second edition of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (GAP-AMR) builds on a decade of implementation of the first GAP-AMR adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2015⁵ and welcomed by the governing bodies of the other organizations that alongside WHO, form the Quadripartite Cooperation on One Health, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), referred to as the “Quadripartite organizations”. It draws on lessons learned, emerging evidence and an evolving global landscape, and is intended to guide countries in updating national action plans and support accelerated implementation of the 2024 United Nations General Assembly commitments through a robust One Health approach.⁶
2. AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites evolve and no longer respond to antimicrobial agents such as antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitics, making infections harder or impossible to treat and increasing the risks of disease spread, severe illness, disability and death. AMR also undermines the treatment of noncommunicable diseases and can make surgeries and routine medical procedures riskier. Growing resistance threatens to reverse decades of progress in human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, food production, and environmental sustainability and overall sustainable development.
3. Key drivers of AMR include inappropriate antimicrobial use in all sectors, weak infection prevention and control, and low vaccination coverage. Environmental discharges from pharmaceutical manufacturing, healthcare facilities, agriculture and food production, household and municipal and systems further contribute to the development of resistance. Spillover from agricultural activities and dense human settlements, international travel and trade in food products, live animals and wildlife migration facilitate cross-border transmission. Weak antimicrobial stewardship, substandard and falsified medicines and insufficient regulatory capacity, especially in low- and middle-income countries, exacerbate the problem.

⁴ An earlier version of this draft updated global action plan was considered by the Executive Board at its 158th session in document EB158/18, Annex.

⁵ Resolution WHA68.7.

⁶ [Tripartite and UNEP support OHHLEP’s definition of “One Health”](#) (accessed 13 October 2025).

4. In 2021, bacterial AMR alone directly caused an estimated 1.14 million human deaths and was associated with 4.7 million deaths globally. Antibiotic use in the agrifood sector could increase by 29.5% from the 2019 levels, potentially reaching 142 481 tonnes by 2040. Without urgent action, AMR could reduce global life expectancy by 1.8 years within a decade and cause up to 39 million deaths by 2050, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income countries.
5. The economic impacts are equally alarming. Without robust action, global treatment costs and productivity losses could reach US\$ 412 billion and US\$ 443 billion, respectively, by 2035. Cumulative global gross domestic product (GDP) losses in livestock production could reach US\$ 575 billion by 2050, with nearly US\$ 1 trillion in global welfare losses.
6. Conversely, investment in infection prevention and control, water, sanitation and hygiene, vaccination, and research and development for new antimicrobials, coupled with appropriate antimicrobial use and safe disposal, could avert over 110 million deaths and yield nearly US\$ 1 trillion in economic gains between 2025 and 2050. A 30% reduction in antimicrobial use in livestock within five years could boost global GDP by US\$ 120 billion, with additional benefits from addressing illegal trade in substandard and falsified products, stronger waste management and pollution control.

II. Strategic context of the global antimicrobial resistance response

Key progress since 2015

7. Since the launch of the 2015 GAP-AMR, political momentum has grown following the 2016 and 2024 United Nations General Assembly high-level meetings, successive G7 and G20 commitments and biennial ministerial conferences. Global governance structures have been established, including the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR, the Global Leaders Group on AMR, the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform and the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR. Over 170 countries have developed multisectoral AMR national action plans. Public awareness has been enhanced through the annual World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week. The AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund established in 2019 catalyses country efforts and progress monitoring through the Tracking AMR Country Self-Assessment Survey mechanism.
8. Strategic and operational guidance has been expanded by the Quadripartite organizations and partners, including through the publication of FAO's Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021–2025 and the RENOFARM initiative; UNEP's landmark report *Bracing for Superbugs* (2023); WHO's strategic and operational priorities to address drug-resistant bacterial infections in the human health sector; and WOA's 2016 Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials.
9. Surveillance capacity has strengthened across sectors and new evidence from the Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) has further strengthened understanding of AMR burden and trends. In 2025, 104 countries reported antimicrobial and use data to the WHO Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), over 50 countries use the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) system, and 157 countries contributed to WOA's global database on animal antimicrobial use (ANIMUSE). Between 2020 and 2022, antimicrobial use in animals decreased by 5% globally, while reporting coverage reached 71% of global animal biomass. Furthermore, 71% of countries reported no use of antimicrobials as growth promoters in animal production in 2022. However, environmental monitoring and surveillance of resistant microbes and antimicrobial residues remain limited. The

Quadrupartite organizations are developing the Global Integrated Surveillance System on AMR as a cross-sectoral data repository.

Significant gaps in the response

10. Despite the progress made, major gaps persist. Inadequate financing, weak accountability and limited integration of AMR into national and international development agendas continue to impede progress. Only 10% of countries reported dedicated domestic funding for their multisectoral AMR national action plans in 2024, significantly constraining implementation.

11. The environmental dimensions of AMR remain insufficiently addressed, with persistent evidence and policy gaps despite the recognition of the environment's critical role in resistance development, transmission and spread. Environmental interventions must be urgently integrated into the national AMR response and research promoted to better understand the significance.⁷ Gaps also persist in plant production and protection, fungicide use, and antifungal resistance.

12. Socioeconomic and behavioural factors continue to risk driving AMR. These include cross-sectoral system fragilities exposed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; inadequate infection prevention and control and water, sanitation and hygiene; low immunization coverage; humanitarian crises and population displacement; inadequate animal husbandry practices; and poor conditions for biosecurity.

13. The global pipeline for new antimicrobials and diagnostics remains stagnant owing to underinvestment and limited incentives for research and development, compounded by inequitable access to quality-assured products and weak antimicrobial stewardship across sectors.

14. Opportunities offered by technological advances, including artificial intelligence, genetic sequencing and digital tools, remain underutilized for surveillance, stewardship and evidence-based decision-making.

15. Countries require stronger capacity, financing and coordination to prioritize, cost, implement and monitor multisectoral AMR national action plans. Enhanced regional and global collaboration and technical assistance are essential for an effective One Health approach to AMR.

Strategic focus for the future

16. This GAP-AMR strategically focuses on accelerating actions to deliver on the 2024 United Nations General Assembly political declaration commitments through effective multisectoral governance, addressing environmental dimensions, and equitable access to antimicrobials, vaccines and diagnostic tools. It promotes a prevention-first approach, emphasizing infection prevention and control, water, sanitation and hygiene, biosecurity, adequate husbandry practices, vaccination, alternatives to antimicrobials and pollution prevention, alongside enhanced surveillance, antimicrobial stewardship, research and innovation, behavioural change and sustainable financing.

17. The plan provides adaptive guidance enabling countries to accelerate action through a whole-of-society and One Health approach, while responding to emerging threats based on national contexts and priorities. The GAP-AMR is complemented by separate operational guidance and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

⁷ [UNEP/EA.7/Res.11](#) – Resolution on environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance.

Development and consultation process

18. The Quadripartite organizations led an extensive consultative process beginning at the Fourth Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance in November 2024, followed by a global online survey and an iterative drafting process. Open consultations were held with a broad range of stakeholders through the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform and with Member States through the respective Quadripartite mechanisms. The finalized text will be submitted for consideration by the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly and by the governing bodies of the Quadripartite organizations in 2026 and 2027.

III. Goal and theory of change

Goal

19. The updated GAP-AMR aims to preserve the ability to treat human, animal and plant diseases by ensuring the equitable accessibility of safe and effective antimicrobials for current and future generations, while reducing the incidence of infections through a holistic and One Health approach and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Theory of change

20. The plan aims to: achieve a 10% reduction in bacterial AMR-associated human deaths; reduce global antimicrobial use in agrifood systems; and minimize environmental pollution of AMR microbes and antimicrobial residues by 2030 in line with the 2024 United Nations General Assembly AMR political declaration commitments.

21. The theory of change reflects the key outcomes relating to the effective and coordinated implementation of those critical interventions and the impact pathway from inputs to impact, taking into account national contexts.

IV. Strategic objectives

22. To achieve the plan's goal, six interconnected strategic objectives build on the 2015 GAP-AMR, providing a framework for countries, the Quadripartite organizations, implementation partners, civil society and the private sector to align and accelerate implementation of context-appropriate AMR national action plans.

Strategic objective 1: Strengthen awareness and promote appropriate social and behavioural change to reduce antimicrobial resistance risks across all sectors

23. **Behavioural change is essential for reducing AMR risks**, moving beyond awareness to action that drives lasting change. National AMR awareness and behavioural change strategies should be inclusive, evidence-based, context appropriate and locally tested, addressing socioeconomic and structural barriers with a focus on promoting appropriate use and reduce the need for antimicrobials across sectors. Stronger messaging is required to tackle the environmental drivers of AMR and promote waste and wastewater management and pollution prevention and control across all sectors. Digital tools and data-driven approaches could be leveraged to generate insights, design targeted and locally translated messages and strengthen the monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

24. **All stakeholders⁸ should be empowered** with the knowledge necessary to foster behavioural change for AMR prevention and control across sectors. Messaging should be developed with target groups, culturally relevant and delivered through appropriate platforms. It should address at-risk populations and build trust through consistent, evidence-based information. Inclusive and actionable communication should be tailored to community contexts to foster ownership of AMR responses while ensuring equity and reach.

25. **Education and training** at all levels should integrate competency-based, context-sensitive AMR content into school and university curricula and professional training. Pre- and in-service education for professionals⁹ should address the multidimensional drivers of AMR and antimicrobial stewardship. These programmes should be complemented by participatory communication, peer-to-peer learning and digital campaigns. All training activities and campaigns should explicitly promote a One Health approach to reinforce multisectoral and sector-specific actions and cultivate long-term cultural and professional shifts that sustain effective prevention and antimicrobial stewardship practices.

26. **Systematic monitoring of awareness and behavioural changes** using routine, survey or behavioural and operational research data across sectors should be incorporated into AMR national action plans across sectors. Appropriate indicators capturing outcomes from the various behavioural change interventions and data disaggregated by relevant demographic factors should inform communication and awareness strategies and be used to drive accountability and continuous refinement for national, regional and global AMR policy processes.

Strategic objective 2: Strengthen surveillance systems and laboratory networks to inform effective, evidence-driven antimicrobial resistance policies and actions across all sectors

27. **AMR surveillance** across sectors should be established and/or strengthened, focused on bacterial resistance and expanded to include fungal, parasitic and viral resistance, where necessary, and antimicrobial residues. Trends in AMR and antimicrobial use should be consistently tracked and complemented by behavioural and socioeconomic data to enhance understanding of AMR drivers. Communities, academic institutions, civil society and the private sector should be meaningfully engaged in surveillance data sharing for accountability and effective use in policy-making.

28. **Quality-assured laboratory networks** at the national and/or regional levels, supported by reference laboratories and global diagnostic initiatives, should underpin AMR surveillance across sectors. Reliable supply chains for diagnostic tests, laboratory equipment and reagents; harmonization of and adherence to evidence-based standards for pathogen identification; antimicrobial susceptibility testing; and external quality assurance are critical to ensuring the capture of high-quality, consistent and comparable data within and across sectors and countries and to supporting policy development.

⁸ Including policy-makers, parliamentarians, regulators, customs authorities, manufacturers, human and animal health professionals, farmers, agrifood workers, paraveterinarians, community animal health workers, aquatic animal health professionals, environmental professionals and water, sanitation and hygiene practitioners, civil society, media, industry and the public.

⁹ Including human and animal healthcare professionals, agrifood and plant workers, and environmental and water, sanitation and hygiene professionals or practitioners.

29. **National AMR surveillance systems** should align with international standards to ensure systematic and consistent collection and analysis of quality-assured data that inform One Health policies, legislation and investments. Surveillance should cover humans, food-producing animals, food and the environment and, depending on country context and capacity, may also include informal production systems, companion animals and wildlife. Countries should routinely report national data to GLASS, InFARM and ANIMUSE. Environmental surveillance of antimicrobial resistance microbes and antimicrobial residues should be established and supported by regulations, standardized protocols and stewardship practices. Integrated surveillance based on common pathogens and commensal bacteria relevant to the national context with indicators spanning the One Health spectrum should be implemented, while the Global Integrated Surveillance System on AMR should serve as a repository for cross-sectoral data to support coordinated global action.

30. **National antimicrobial use surveillance systems** should systematically collect relevant harmonized data across sectors and at all levels of care. In human health, data should be disaggregated by indication, sex, age and other social determinants, applying the WHO Access, Watch, Reserve (AWaRe) classification of antibiotics. For agrifood and animal health, data should be stratified by species, production stage and system type, where possible, guided by FAO methodologies, Codex Alimentarius standards and WOA's international standards, including the WOA list of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance and forthcoming WOA equivalent of the AWaRe classification.

31. **AMR and antimicrobial use data** should be regularly analysed and published in national surveillance reports; shared within and across sectors and levels of care; and used to equitably strengthen infection prevention and control, immunization, diagnostic testing, treatment guidelines, antimicrobial stewardship, procurement, research and development, and environmental interventions. Data should also inform national action plan evaluations, risk assessments and early warning systems and detection and response to emerging AMR public health threats, including unusual, rare phenotypes and resistance genotypes that are difficult to identify in routine testing, with tailored support being provided to low- and middle-income countries in those cases. Environmental AMR data should be integrated into national monitoring to detect hotspots, guide pollution prevention and control and enhance preparedness and response to future emergencies through a coordinated One Health approach.

32. **Advances in digital technologies**, including artificial intelligence, next-generation sequencing and biosensors, could be leveraged to enhance AMR and antimicrobial use surveillance through alignment with national and international standards and digitization strategies to improve real-time data analysis, trend monitoring, hotspot detection and early identification of emerging threats and to enable data sharing across sectors and mutual accountability.

Strategic objective 3: Intensify infection prevention across all sectors to reduce the burden of infectious diseases and the need for antimicrobials

33. **Preventing infections** is central to minimizing the spread of resistant pathogens, thereby decreasing the need for antimicrobials, lowering morbidity and mortality and reducing the discharges into the environment. AMR national action plans should promote evidence-based, context-specific interventions across sectors. Focus should be on healthcare and veterinary facilities, good animal husbandry practices, biosecurity on farms, households, informal settlements, climate-vulnerable communities, and conflict and disaster-affected settings to prevent bi-directional spread of zoonotic diseases and AMR between humans and animals.

34. **In human health**, the WHO infection prevention and control core components should be instituted in all healthcare settings, from primary to tertiary and including long-term care. Effective infection prevention requires universal access to safe water; sanitation and hygiene including hand and personal hygiene; quality oral healthcare; healthcare-acquired infections and sepsis prevention and management; reliable waste management in healthcare facilities and the community; and trained staff and sustained resources, including in fragile and resource-limited settings. National immunization programmes should be strengthened to meet vaccination targets to reduce the burden of preventable infections and antimicrobial use and, consequently, AMR. National policies should align with local context and relevant WHO infection prevention and control, water, sanitation and hygiene, and immunization guidance.

35. **In animal health, plant and agrifood systems**, preventing infections and AMR requires an integrated approach that considers animal welfare, health and production (including aquaculture), plant health, biodiversity, food safety, food security, sustainable management of land, soil, water and marine resources and safe manure and fertilizer practices. Priority actions should include strengthening prerequisites for sustainable agrifood systems, biosecurity, good husbandry practices, water management, stewardship, vaccination, and alternatives based on respective country contexts, guided by FAO's RENOFARM and the Farm 5Gs framework. Soil health maintenance, biodiversity conservation, improved nutrition and integrated pest management are also essential to reducing inappropriate antimicrobial use, particularly in crop production systems. Additionally, rapid detection and infection containment through quarantine, disinfection and appropriate treatment, and outbreak management supported by quality veterinary services, improved feed and nutrition and robust vaccination programmes, guidance from WOA's List of Priority Diseases for which vaccines could help reduce antimicrobial use in animals and WOA's vaccine banks, should be considered.

36. **Environmental dimensions** should be explicitly integrated throughout the antimicrobial lifecycle, applying safeguards from production to safe disposal. Key priorities include: strengthening waste and wastewater management in pharmaceutical manufacturing, healthcare facilities and household/municipal systems; promoting green and sustainable chemicals, environmentally responsible manufacturing, sustainable procurement, transparency, eco-labelling; ensuring safe and cost-effective treatment and reuse of wastewater including for irrigation; and addressing intellectual property considerations. Reducing antimicrobial-resistant microbes and residues in waste and wastewater, along with resource recovery, should be prioritized to minimize environmental pollution impacts and support sustainable and cost-efficient practices.

Strategic objective 4: Ensure equitable access, appropriate use and safe disposal of antimicrobials, diagnostics and other health products across sectors

37. AMR national action plans should **promote equitable, affordable and sustainable access** to quality-assured antimicrobials, diagnostics and vaccines through systems strengthening across sectors. That should include reinforcing supply chains, forecasting and resilience measures towards universal health coverage and coverage in the agrifood systems, with particular attention to smallholder farmers, conflict-affected settings, community case management and stakeholder alignment to promote responsible antimicrobial use and safe disposal of unused antimicrobials. A comprehensive evidence-based approach should include formulary optimization, market intelligence, strategic sourcing, pooled procurement, expanded manufacturing, the promotion of knowledge sharing and the transfer of AMR-related technologies, respecting international and national rules in line therewith.

38. **Equitable access** should be complemented by **effective antimicrobial stewardship** promoting appropriate use and safe disposal across all sectors and levels of care, including primary care and informal settings. In human health, antimicrobial stewardship policies and up-to-date, evidence-based national treatment guidelines, including on clinical management, should be guided by local data and antimicrobial stewardship principles and by the AWaRe classification and antibiotic book, while national essential medicine lists should align with the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines. In the animal and plant health and agrifood sectors, responsible use should be guided by FAO Integrated Pest Management and International Plant Protection Convention guidance, Codex Alimentarius standards and FAO guidance on vaccine quality control and field implementation and WOAHA international standards, guidance on veterinary vaccines and antimicrobial resistance for aquatic and terrestrial animals, and essential veterinary medicines lists for terrestrial and aquatic, food-producing and companion animals.¹⁰ Evidence from antimicrobial use surveillance alongside behavioural insights could be used to inform prescribing and dispensing practices. Workforce capacity should be strengthened through education and training. Veterinary medicines and agricultural production practices should be integrated into national waste management systems to address overlooked waste streams.

39. **Expanding access to quality diagnostics and laboratory services**, coupled with diagnostic stewardship, is critical for ensuring appropriate prescribing and antimicrobial use, detecting resistant strains early, generating microbiology data for AMR surveillance and enabling timely outbreak response. Appropriate diagnosis should guide prescribing and provide evidence for research and development of new antimicrobials, vaccines and other interventions. Diagnostic services should be mainstreamed into broader national laboratory services to ensure adequate laboratory capacity and equitable access, and should be aligned with the WHO AMR Diagnostic Initiative, the FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems, the WOAHA Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway and relevant environmental laboratory guidance.

40. **National regulatory frameworks** should be reviewed and strengthened across sectors to cover the full antimicrobial life cycle from development and manufacturing to distribution, use and disposal, using the Quadripartite One Health legislative assessment tool for AMR. Policies should streamline product registration, harmonize regional approval pathways, phase out the use of antimicrobials for growth promotion starting with those categorized by WHO as medically important, and promote prudent and responsible prophylactic use consistent with Codex Alimentarius standards, FAO guidelines on integrated pest management and relevant WOAHA international standards. Over-the-counter, unregulated online sales and substandard or falsified medical and veterinary medicinal products should be curtailed, while enabling the safe disposal of unused antimicrobials and waste. Coordination between human, veterinary and environmental regulatory authorities is crucial for accountability and sustainable stewardship.

41. **Safe disposal of unused antimicrobials** through strengthened waste prevention measures, take-back schemes of human and veterinary medicines and public awareness should be incorporated into national regulatory frameworks and antimicrobial stewardship policies.¹¹ Regulations (such as extended producer responsibility) should address the disposal of unused

¹⁰ Namely Codex Alimentarius standards including Integrated Pest Management and International Plant Protection Convention guidance, WOAHA Standards, Guidelines and Resolutions on veterinary vaccines and Antimicrobial Resistance and the use of antimicrobial agents, the forthcoming WOAHA equivalent of the WHO AWaRe list, and essential veterinary medicines lists for food-producing and companion animals from Brooke, the World Veterinary Association (WVA), and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA).

¹¹ [United Nations Environment Programme. Safe disposal of unused medicines — A One Health approach for national systems](#). Nairobi: United Nations Environment Programme; 2026 (accessed 13 May 2026).

antimicrobials from healthcare facilities, agricultural production and household/municipal systems as a means of reducing pollution and minimizing environmental pathways for resistance and promoting sustainable antimicrobial use while safeguarding ecosystems.

Strategic objective 5: Accelerate antimicrobial resistance research and innovation across all sectors

42. **Multidisciplinary AMR research** should encompass basic science, clinical and epidemiological operational and implementation domains and address One Health and sector-specific priorities agendas. Consideration should be given to different contexts to ensure equity-driven, evidence-informed policies that have a measurable impact. Cross-sectoral research guided by the Quadripartite One Health Priority Research Agenda for AMR should address knowledge gaps regarding AMR drivers, vulnerabilities, behavioural change, governance and cost-effective and scalable interventions.

43. **Scale-up of research and development and innovation** is essential to reduce the need for antimicrobials and ensure equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured human and animal health products, including vaccines, novel antimicrobials, alternatives to antimicrobials, non-traditional agents, point-of-care diagnostics, environmental solutions and innovations. It should also include, biosecurity, nutrition and animal welfare for disease prevention and control in animals, including the use of agroecological approaches, and minimize discharges into the environment. Research and development priorities in human and animal health should be guided by WHO bacterial and fungal priority pathogen and the WOAHP priority diseases lists, research and development targets and target product profiles, and WHO, FAO and WOAHP guidance on vaccines to reduce antimicrobial use in humans and animals. Partnerships and mechanisms, such as the SECURE initiative on expanding sustainable access to antibiotics, should support low- and middle-income countries. To determine the environment's significance and contribution to AMR and the impacts of AMR on the environment as well as to address AMR pollution, strengthen resilience and reduce AMR risks, environmental research and development should focus on: sustainable chemicals and procurement practices; waste and wastewater management; antimicrobial-resistant microbes and antimicrobial residue surveillance; and environmental drivers.

44. **Sustainable, context-appropriate financing models** should underpin AMR research and development and research and innovation investments across sectors. These models should be linked to access and stewardship provisions as well as to environmental sustainability and be supported by development partners and public-private partnerships. Financing should adopt a One Health, systems-based approach focusing on low- and middle-income countries, including blended finance, microfinance, incentive schemes and community-led solutions. Research and development may be incentivized through a mix of "push" mechanisms that lower the costs and risks of new antimicrobial or product development, and "pull" incentives that facilitate market entry, promote equitable access, and delink revenues from sales volumes, thereby encouraging innovation while safeguarding the appropriate use and disposal of antimicrobials. Global and regional mechanisms should complement national efforts to ensure coordinated and sustainable support for AMR-related research and development.

45. **Strengthening research capacity and innovation uptake** is essential to ensure that research outcomes extend beyond product development to inform policies and operational solutions. Development partners and public-private partnerships should assist national authorities in ensuring the rapid uptake of innovations, promote knowledge sharing and the transfer of AMR-related technologies, respecting international and national rules in line therewith.

Strategic objective 6: Strengthen multisectoral governance, sustainable financing and accountability for a coordinated antimicrobial resistance response across all sectors and at all levels

46. **Inclusive AMR governance and coordination mechanisms** should be established at the national and, where appropriate, subnational levels, underpinned by strong mandates and authority to guide national action plan development, implementation and monitoring. These mechanisms should be anchored at an appropriately high political level, such as at head of State or senior ministerial level, with balanced representation of all sectors along with relevant stakeholders. They should have adequate financial support, with secretariat support and technical working groups.

47. **Global AMR governance structures** should actively support national efforts through high-level advocacy, such as the Global Leaders Group on AMR; stakeholder engagement and sharing of lessons learned through the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform and the biennial high-level ministerial conference on AMR; and dissemination of scientific guidance by the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR to support interventions and implementation across sectors.

48. **Sustainable multisectoral national action plan implementation** requires AMR interventions to be embedded into national development agendas and efforts relating to universal health coverage and primary healthcare; agriculture, animal and plant health and food security strategies; preparedness and response agreements including the International Health Regulations (2005); environment pollution, climate change, biodiversity, waste, wastewater and chemical management; and environmental adaptation plans initiatives. Accountability should be reinforced through transparent and regular national and global reporting mechanisms, such as the Tracking AMR Country Self-Assessment Survey, and strengthened by independent monitoring and joint external evaluation to ensure continuous learning and improvement and alignment of AMR with broader national and global priorities.

49. **Adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for AMR national action plans within and across sectors** is essential to ensure an effective One Health response to AMR. Multisectoral AMR national action plans should be informed by evidence-based, high-impact and cost-effective interventions costed and linked to strong accountability frameworks. While countries should increase domestic financing, development partners¹² should assist country efforts to unlock international financing, including through mechanisms such as the Pandemic Fund, the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, public–private partnerships, blended financing, the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund and regional and global multilateral development financial institutions.

V. Implementation framework

50. The implementation framework defines the actions of Member States, the Quadripartite organizations and other stakeholders to translate the GAP-AMR into measurable results. It provides a framework for Member States to develop, update, cost, implement and monitor

¹² Including multilateral development banks, private investors, philanthropies, the Global Leaders Group, the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform and the Quadripartite organizations.

multisectoral AMR national action plans aligned with the updated GAP-AMR, including clearly defined roles, targets, indicators and reporting.

The approach

51. Considering countries' diverse contexts, AMR burdens and levels of system maturity, a phased approach to country implementation is recommended, defining short-term priorities by 2030, medium- and longer-term priorities beyond 2030, and progressively advancing relevant interventions, capacity development, innovations and systems transformation.

52. The Quadripartite organizations, along with international and national partners, will provide tailored technical support to countries, coordinate global and regional efforts, foster partnerships and strengthen national systems to accelerate progress towards the long-term goals of the global AMR response.

Roles and responsibilities

53. A multisectoral implementation framework has been developed that clearly defines roles and shared responsibilities across all actors for each of the six strategic objectives. Member States, the Quadripartite organizations, regional and subregional entities, international partners, civil society, academic institutions, community-based stakeholders and the private sector should maximize synergies, coherence and coordination while avoiding duplication and ensure accountability at all levels. These roles support joint planning, resource mobilization and monitoring of progress towards the common goal of reducing the burden of AMR through sustained, multisectoral and equitable action, and should be adapted to national and local contexts, as appropriate.

VI. Monitoring and evaluation framework

54. Monitoring and evaluation are essential for ensuring accountability, tracking progress and driving the effective implementation of AMR response at all levels. The monitoring and evaluation framework will be anchored in the theory of change and will draw on established global indicators and Member States' commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2024 political declaration and other multilateral frameworks.

55. Member States are encouraged to establish, update and implement robust multisectoral monitoring and evaluation frameworks aligned to national action plans with specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound indicators, supported by adequate resources and technical capacities. These frameworks should enable regular and consistent progress monitoring, identification of gaps and corrective actions.

56. The Quadripartite organizations should provide guidance and support to countries to promote coherence with global standards and indicators, while allowing flexibility for country-specific approaches that reflect local realities and data systems.