Barbados supports the global thrust to reduce antimicrobial resistance. A National Action Plan to combat Antimicrobial Resistance incorporating the objectives of the global plan was completed in early 2017. Thisis being overseen by a multi-sectoral Steering Committee and implemented in a step-wise fashion with technical support from the Pan American Health Organization. Improvement of infection prevention and control (IPC) in health facilities was first addressed with the performance of health facility audits in 2018 and limited outbreaks of Covid-19 in a few health facilities have provided opportunities to enhance the implementation of a robust infection prevention and control measures. Although a functioning antibiotic stewardship programme exists at the only public tertiary healthcare institution, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, an assessment of community antibiotic use and community health facility antibiotic stewardship continues to receive priority.

Barbados is honored to serve until 2023, as one of the founding co-chairs of the One Health Global Leaders Group to advocate for the changes in systems of food production, vaccine and antimicrobial development. Our Prime Minister the Hon Mia Amor Mottley has urged that AMR control strategies be incorporated in our national disaster response plans

We note the Director General's report and commit to the full implementation of our national plan to combat AMR and pledge our support to the process of reform of the Codex Code of practice to minimize foodborne antimicrobial resistance.