Portugal

World Health Organization

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13.1. Global action on patient safety / 13.5. Antimicrobial resistance /

13.8. Immunization Agenda 2030

Chair,

Excellences,

I have the honour to address the 74th World Health Assembly on behalf of Portugal. We are in alignment with the previous statement made by the European Union.

Portugal recognizes that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a current public health threat, ready to grow even more. This has been proven by the COVID-19 context, in which we detected an increased misuse of antimicrobials and the standstill of many National antimicrobial resistance Action Plans.

We note worryingly the estimated increase in the number of new and more resistant organisms - especially on TB, malaria, and HIV – and the estimation of drug-resistant diseases pressing 24 million people into extreme poverty by 2030 and 10 million deaths each year by 2050.

Portugal urges Member States to take the opportunity afforded by this pandemic (by underscoring the worldwide impact of infectious diseases, especially emerging ones) to incorporate new vocabulary, such as infection prevention and control, into people's day-to-day life. We must collectively take note of the lessons learned and recommendations to adapt current surveillance systems to truly global networks, fit for sharing knowledge and react to threats more efficiently.

Global surveillance and rapid testing are essential for detecting disease outbreaks early and monitoring their developments, as well as identifying mutations early and monitoring their spread.

Chair,

AMR is often the consequence of the human/animal/environment interconnection, the so-called “epidemiological Triade”, aligned with the misuse of medicines. Portugal advocates for the One Health approach to be widespread, in order to minimize the emergence and spread of AMR.

To this end, we congratulate WHO for their work on AMR and for underscoring the importance of multisector commitment to this fight, alongside the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Portugal urges worldwide collaboration on building countries capacity for surveillance, prevention, and control of this public health threat.

Thank you.

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