FAO Statement No.2 - SEVENTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Item 11.8 Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global response

27 May – 1 June 2024

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is a pleasure to address this session on AMR.

2. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations welcomes the WHO Strategic and operational priorities to address drug-resistant bacterial infections in the human health sector, 2025-2035 and would like to take this opportunity to strongly convey the necessity of addressing the global health threat posed by antimicrobial resistance, through the Quadripartite collaboration.

3. Antimicrobial resistance pandemic poses a serious global concern, but it cannot be addressed within one specific sector; we must collaborate across the One Health spectrum and engage the whole of society.

4. The Quadripartite and its Joint Secretariat on AMR responds to the multi-sectoral actions outlined in the 2015 Global Action Plan on AMR and the 2016 UN General Assembly (UNGA) political declaration on AMR, coordinating the collaboration with Members, civil society and the private sector and through mechanisms such as the AMR Multi Partner Trust Fund, the Global Leaders Group and the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform. FAO encourages particularly key actors and partners from the human health sector to join the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Platform as they are substantially underrepresented.

5. 2024 will be a historic year for the future of AMR with the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on AMR and the 4th Ministerial Conference on AMR, which represents a vital opportunity to draw attention to the urgent need for increased political commitment to accelerate national, regional and global responses to AMR pandemic.

6. In April this year, FAO launched RENOFARM, a ten-year initiative to Reduce the Need for Antimicrobials on Farms for Sustainable Agrifood Systems Transformation, a new action-oriented, country-focused initiative that promotes the 5 Gs at the farm level: Good Health Services, Good Production Practices, Good Alternatives, Good Connections, and Good Incentives. FAO’s goal is to equip in 10 years over 100 countries with the tools and knowledge that will advance sustainable livestock production systems that prioritize animal health and welfare, mitigate environmental impact, and enhance food security and nutrition.

1 Theme: All for Health, Health for All
7. As FAO, we are strongly committed to fostering international cooperation. We must strengthen sector-specific surveillance and integration of Quadripartite AMR and Antimicrobial Use data systems to inform national policies and interventions.

8. Sustained investment is essential for implementing national action plans on AMR, bolstering technical capabilities, and advancing research on antimicrobials, vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments. As a globally recognized funding mechanism, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, supported and implemented through Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR, as well as the Pandemic Fund and other investments, play a crucial role in mobilizing internal and external financial resources.

9. Together with partners, we can close the major gaps in our health and agrifood systems with sufficient financing, strong policies and regulations, political will and reinforced coordination across the One Health spectrum.

10. Thank you.