

Statement of I.R. Iran on:
Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses

We thank the Secretariat for preparing this document. The I.R. Iran has had a program in place to control antimicrobial resistance since 2015. The second comprehensive program of "Infections and AMR Prevention and Control ", with a One Health approach, has been drafted and will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval and allocation of fund. The PHC-integrated EPI program, has served the control and prevention of AMR through addressing a variety of vaccine-preventable diseases countrywide. However, to increase access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene in marginalized urban areas, where a considerable proportion of the population is composed of refugees, there is a need for further support by those UN agencies responsible for developmental and refugee/migrant programs such as UNHCR and IOM.

In line with WHO-recommended priority, i.e. strategic information, science and innovation, rapid and quality diagnostic tests provide a better opportunity for clinical governance through prescribing appropriate antibiotics. Although, these methods are not easily available and affordable to determine drug resistance for all pathogens. Thus, further investment is necessary in this strategic area worldwide. Furthermore, to ensure the sustainability of AMR program, countries need to receive support in naturalizing the required technologies.

The monitoring and evaluation of AMR program is a valuable guide. However, in order to speed up fund raising, capacity building, and strengthening AMR program as well as its M&E framework, we believe firmly that the secretariat should refrain considering the AMR program in silo but it should try its best to consolidate the program within the context of all-hazard programs, especially IHR MEF.

One of the main challenges of implementing the program at country level is getting the maximum collaboration of other relevant ministries and institutions. The WHO initiative in establishment of quadripartite partnership with stakeholder UN organizations, namely, OIE, FAO, UNEP, is commendable especially if those could play a more active role in advocating the support of their national counterparts to the MOHs technically, logistically and financially.

Madam/Mr. chairperson, thank you for this opportunity.
Antimicrobial Resistance Committee, Iranian CDC

I.R. Iran