



SAMOA INTERVENTION ON AGENDA ITEM 5 **“ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE”** **Accelerating National and Global Response**

Mr Chairman,
Honorable Ministers,
Excellences,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Samoa wishes to commend WHO for its commitment and leadership in accelerating national and global responses to Antimicrobial Resistance.

Antimicrobial resistance is now a serious challenge in Pacific Island Countries, including Samoa. Over the past few years, our hospitals have been increasingly reporting multidrug-resistant organisms that are sometimes beyond our capacity to treat.

We are facing many constraints, including the availability of medicines, laboratory capacity, trained human resources

AMR is making the health systems even more vulnerable. The Small Island States like us will not be able to handle the magnitude and impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), especially in the context of climate change;

In Samoa and, I believe, in other Small Island States, it is especially important to address AMR in terms of its social and economic dimension, parallel to the clinical, scientific, and operational challenges. We need all of our sectors to work together to combat AMR.

Frequent infectious disease outbreaks have been recently reported in some of our neighbouring countries, with some critical pathogens showing multi-drug resistance.

Hence, AMR is high on the agenda of PICs and was heavily discussed at the recent sub-regional meetings.

Samoa would like to thank the WHO for developing the global action plan on AMR in 2015 and the Western Pacific Regional Action Framework for AMR, which most PICs have adopted according to their country context.

Samoa officially launched its National Action Plan for AMR last year during its 15th Annual Health Sector Forum.

To control the rational use of antimicrobials, we already updated the essential medicine list in line with WHO standards

World Antibiotic Awareness Week campaigns are an important entry point for raising the political agenda of AMR in Small Island States.

Samoa needs ongoing technical and financial support on AMR, particularly for surveillance, infection prevention and control, an antimicrobial stewardship program, and supply chain management of antimicrobials.

Thank you.