



**Republic of the Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul**

SEVENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER, GENEVA 2026

Agenda Item: 12.9	Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance
Documents	Documents A79/5 and EB158/2025/REC/1, decision EB158(6)
Requested action	Take note of the report
Time limit	2 mn
Commission	B

Chairperson, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

The Gambia aligns itself with the statement on the updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance delivered by Rwanda on behalf of the African Group.

The Gambia would like to express our warmest appreciation for the WHO support in tackling the threat of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in the region.

The Gambia welcomes the updated Global action plan (GAP) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). I reaffirm The Gambia's unwavering commitment to the fight against AMR. The coming of this updated Global Action Plan is timely as we prepare to transition from our first National Action Plan (NAP), which expires in 2027, to a more robust, evidence-driven second phase.

While the Global Plan emphasizes a 'One Health' approach, The Gambia has already institutionalized this through our Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee. We recognize that AMR does not respect the boundaries between human health, animal health, and the environment.

The new GAP calls for expanded antimicrobial stewardship. The Gambia has already operationalized Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Programs at eight key hospitals ranging from District facilities to the premier teaching hospital. With quarterly monitoring already in place, we are building a culture of responsible prescription that mirrors global best practices.

Furthermore, efforts to collect and submit data into GLASS ensure that Gambian evidence informs not just national awareness programs, but the global response.

Despite these significant milestones The Gambia still faces challenges in sustainable financing, laboratory capacity, and community-level awareness.

As we begin the process of updating the AMR National Action Plan (NAP) for the 2028–2033 period, the Second Global Plan provides the framework needed to address these challenges using innovative strategies such as digital surveillance and genomic tracking.

In conclusion, by aligning The Gambia’s next National Action Plan with the updated Global Plan, we will ensure that every Gambian from Banjul to Basse is protected from the threat of drug-resistant infections.

The Gambia takes note of the report and calls members states to adopt EB158/2025/REC/1 and decision EB158(6)

Thank you.