



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) Campaign for Africa

Theme: 'Preventing antimicrobial resistance together in Africa'.

Monday, 21 November 2022

Panel Discussion for the High-Level Event

The theme of the 2022 WAAW campaign for Africa implies that for the efforts towards addressing AMR to succeed, the quadripartite partners need to facilitate/ catalyze wide engagement by different actors at the regional, sub-regional and national level. Some of the key aspects of this engagement relate to creating a conducive/ enabling environment through appropriate policies and measures, financing the implementation of these policies and measures, and catalyzing development partners and stakeholders to make their contribution to the fight against AMR. This panel discussion seeks to explore highlights of what could be done to this end. Each panel member will be expected to respond to each of the 3 questions below and the panelists have a maximum of 3 minutes each for every question. The response should be oral and not in the form of a presentation/ speech/ written remarks. The moderator may ask a follow-up question to clarify certain points. Responses to follow-up questions should be limited to 1 minute.

Panel Members:

1. Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director General & Regional Representative for Africa, FAO
2. Dr. Ahmed Ogwell Oum, Ag Director, Africa CDC
3. Mr. AbdulHakim Elwaer Assistant Director- General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa, FAO
4. Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, Regional Director for Africa, WHO
5. Mr. Frank Turyatunga, Director and Regional Representative for Africa, UNEP
6. Dr. Nick Nwankpa, Ag Director AU-IBAR

As Introduction

Antimicrobial resistance is a matter of concern for Africa because of the public health threat on African citizens and the negative socio-economic impact on wellbeing and livelihoods. AU-IBAR Considers animal health as a critical aspect of AU's continental development goal of ensuring public health, and enhancing the competitiveness of its animal commodities for accelerated economic growth. As a continental leader in animal resources development, AU-IBAR is working with other AU institutions and partners to advocate for greater political

commitment, policies, laws, good governance, and capacity building to enable long-term control of AMR

7. Dr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari, Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, WHO

Moderator: UNEP

Questions:

1. AMR requires a One Health approach that brings together human, animal, plant and ecosystems health.

❖ What are some of the policy measures that countries should take to effectively address AMR using the One Health approach?

- A comprehensive national policies and plan should be developed and implemented involving policy makers, partners and stakeholders all-inclusive as AMR is of public concern therefore call to everyone to act now to avert the threat of AMR in African member states and worldwide

- Strengthen national surveillance efforts in both human and animal settings to combat resistance. Advance development and use of rapid and innovative diagnostic tests for identification and characterization of resistant pathogens

❖ How is your institution promoting or advocating for the One Health approach to address AMR?

- AU-IBAR has been in the forefront in supporting RECs and MSs in combating and preventing AMR. AMR continental framework has been developed together with Africa-CDC, taskforce established and African common position of AMR.

- In addition some of the necessary actions include improvements in antimicrobial use, better regulation and policy, as well as improved surveillance, stewardship, infection control, sanitation, animal husbandry both terrestrial and aquaculture, and finding alternatives to antimicrobials in MSS

2. The bottom line for any regional and national actions to be successful, is availability of adequate and predictable funding.



- ❖ What are some of the innovative approaches you would recommend in ensuring adequate and predictable funding for AMR work in Africa?

- MSs should allocate adequate funding to address AMR issues as AMR has become a global concern with high impact in public, animal and environment health increasing health bill and reducing workforce to support the development of MSs
- Advocate for donor community, international partners in assisting Africa in this noble AMR combat as AMR in agriculture reduces productivity, hinders the provision of safe food and has a direct impact on food security and sustainability of livelihoods for farming communities.

3. 'All hands on deck' is a saying that is easier said than done, especially where there is a wide and diverse cross sectional stakeholders.

- ❖ How does the UN ensure multisectoral coordination or the engagement of all critical stakeholders (non-state actors, private sector, the different government institutions) in the prevention of AMR?
 - Supporting/strengthening the quadripartite WHO/FAO/WOAH/UNEP initiative that is providing global guidance to all MSs and Regions, UN-World AMR working/expert group as mobilizing fund to support the implementation AMR control and prevention program across the world.
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