

UNGA 2024 High-level Meeting on AMR and beyond:

Bringing the voices and perspectives of the Low- and Middle-Income Countries into the Global Policy Dialogue

A Side Event

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Time: 6:30-8:30pm ET

Format & Venue: In person at The Westin Hotel Grand Central, 212 East 42nd St., New York City

Co-Hosts: Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR and the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS).

SUMMARY

On the margins of the 2024 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-level Meeting (HLM) on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions, and Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR hosted by the World Health Organization are convening a side event to bring the voices and perspectives of the low-and middle-income countries and vulnerable communities most impacted by AMR to the conversation. This event aims to bring together representatives of UN Member States with a focus on LMICs, civil society, private sector, and other key stakeholders interested in AMR, including participants of the High-Level Meeting. The program will examine AMR through the lens of the LMICs experiences in implementing multisectoral National Action Plans (NAPs) through a one Health approach with a particular focus on equitable access, what works and what does not. It will also highlight the role and challenges faced by AMR survivors, youths, and the most vulnerable communities such as the indigenous populations due to AMR from a One Health lens.

BACKGROUND

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a critical issue where bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites evolve to resist the medicines meant to eliminate them. An estimated 1.3 million deaths annually are said to directly attributable to this escalating crisis and contributes to 4.95 million deaths thereby posing a severe threat to global health, animal health, the environment, agrifood systems, and the effectiveness of medical treatments worldwide¹.

AMR not only represents an urgent public health challenge but also threatens the future by undermining the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ramifications of AMR extend to global health, food security, clean water, sanitation, responsible consumption, production, and economic development. By

¹ Murray, C. J., Ikuta, K. S., Sharara, F., Swetschinski, L., Aguilar, G. R., Gray, A., ... & Tasak, N. (2022). Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis. *The Lancet*, 399(10325), 629-655.

2050, the UN estimates that AMR-related superbugs could lead to up to 10 million deaths annually, rivaling cancer's global death toll². Moreover, AMR could reduce livestock production by up to 11%, cost the global economy up to 4% of annual GDP (USD \$3.4 trillion annually in a high-impact scenario), and push up to 28 million people into poverty³. International organizations working to curb AMR estimate that without much bolder political commitment, investment, and action than we have today, global life expectancy will be nearly 2 years lower than otherwise due to AMR over the next 20 years, and by even more in developing countries. If left unchecked, the impact of AMR on human and animal health, food production and related livelihoods and economies will continue to grow, especially in lower-income countries. By 2035, it is estimated that treating resistant bacterial infections will cost approximately up to US\$ 412 billion per year and losses from reduced labor productivity are estimated in US\$ 443 billion per year if we fail to act more decisively⁴.

Building on the momentum from the first United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting (HLM) on AMR in 2016, the UNGA, through resolution A/Res/78/257, has scheduled another AMR HLM for 26 September 2024 under the theme: *"Investing in the present and securing our future together: Accelerating multi-sectoral global, regional, and national actions to address Antimicrobial Resistance."* This 2024 HLM offers a crucial opportunity for political leaders to commit to a decisive political declaration that will shape the global response to AMR. Moreover, the 4th High-level Ministerial Conference on AMR to be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 15-16 November 2024 presents a unique opportunity to support countries to translate the UNGA HLM political declaration to implementation. The Quadripartite organizations—FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOA—along with the AMR Global Leaders Group (GLG), are supporting the preparations for both events.

Despite low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) being disproportionately affected by AMR, their involvement in the HLM processes remains challenging. Furthermore, no access and delays in access to antibiotics is said to kill more people than antibiotic resistance, which constitutes more vulnerability to the LMICs⁵. The Quadripartite Joint Secretariat and the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS), are working collaboratively to enhance the participation of LMICs, affected populations, and youth groups. To this end, a Side Event titled 'UNGA 2024 High-level Meeting on AMR and beyond: Bringing the voices and perspectives of the Low-and middle-income countries into the dialogue' is jointly being organized by WHO, ICARS and the UN Foundation at the 79th UNGA on 25 September 2024.

Overall Objective:

To discuss the perspectives of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and vulnerable communities most impacted by antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by facilitating a high-level dialogue that highlights their experiences, challenges, and successes in implementing multisectoral National Action Plans (NAPs) through a One Health approach, with a focus on equitable access to sustainable solutions.

Specific Objectives:

² https://amr-review.org/sites/default/files/160525_Final%20paper_with%20cover.pdf

³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/health/publication/drug-resistant-infections-a-threat-to-our-economic-future>

⁴ Annex to the GLG Report: Towards specific commitments and action in the response to antimicrobial resistance. <https://www.amrleaders.org/resources/m/item/annex-to-the-glg-report>

⁵ Laxminarayan, R., Matsoso, P., Pant, S., Brower, C., Røttingen, J. A., Klugman, K., & Davies, S. (2016). Access to effective antimicrobials: a worldwide challenge. *The Lancet*, 387(10014), 168-175.

- Amplify LMIC and Vulnerable Community Voices by providing a platform for representatives from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), AMR survivors, and vulnerable communities to share their experiences, challenges, and successes in implementing National Action Plans (NAPs) through a One Health approach, with a focus on equitable access to resources.
- Promote Multisectoral Collaboration and dialogue among UN Member States, civil society, and the private sector to identify best practices, address gaps, and strengthen cooperation in combating AMR, particularly in LMICs and marginalized communities.
- Advocate for Political Commitment and actionable strategies from global leaders and donors to support LMICs and vulnerable communities in their national AMR response efforts, ensuring their unique challenges are addressed in international development initiatives and agendas.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

6:30-6:45 PM (15 Mins)	Pre-reception with photojournalism exhibit – Snacks/drinks	
6:45-7:05 PM (20 Mins)	Welcome Remarks	Introducing the event – Jean-Pierre Nyemazi (QJS) High-level Officials – ICARS and Quadripartite Representatives (TBC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sujith Chandy, Executive Director – ICARS • Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez, Chief Chem Br – UNEP • Mr. Thanawat Tiensin, ADG FAO • Dr. Yukiko Nakatani, ADG WHO • Dr. Montserrat Arroyo, DDG - WOAHA
	Keynote Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Francois Jackman (TBC), Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations • H.E. Vanessa Frazier (TBC), Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations • John Kariuki - AMR Survivor – personal testimony highlighting human impact of AMRMs. • Lotte Machon, State Secretary for Development Policy, Denmark
7:05-8:00 PM (55 Mins)	AMR Multisectoral NAPs Implementation in LMICs -- experiences from the field in tackling AMR and Perspectives of Affected persons, Youth, and Indigenous populations	4 Country Programmes⁶ - Panel Discussion) + Bangladesh – Brazil – Dr Ethel Maciel (Secretary of Health Surveillance and Environment, Ministry of Health) Cambodia – Ghana - (TBC) Peru - Tunisia - (TBC) Zambia - (TBC)
	Q&A	Youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audery Wang Indigenous People representative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angele Makombo N'tumba

⁶ Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Columbia, Ghana, Peru, Tunisia, and Zambia

		Facilitated by GLG Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Sunita Narain (Director-General, Centre for Science and Environment, INDIA) • Prof Dame Sally Davies (UK Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance)
8:00-8:15 PM (10 Mins)	Development partner's reflection	High-level officials and Development Partners representatives
8:15-8:20 PM (5 Mins)	Closing reflections and way forward	Dr. Hanan Balkhy (WHO Regional Director for Eastern Mediterranean Region)
8:20-8:30 PM (10 Mins)	Reception – Snacks/Drinks	