



SOUTH CENTRE STATEMENT FOR THE 74TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: Agenda Item 13.5. Antimicrobial Resistance

The South Centre welcomes the progress report from the Secretariat on AMR and the growing efforts to advance a global, One Health approach that addresses health, agricultural, food production, and environmental aspects of Antimicrobial Resistance.

Greater global collaboration is needed. It has been almost five years since global leaders at the UN General Assembly adopted the UN political declaration on antimicrobial resistance. Developing countries require more significant support from WHO to build technical capacity at the country level for effective response to AMR. The mobilization of funding for the implementation of national action plans continues to be slow and endangers the ability of countries to address this grave global health issue. A key priority for the Global Leader Group should be to help mobilize resources globally.

Lessons from COVID-19 have reinforced the importance of building and sustaining robust health systems. In line with the SDGs, critical areas for developing countries to prioritize is improving infection prevention and control, including by upgrading infrastructure for clean water and sanitation, hospitals, and health care centers, as well as strengthening human resources, access to diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines, and laboratory capacity for functional AMR surveillance systems across human, animal, and environmental sectors.

Access to antimicrobials continues to be a significant challenge. As such, the WHO should advance mechanisms to ensure affordable access to existing and new antimicrobials that include support for pooled procurement, local production, and public sector manufacturing in developing countries. The WHO should also continue to link the challenge of innovation in the antimicrobial space with that of access, with an end-to-end approach. There is a need to fix the broken system of innovation to deliver antimicrobials as global common goods, with increased public investment and coordination for research and development, de-linked from price and volumes to ensure adequate stewardship and ensuring access based on need.