



## **WHO Executive Board 154<sup>th</sup> Session**

### **Statement on Agenda Item 13: Antimicrobial Resistance**

Chair, Distinguished Excellencies and delegates, Director-General,

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global threat to public health and development. Developing countries face an unproportionate burden of infectious diseases and increasingly, of drug-resistant infections. Addressing antimicrobial resistance must be a top public health priority to prevent the emergence of resistance and the spread of resistant organisms across humans, animals and through the environment. Significant gains can be made by improving access to clean water, sanitation and good hygiene, farm biosecurity measures and waste management.

We welcome the effort to establish the WHO strategic and operational priorities to address drug-resistant bacterial infections in the human health sector 2025-2035 and note the importance of framing the interventions with an understanding of the systems and peoples' challenges on AMR, described in Figure 1.

We welcome the initiative to prioritize increased access to diagnostics and antimicrobials in settings where these are not readily available and note that the lack of access to life-saving antibiotics contributes to more deaths than antimicrobial resistance in developing countries and is a factor contributing to the presence of substandard drugs.

Addressing misuse of antimicrobials in human and animal health and in plants requires tackling drivers including weak health systems, insufficient health professional and veterinarian workforce that is adequately trained, poverty and malnourishment, and lack of economic safety nets. Additional measures that can be taken are to improve regulations for the sale and marketing of antimicrobials, prescription practices, education and awareness campaigns, and capacities for AMR surveillance at hospitals, community-level, in farms and agriculture, soil and water, with adequate laboratory testing facilities and trained staff. The Quadripartite institutions, beyond implementing their own sectoral guidance, will need to improve coordination to better guide countries for adopting strategies in areas such as infection prevention, regulating antibiotic use and tracking AMR that are truly a One Health approach.

The High-Level Meeting on AMR of 2016 acknowledged the need for the global community to support developing countries with more technical assistance and financing towards the development and implementation of context-specific, national action plans on AMR. The HLM on AMR in 2024 should provide a clear roadmap for delivering on these pending commitments.

The South Centre will continue to work with its members and partners to advance the global response to AMR.