



Statement of the South Centre to the High-Level Meeting on AMR

The South Centre is committed to support developing countries in tackling antimicrobial resistance. We welcome the opportunity to speak to this Assembly and add our voice to the call for urgent action to tackle this global threat. This year must mark the turning point in the collective efforts backed by new commitments and targets.

Increased political will is imperative. While progress has been made in advancing national action plans (NAPs) on AMR, these remain largely underfunded and there is a lack cooperation among sectors. Eight years after the HLM on AMR in 2016, an effective international cooperation for resource mobilization for the implementation of national action plans is still missing.

The Political Declaration adopted today makes a commitment to mobilize 100 million USD to support the implementation of national action plants, but this is nowhere near what is required. The World Bank has estimated that an investment of 9 billion USD a year for low and middle income countries is necessary. There is clear evidence of the investment case for AMR to turn the tide on AMR, with opportunities for cost-saving interventions. We call for more concrete elaboration of a global plan for mobilizing sustainable financing for AMR for implementation of national action plants and commitments to allocate more budget to implement them in developing countries.

We welcome the strengthening of the cooperation among the Quadripartite agencies, which have played a key role in providing technical assistance to developing countries, but agencies are still operating with strained budgets where AMR is competing against many other priorities.

We also welcome the establishment of the first global target on 10% reduction of deaths from AMR and call for the Quadripartite agencies to provide adequate guidance to countries on how they can develop their own targets based on their national context to contribute to this important global target.

We are disappointed that in the animal health and agriculture sector there are no concrete targets, or even reaffirmation of the commitments already made by the the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) governing bodies. We call for the animal agriculture industry to engage in the effort

to reduce unnecessary use of antimicrobials, to stop any use of antibiotics for growth promotion and routine use without diagnosed disease.

As the Lancet study just published this month showed, five times more lives could be saved through better care, notably through preventative interventions, than by investing just in novel antibiotics to treat the most resistant infections. This strategy focused on prevention and better care could avert 92 million human deaths. Remarkably, this would also bolster our efforts to achieve universal health care and contribute to pandemic preparedness and response.

Finally, we look forward to the update of the Global Action Plan on AMR by 2026, the establishment an Independent Panel on AMR, and increased efforts to establish context-specific targets and monitoring and evaluation plans under multi-sectoral National Action Plans on AMR.