44th Session of the FAO Conference side event

Implementing the 2024 AMR Political Declaration: Industry Accountability and Equity in Agrifood sector transformation

Wednesday, 2 July 2025, 12:30-14:00 CEST Iran Room, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Webcast

The adoption of the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance by the UN General Assembly on 26 September 2024 established new ambitious targets for global AMR action. Unprecedented transformation is required in how antimicrobials are used in agrifood systems. The Political Declaration on AMR includes the commitment to strive to meaningfully reduce, by 2030, the quantity of antimicrobials used globally in the agrifood system from the current level, taking into account national contexts, by, *inter alia*, investing in animal and plant health to prevent and control infections and reducing the need for and inappropriate use of antimicrobials. This presents both opportunities and challenges for achieving this target while maintaining food security and supporting rural development.

The Declaration recognizes that while antimicrobial resistance affects people of all ages, knows no borders and is present in all countries, the burden is largely and disproportionately borne by developing countries and those in vulnerable situations, requiring global solidarity, joint efforts and international cooperation. Increased financing is needed to support the implementation of national action plans. The Declaration also requests the Quadripartite organizations, in consultation with Member States, to update the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance by 2026 to ensure a robust and inclusive multisectoral response, through a One Health approach, that aligns with current realities to drive greater impact against antimicrobial resistance. This update presents a critical opportunity to strengthen agrifood sector commitments and ensure coherent implementation across WHO, FAO, UNEP, and WOAH mandates.

Following the adoption of the Political Declaration on AMR by the United Nations General Assembly, FAO Members, led by the Group of Friends of AMR in Rome chaired by the Governments of the UK and Kenya, have initiated the development of a resolution to advance the Declaration's commitments within the agrifood sector. The resolution aims to establish a concrete implementation pathway and is expected to be adopted at the FAO Conference, scheduled for $28 \, \text{June} - 4 \, \text{July} \, 2025$.

Shared Accountability: Government and Industry Responsibility

There is a need to ensure government leadership in developing and implementing national policy frameworks adapted to national contexts, priorities and needs to address AMR. The primary industry responsibility for high antimicrobial use intensity should be recognized, while providing the industry context-sensitive support taking into account the level of national development, the profile of the agricultural sector and its contribution to GDP. Governments must ensure that they have developed and implement multi-sectoral national action plans on AMR with national targets and regulations while industry actors, including large-scale agribusiness operations and multinational food corporations, must lead efforts in reducing unnecessary antimicrobial use, disclosing data, and investing in prevention and in alternatives to antimicrobials. A comprehensive strategy that reflects government and industry responsibilities and supports agricultural productivity alongside improved

infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship is critical, particularly for agricultural-dependent economies. Investors now recognise AMR as a business risk and production modes with reduced antimicrobial use may attract new investments. Civil society and consumers may also be important drivers of change in antimicrobials use, supporting efforts to reduce it and demanding accountability from governments and industry. This event is co-organized by Governments of UK and Kenya, co-chairs of the Group of Friends of AMR and co-facilitators of the Conference Resolution on AMR, FAO, AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (AMR MSPP) and South Centre.

PROGRAMME

Moderation: His Excellency Toby Parker, Chargé d'Affaires of the UK		
12:30- 12:40	High-level opening	Mr Godfrey Magwenzi, Deputy Director-General and Director of Cabinet, FAO His Excellency Fredrick Lusambili Matwang'a, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to FAO
12:40- 13:15	Powering progress: political will and country pathways on AMR in the agrifood sector	Her Excellency Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to FAO Mr Guilherme Antonio da Costa Junior, Chief of Staff, Secretariat for Trade and International Relations, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Brazil (joining virtually) His Excellency Jujjavarapu Balaji, Minister (Agriculture) and Alternate Permanent Representative of India to the UN in Rome Ms Ariane Vander Stappen, Head of Unit, Antimicrobial Resistance, DG SANTE, European Commission (joining virtually) Ms Junxia Song, Senior Animal Health Officer, FAO
13:15- 13:50	Driving industry leadership in addressing AMR	Ms Viviana Muñoz-Tellez, Coordinator, Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity Programme, South Centre Mr Carel du Marchie Sarvaas, Executive Director, HealthforAnimals Ms Thainá Landim de Barros, Animal Welfare Scientist, Science Unit, Four Paws International Mr Nicolò Cinotti, Secretary, International Poultry Council Ms Sofia Condes, Director of Investor Outreach, FAIRR Initiative (joining virtually)
13:50- 14:00	Summary of the key takeaways and concluding remarks	Mr Thanawat Tiensin, FAO Assistant Director-General, Director Animal Production and Health Division, FAO
14:00	Light lunch	