

Jaipur Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance

We, the Health Ministers of Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region participating in the Twenty-ninth Health Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur, India, appreciate the efforts being made by Member States and partners in the South-East Asia Region to adopt a holistic and multidisciplinary approach towards prevention and containment of antimicrobial resistance to improve public health. We also recognize that it is imperative that national governments accord utmost priority to this hitherto neglected problem to preserve efficacy of the antimicrobial agents – in our fight against microbial diseases.

Concerned that emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance is negating the achievements made in protecting human life and health from microbial diseases; especially newly emerging infectious diseases;

Aware that the most important driver of antimicrobial resistance is irrational use of antimicrobial agents;

Recognizing that antimicrobial resistance can be a critical impediment in global efforts towards achieving UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG), specially MDG 6 that addresses containment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases;

Considering that while antimicrobial resistance is a global public health problem, its major brunt is being borne by people in the developing countries;

Acknowledging that in spite of significant technological advances, development of new antimicrobial agents is negligible;

Aware that non-therapeutic use of antimicrobial agents in the veterinary and fishery sectors has a profound effect on emergence of resistance in microorganisms and their spread to human beings through the food chain;

Noting that health care facilities featuring the combination of highly susceptible patients, intensive and prolonged antimicrobial use, and inadequate infection control practices are potential “hot spots” for the emergence of highly resistant micro-organisms;

Concerned at the impact of resistant organisms in the efficient utilization of modern technological and scientific advances in improving human health through complex surgeries and transplantation procedures;

Further noting the inadequate regulatory mechanisms that allow unauthorized prescription of antimicrobial agents;

Aware of extensive irrational prescription of these medicines by physicians and poor adherence by the communities themselves; and

Recognizing that resistance in microorganisms leads to loss of lives, long-term suffering, disability, reduced productivity and earnings, and also threatens to undermine the effectiveness of health delivery programmes in all Member States;

We, the Health Ministers of Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region agree to:

- (1) acknowledge antimicrobial resistance as a major global public health issue;
- (2) institute a coherent, comprehensive and integrated national approach to combat antimicrobial resistance;
- (3) develop national antibiotic policy and formulate multisectoral national alliances against antimicrobial resistance;
- (4) advocate for a multidisciplinary approach by all sectors of the government, with the private health sector providing desired information and following national guidelines;

- (5) study the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance and assess accurately its impact on public health;
- (6) regulate the use of antimicrobial agents, both in public and private sectors to prolong and preserve their efficacy;
- (7) strengthen legislation to prevent the manufacture, sale and distribution of spurious and substandard/not-of-standard-quality and poor quality antimicrobial agents and the sale of antibiotics;
- (8) promote behavioural change in prescribers and communities through continuous training, educational campaigns with process and outcome measures for rational use of antimicrobial agents and emphasizing antimicrobial resistance in medical, dental, veterinary and pharmacy curricula;
- (9) build increased capacity for efficient surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and its effective use in modifying antibiotic policy;
- (10) strengthen diagnostic facilities for microbial diseases to facilitate evidence-based antimicrobial prescription;
- (11) strengthen infection control practices in health care facilities to reduce the burden of microbial diseases and health-care associated infections;
- (12) ensure use of antimicrobial agents included in National Essential Drugs List, regulate non-therapeutic use of antimicrobial agents and irrational use in the veterinary and fishery sectors;

- (13) encourage basic and operational research in areas that enhance application of various measures to combat antimicrobial resistance;
- (14) support research and development of new antimicrobial agents especially for neglected tropical diseases and facilitate their cost-effective production in the public sector and making them affordable for the poor;
- (15) advocate healthy lifestyle, cost-effective and essential immunization and other non-pharmaceutical measures to reduce the disease burden due to microbial diseases;
- (16) develop national and regional mechanisms for regular data sharing, regulating cross-border transfer of infectious materials and bacterial isolates, sharing best practices of laboratory-based surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and practices promoting rational use of antibiotics;
- (17) set up a regional mechanism for sharing of mutually agreed antimicrobial resistance data of public health importance relevant to policy making; and
- (18) develop a regional mechanism for a regular intercountry consultative process for reviewing issues related to antimicrobial resistance including tracking of international movement of resistant organisms both within the Region and among regions.

We, the Health Ministers of Member States of the WHO South–East Asia Region, urge all other WHO Member States as well as the Director–General and the Regional Director to continue to provide leadership and technical support in building partnerships between governments, the United Nations agencies and the relevant global health initiatives and with academia, professional bodies, nongovernmental organizations, related sectors, the media and civil society, to jointly advocate and effectively follow–up on all aspects of this Jaipur Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance.

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