Inaugural Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the Quadripartite Working Group on Youth Engagement for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held on 5-6 October 2023 at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was opened by Thomas Joseph, Unit Head, AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy, WHO. He outlined the mandate and functions of the Quadripartite and the importance accorded to engagement of young people by the Quadripartite organizations. Thomas mentioned that “Young people have the potential to become global advocates for AMR and the Quadripartite is inspired by the wonderful work done by the various organizations led by and serving young people represented at the meeting”. The members of the working group were briefed on their terms of reference, functions and mandate and the expected outcomes of the inaugural meeting. Audrey Wong, a member of the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation, was endorsed as the Chair of the working group by all members.

The inaugural meeting was the occasion to brainstorm on strategies to engage young people more powerfully and systematically in global AMR action. Other topics, notably opportunities to reach out to more young people and priorities for advocacy by young people were also part of the meeting deliberations. The working group identified three objectives to guide their work:
Objective 1- to increase the visibility of the engagement of young people in global action against AMR and to inspire higher-level stakeholders to acknowledge and support the role of young people in such action;
Objective 2- to strategize and invest in activities to raise awareness about AMR and build capacity in wider constituencies and other organizations of young people; and
Objective 3- to actively contact more young people in order to amplify messages about AMR and advance the advocacy priorities of the working group.

Twelve of the 14 members attended the inaugural meeting, with two others sending their organizational colleagues as representatives. All the members are from different countries and organizations, increasing the reach and diversity of the working group. The report of the inaugural meeting is available in this link.
Virtual dialogue: why do youth voices matter when fighting AMR?

The working group organized a virtual side-event to the Global AMR Youth Summit, which is led by the World Health Students Alliance. The side event, held on 24 Nov, introduced the working group to a larger audience, thereby opening channels or other youth-led or youth-serving organizations to engage with them. The side event also outlined ways in which young people and their organizations can contribute to the agenda of the upcoming UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AMR.

The virtual dialogue was organized in an interactive format using Mentimeter. The audience were asked to give their opinion on various AMR-related questions. For example, perceptions on the effectiveness of social media campaigns in educating youth about AMR, how to make discussions on AMR more engaging for young people and strategies to make AMR stakeholders listen to youth voices. There was a panel discussion with Suzanne Young (WHO), Lucia Escati (WOAH), Pablo Estrella Porter and Salman Khan (members of the youth working group); and the panel deliberated on various opportunities for young people to contribute to the global AMR agenda, including by framing the priorities of young people for the political declaration of UNGA HLM. The dialogue was moderated by Audrey Wong, chair of the working group, and had over 150 participants. The recording of the event can be accessed here.

Website

The Quadripartite Working Group on Youth Engagement for AMR has its own webpage as a part of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat website. The webpage explains the mandate and functions of the group, apart from the profiles of all the members. The webpage also has provision to upload documents and publications regularly. The webpage can be accessed using this link.
PM Mottley encouraged young people to take a central role in achieving a healthier future and a more sustainable planet. She asked the young people to talk more about the issue and reach out to policymakers at different levels to ensure momentum and accountability. The dialogue was attended by more than 400 people from across the world, and the working group members played a significant role in promoting it widely. The recording of the Global Youth Dialogue can be accessed from this link.

**Monthly meetings**

Since the inaugural event, the group has met online once a month to discuss the AMR-related activities of their respective organizations and opportunities for collaborative projects. These meetings are called by the chair of the working group, and it has been instrumental in putting together the work plan for 2024. Planning for implementing activities in the workplan are also taken up during the monthly meetings. Representatives from the AMR Awareness Working Group of the Quadripartite joins these meetings.

**Notes**

i. To coordinate the One Health global response to AMR, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) are working together, and this arrangement is known as the Quadripartite

ii. World Health Students Alliance is a coalition of the International Association of Dental Students’ (IADS), the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA), the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) and the International Veterinary Students’ Association (IVSA) that advances global health through common initiatives.