



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

# **Sixth Meeting Report of the Quadripartite Technical Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Integrated Surveillance (QTG-AIS)**



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

## Sixth Meeting of the Quadripartite Technical Group on AMR/U Integrated Surveillance (QTG-AIS)

24 June 2024, 14.30-16.30 CEST

### MEETING REPORT

**Co-Chair:**

**Prof Sabiha Essack**

**Co-Chair:**

**Prof Jaap Wagenaar**

**QTG-AIS member participants:** *Prof Sabiha Essack, Prof Jaap Wagenaar (last part of the meeting only), Dr Marquita Gittens-St. Hilaire, Dr Damien Bouchard, Dr Oluwawemimo Adebawale, Prof David Graham, Prof Amy Pruden, Prof Yong-Guan Zhu, Dr Patrick McDermott, Prof John Berezowski, Dr Biyun Ching, Dr Rajesh Bhatia, Dr Muna Abu Sin, Prof Laurence Armand-Lefevre, Dr Mashkoor Mohsin, Dr Rosa Perán i Sala, Dr John Stelling, Prof Dariusz Wasyl, Prof Rungtip Chuanchuen, Dr Xian-Zhi Li, Prof Katharina Stärk*

**QTG-AIS member apologies:** *Prof Rene Hendriksen, Dr Carolee Carson, Prof Teresa Estrada Garcia, Prof Heike Schmitt, Dr Philip Taylor, Dr Arshnee Moodley*

**Relevant staff from the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR (QJS):** *Dr Chinyere Okoro, Ms Myfanwy Hernandez, Dr Jean Pierre Nyemazi*

**Quadripartite AMR and AMU Integrated Surveillance Core Group (Core Group); made up of AMU and AMR surveillance focal points from the four organizations):** *Dr Francesca Latronico (FAO), Ms Norma Hurif (FAO), Dr Agnes Agunos (FAO), Dr Jorge Matheu (WHO), Dr Sergey Eremin (WHO), Dr Holy Akwar (WAOH), Dr Ana Luisa Mateus (WOAH).*

**Observers:**

-----

**Process of the meeting:** The sixth official Quadripartite Technical Group on Integrated Surveillance (QTG-AIS) meeting was held virtually on 24 June 2024, with four agenda sessions chaired by Professor Sabiha Essack. Professor Jaap Wagenaar made the closing remarks. The meeting's main purpose was to present the updated guide and discuss substantive matters requiring resolution/endorsement as the Guide progressed toward finalization. The expected outcome of the meeting was to agree on the approach for the penultimate document and on the next steps.

- 1. Opening remarks and outline of the order of the day:** Prof Essack opened the meeting and outlined the order of the day. She thanked the members for the extensive and rich feedback received, which, together with that of the Quadripartite organizations and several of their Collaborating/Reference centers, have contributed to the development of a now more practical Guide via the revision process. She highlighted that the revision was undertaken by volunteers from the integration team of the QTG-AIS, the Quadripartite Core Group, as well as technical experts from relevant AMR/AMU teams in each of the WHO, FAO, WOA & UNEP. She acknowledged and thanked the revision team for what is regarded as the penultimate version of the guide. She also acknowledged that the revised Guide was circulated on Friday before the meeting day and that more time will be given after the meeting to engage and provide strategic inputs.
- 2. Overview of the current Revision:** Prof Essack introduced this session. Dr. Chinyere Okoro from the Secretariat presented the overview and updates since the fifth QTG-AIS meeting held on 30 November 2023. She reiterated that One Health integrated Surveillance was a priority for the Quadripartite and the Global Leaders Group on AMR. Discussions at the fifth QTG-AIS meeting in November facilitated



the progress of the draft Guide into a third revision, which was then shared with the QTG-AIS for review. For this review, feedback was sought and received from the QTG-AIS members, AMR/U technical teams at the Quadripartite organizations (at all levels), and Quadripartite organizations' collaborating/reference centers. All inputs received were collated into a checklist, which served as a guide in two Integration Team meetings, where all the inputs were systematically addressed, discussed, and resolved. This process also included extensively revising relevant sections of the Guide, especially Sections 4 and 5, to become technically feasible and implementable. A roadmap for revising sections 4 and 5 was developed by Core Group member Dr Eremin and agreed upon by the Integration Team and the Core Group. Based on the agreed-upon roadmap, a small writing group made up of volunteers from the Integration team and all core group members was assigned to this specific revision task. Inputs from the responsible technical teams from the organizations were sought and included in the revision to ensure that both sections contain implementable recommendations, that they close the key gaps in AMU data in humans and animals and AMR/U in plants and check that information on AMR in the environment is well-represented. The revised Guide presented for this meeting contains all inputs from the last review cycle encompassing all the previously mentioned steps, and all sections aligned and harmonized accordingly. The revised version reflected a living overarching Guide within a continuous quality improvement paradigm. The QTG-AIS focus was to deliver this overarching/umbrella Guide. This will then be followed by complementary implementation document(s) with all the procedural details. The Quadripartite is now discussing the roadmap for the development of these complementary documents, and the QTG-AIS will be updated accordingly. Dr Okoro also highlighted recently held meetings<sup>1</sup> where the work of the QTG-AIS had been presented. The work has also contributed to the language regarding surveillance across sectors included in the GLG and the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform's recommendations for consideration by the UN member states in the outcome document of the United National General Assembly (UNGA) High-level Meeting on AMR in September 2024.

3. **Presentation of Revised Sections:** Prof Essack led this session, which consisted of going through the sections sequentially, gathering and collating high-level comments from members who had gone over the document before the meeting. It was noted that members who have not yet done so will be able to after the meeting. Dr Bhatia emphasized the need to establish 'ownership' for the implementation of integrated surveillance at country-levels through multisectoral governance structures and the need to support their establishment, especially in LMICs. Dr Abu Sin and Drs Matheu and Akwar from the Core Group recommended using provisions in National Action Plans and following guidance provided in global initiatives such as the One Health Joint Action Plan. Existing guidance and illustrative examples will also be spotlighted in Section 7. The Core Group also pointed out opportunities for supporting country-level implementation of One Health integrated surveillance activities post-UNGA 2024. Dr Eremin from the Core Group emphasized the importance of providing clarity in the aim and scope of the Overarching Guidance where basic approaches for One Health integrated surveillance is represented, and procedural whilst technical details are provided in the supplemental implementation documents that will follow. Dr Pruden highlighted the need to simplify Chapter 6 so

---

<sup>1</sup> The work of the QTG-AIS and overview of the Guide have been presented in recent meetings leading up to the 6<sup>th</sup> QTG-AIS meeting. These include (1) the FAO Regional Benchmarking workshop on AMR surveillance in human health, animal health and environmental sectors – Bangkok May 2024, (2) the Transatlantic Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance (TATFAR) meeting – June 2024, (3) the GLG public webinar on Integrated Surveillance of AMR/U used to socialize the GLG pocket guide for political decision-makers – June 2024



that it is flexible in guiding users to consider resources needed as they develop a monitoring program. Section 6 should mainly focus on the core resources and requirements for establishing integrated surveillance in different contexts. She suggested one or two simplified tables for the main text, with a potential appendix that simply lists potential equipment and resources to consider in the appendix under the main headings of Culture Analysis, Molecular and DNA Sequencing Analysis, and Data Analysis, Storage, and Sharing.

4. **Agreements, next steps, and timeframes:** Dr Okoro from the Secretariat shared the penultimate document with text that would be in the Overarching Guide. Members are to provide strategic input on which text should be left in and which should be moved into these procedural-based documents. Members will provide inputs over a 2-week time frame. The Secretariat will compile inputs into an updated version in the finalization process.
5. **Closing of the meeting:** Prof Wagenaar and QJS thanked members, highlighting the positive response that the QTG-AIS' work and the overview of the Guide content/recommendations have garnered in recent presentations<sup>1</sup>. He also acknowledged and appreciated members' input and time.