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Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform

Get ready for the 2024 United Nations  
General Assembly High-Level Meeting  
in AMR

# Get ready for 2024 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting in AMR

## Contents

1. UN HLM 2024 vision and goals	2
2. FAQ on UNGA HLM on AMR	2
3. Our contribution to the 2024 UNGA HLM on AMR	7
4. Timetable	7

## 1. UN HLM 2024 vision and goals

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses significant challenges to the sustainability and effectiveness of public health responses to communicable diseases and epidemics. It also threatens the progress made in health and development, hindering the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

AMR occurs when microbes, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, adapt over time and no longer respond to drugs to which they were once sensitive. This phenomenon makes infections harder to treat, increasing the risk of disease spread and severe illness, especially following routine medical procedures such as surgery.

While AMR is a natural process, its acceleration is largely attributed to the misuse and overuse of antimicrobial agents in human health and agrifood sectors.

Given that AMR knows no borders and affects multiple sectors, a holistic, multi-sectoral approach is necessary. This approach, known as the 'One Health approach,' encourages collaboration and coordination among actors across sectors, disciplines, and levels to address this multi-dimensional issue effectively.

To address AMR, Member states adopted in 2015 the Global Action Plan on AMR with the intention of optimising the use of antimicrobial agents, and to attract investment in the research and development of new agents; an area which has stalled in recent decades. The action plan calls for initiatives to be accessible in an affordable and equitable way to those in low-resource settings. The plan also highlights the need for an effective one health approach, involving multipronged strategy and policies across human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, and the environment.

Following the adoption of the GAP, Member States were encouraged to develop and implement their National Action Plans on AMR. Yet today only part of them is operational and budgeted.

Given the escalating rates of AMR, there is an urgent need for action. The 2024 High-level Meeting on AMR presents a historic opportunity to rally Member States and relevant stakeholders to address this issue. The political declaration to be adopted at this meeting will guide our collective efforts in tackling AMR moving forward.

## 2. FAQ on UNGA HLM on AMR

### What is a UN High- Level Meeting?

A United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting (HLM) is convened by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the principal decision-making body of the UN representing all 193 UN Member States. In this forum, Member States collaborate on a wide range of international issues outlined in the UN Charter, including development, peace and security, and international law. The decision to convene a HLM on a specific topic is made in exceptional circumstances through a UN resolution, with the aim of facilitating agreement on cooperation measures and solutions to significant global challenges among Heads of State and governments.

Since the inaugural Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2001, the UN has convened various HLMs focused on health issues, including HIV/AIDS (2006, 2011, 2016, 2021), Non-Communicable Diseases (2011, 2014, 2018),

Antimicrobial Resistance (2016), Tuberculosis (2018, 2023), Universal Health Coverage (2019, 2023), and Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response (2023).

The 2024 HLM on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was convened following the adoption of Resolution 76/257 on 31 March 2022, titled 'Global health and foreign policy: elevating pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response to the highest level of political leadership'<sup>1</sup>.

### What was agreed in the UNGA HLM on AMR in 2016?

The 2016 Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), adopted by Member States on 22 September 2016, marked a significant milestone in addressing AMR. This declaration led to the adoption of several commitments at national, regional, and global levels:

- 1 **Development of the multi-sectoral national action plans**, programmes and policy initiatives in line with the One Health approach and the Global Action Plan on AMR.
- 2 **Mobilize adequate predictable and sustained funding and human and financial resources and investment** through national, bilateral and multilaterals channels to support the development and implementation of NAPs, research and development of existing and novel antimicrobials, diagnostics and vaccines, and strengthen infrastructure.
- 3 Develop and put in place **effective surveillance, monitoring and regulatory frameworks on the preservation, use and sale of antimicrobial medicines** for humans and animals that are enforced according to national contexts and consistent with international commitments;
- 4 **Initiate, increase and sustain awareness and knowledge-raising activities on antimicrobial resistance** in order to engage and encourage behavioural change in different audiences;
- 5 Support a **multisectoral One Health approach to address antimicrobial resistance**, including through public health-driven capacity-building activities and innovative public-private partnerships and incentives and funding initiatives, together with relevant stakeholders in civil society, industry, small- and medium- sized enterprises, research institutes and academia.
- 6 Call upon the World Health Organization, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health, to finalize a **global development and stewardship framework**.
- 7 Call upon the World Health Organization, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health, regional and multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, relevant United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as civil society and relevant multisectoral stakeholders, as appropriate, **to support the development and implementation of national action plans and antimicrobial resistance activities at the national, regional and global levels;**
- 8 Request the Secretary-General to establish, in consultation with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health, **an ad hoc inter-agency coordination group**, co-chaired by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the World Health Organization, drawing, where necessary, on expertise from relevant stakeholders, to provide practical guidance for approaches needed to ensure sustained effective global action to address antimicrobial resistance, and also request the Secretary-General to submit a report for consideration by Member States by the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the present declaration and on further developments and recommendations emanating from the ad hoc inter-agency group, including on options to improve coordination, taking into account the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.

In 2019, a progress report on the implementation of the 2016 Political Declaration was released, highlighting progress made by countries and other actors in developing and implementing National Action Plans. Subsequently, the Global Leaders Group and the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform were established in 2020 and 2022 by the Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOA), following recommendations of the Inter-agency Coordination Group (IACG).

1 <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3967619?v=pdf>

## What to expect from the second UN HLM on AMR taking place in September 2024?

On 31 March 2022, Member States adopted Resolution 76/257 entitled “Global Health and Foreign Policy: Elevating Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to the Highest Level of Political Leadership.” In this resolution, they decided to convene a high-level meeting in 2024 specifically focused on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The President of the General Assembly was requested to appoint two co-facilitators to present options and modalities for the conduct of this meeting, including potential deliverables. This process will be carried out in collaboration with key organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Quadripartite organizations, and with the support of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

The objective of this second meeting will be to adopt a second Political Declaration, enabling countries and other relevant stakeholders to accelerate progress in addressing AMR.

## Where and when will the meeting take place?

The meeting with the theme of ‘Investing in the present and securing our future together: accelerating multi-sectoral global, regional and national actions to address antimicrobial resistance’, will be convened by the President of the General Assembly and will take place at UN Headquarters in New York, on 26 September 2024 during the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and shall consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two multi-stakeholder panels and a brief closing segment.

## What is the outline for the agenda for the 2024 UN HLM on AMR?

The modalities resolution titled ‘Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance convened by the President of the General Assembly’ outlines the agenda as follows:

1. **The opening segment**, to be held from 10 to 10.45 a.m. will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly, the President of ECOSOC, the Secretary-General, the Director General of the World Health Organization, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme the Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health, the President of the World Bank, a representative of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as a person affected by antimicrobial resistance, selected in consultation with Member States by the President of the General Assembly and giving due consideration to gender balance and geographical representation;
2. **The plenary segment**, to be held from 10.45 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., will comprise statements by Member States and observers of the General Assembly; a list of speakers will be established in accordance with established practices of the Assembly, and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States;
3. **The closing segment**, to be held from 5.30 to 6 p.m., will comprise summaries of the multi-stakeholder panels and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly as well as a representative of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as a person affected by antimicrobial resistance;
4. The two **multi-stakeholder panels** will be organized as follows:

- » Two multi-stakeholder panels will be held in parallel to the plenary segment, one from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the other from 3 to 5 p.m.;
- » The multi-stakeholder panels will address the following themes:

**Panel 1: Addressing the urgent global risk of antimicrobial resistance across the human, animal, plant and environmental sectors through equity, access, building awareness and innovation.**

**Panel 2: Addressing human health, animal health, agrifood systems and protecting the environment to tackle antimicrobial resistance, through surveillance, capacity-building, sustainable resources, financing and investment;**

Each of the two multi-stakeholder panels will be co-chaired by two representatives, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly from among the Heads of State or Government attending the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States, taking into account gender balance, level of development and geographical representation;

## Who can be invited to the UN HLM on AMR as speakers on the panels?

The President of the General Assembly may invite parliamentarians, local governments, the heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities, including the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Organisation for Animal Health, and international financial institutions, development partners, civil society, the private sector, academia, medical and scientific associations, Indigenous Peoples, representative organizations of people affected by antimicrobial resistance, persons with disabilities and community organizations to serve as speakers on the panels, taking into account gender balance, level of development, geographical representation and the representation of youth and older persons;

## What is the expected outcome of the 2024 UN HLM on AMR?

The high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented political declaration with a shared vision including the consideration of measurable targets and objectives, on, inter alia, mobilizing political will and action at the national, regional and international levels to address the drivers, sources and challenges of antimicrobial resistance, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly.

## What are the multi-stakeholder hearings and why it is important for stakeholders to participate in them?

A one day of interactive multi-stakeholder hearings will be organized by the President of the General Assembly with the Support from the Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA) on 15 May 2024 to gather multi-stakeholder views and perspectives on the key aspects of addressing AMR to be included in the political declaration.

This event is part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and also requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting.

These hearings aim to enable an active participation of regional organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, the private sector including the agriculture and food industry, broader communities, ensuring the participation and voices of women, children, youth and Indigenous Peoples, People of African descent, as well as appropriate senior-level representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local governments, and relevant United Nations entities.

The feedback gathered from multiple stakeholders, that will be captured in the summary reports, will help drafting the political declaration.

The multi-stakeholder hearings will take place on 15 May 2024. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more and register.

Registration is open to stakeholders until April 24, 2024.

- » Stakeholders with the ECOSOC status can register [HERE](#) before April 24, 5 pm ET
- » Stakeholder without ECOSOC status can register [HERE](#) before April 24, 12 pm ET

## Who is organizing the 2024 UN HLM on AMR?

The UN HLM will be organized under the direction of the President of the General Assembly, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme, known as the Quadripartite organizations, and with the support of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

The President of the General Assembly appointed H.E. Mr. Francois Jackman, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations, and H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations as co-facilitators of the High-level Meeting on antimicrobial resistance in 2024. They have a critical role in the UN HLM preparations.

The AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform will equally support the process.

## What is the expected level of participation at the 2024 UN HLM on AMR?

Previous UN HLMs have been attended by Heads of State, Government Ministers, the UN Secretary-General and other UN leaders, community and civil society representatives, the private sector, UN Ambassadors, researchers, academics, parliamentarians, and other relevant partners.

Member States are encouraged to participate at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government. Observers of the General Assembly and other stakeholders should also be represented at the highest possible level.

Further, the UN HLM presents an opportunity to move health discussions beyond the sole domain of Health Ministries and to engage other sectors, such as Ministries of agriculture, environment, finance, for coordinated action.

## How can I participate in the multi-stakeholder hearings?

All interested stakeholders should register via a registration link provided above.

## How will the Political Declaration be developed?

Considering the outcomes of the multi-stakeholder hearing, a zero-draft outcome document will be submitted by the two co-facilitators to the President of General Assembly, who then will present it to the UN Member States. The 'Zero Draft' is the basis for member states negotiations, which will be conducted in New York by Permanent Missions to the UN to produce a final declaration.

The schedule for the negotiation process will be available in due time.

## How can I follow and engage in the preparation of the 2024 UN HLM on AMR?

Members of the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform have proposed and initiated a dedicated Action Group focused on the 2024 UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). This group comprises representatives from various institutions, organizations, and networks at local, regional, and global levels spanning across the globe (list of members). The primary objective of this group is to formulate a set of key recommendations to Member States to inform the UN HLM on AMR process.

Members of the Platform and all interested stakeholders are encouraged to join forces with the Action Group to collectively advocate for a robust and actionable UN HLM Political Declaration that accelerates progress on AMR at all levels, using the One Health approach. To participate in the advocacy efforts, please join us at [amr-platform@fao.org](mailto:amr-platform@fao.org).

The Action Group urges all members to utilize the advocacy kit provided as a foundation for coordinated advocacy endeavors leading up to the UN HLM on AMR.

For updates on the 2024 UN HLM on AMR process, you can follow the dedicated [webpage of the Platform](#).

## What is next?

The Fourth Global High-level Ministerial Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) will bring together leaders to address urgent issues in preventing and managing AMR on a global scale.

Saudi Arabia will host the 2024 Conference on 14-16 November 2024 in Riyadh, Ar Riyad. It will be an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the second Political Declaration.

Previous Global High-level Conferences on AMR convened in the Netherlands in 2014 and 2019 and in Oman in 2022.

### 3. Our contribution to the 2024 UNGA HLM on AMR

The AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform was established in November 2022 by the Quadripartite organizations (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA), as one of the global governance structures on AMR, alongside the Global Leader's Group (GLG), recommended by the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on AMR. It brings together relevant stakeholders across the human, animal, plant, and environment sectors to assist in preserving antimicrobials and ensuring their responsible use under a One Health approach. It promotes a shared global vision, helps build consensus, and takes action to contribute to the implementation of the Global Action Plan on AMR (GAP). Since its inaugural meeting in November of 2023, the platform has grown to bring together 200+ members (organizations, networks, and federations).

Ahead of the 2024 UN HLM on AMR, the AMR Partnership Platform aims to support its members with the following:

1. **Informing about the process and providing regular updates** on the 2024 UN HLM on AMR and its various meetings and processes, including on the ways to engage and advocate.
2. **Supporting the participation of the platform's members in the 2024 UN HLM on AMR multi-stakeholder hearings** and consultations to be held before June 2024.
3. **Organizing/hosting events and discussions of relevance** to the 2024 UN HLM on AMR.
4. **Contributing with a vision shaped by members of the Platform** within its dedicated Action Group on the 2024 UN HLM on AMR. The Platform's driving force are its **Action Groups**, multi-sectoral, inter-disciplinary and multi-level alliances of stakeholders united by a shared objective and committed to drive action on aspects of addressing AMR, following their priorities and needs (bottom-up approach). One of these Action groups is dedicated to the 2024 UNGA HLM on AMR. It is composed of more than 80 members of the Platform and aims to produce a set of key recommendations for action on AMR to inform the 2024 UN HLM on AMR process. The release of these recommendations will be followed by an advocacy campaign driven by all interested members of the Platform.

### 4. Timetable

