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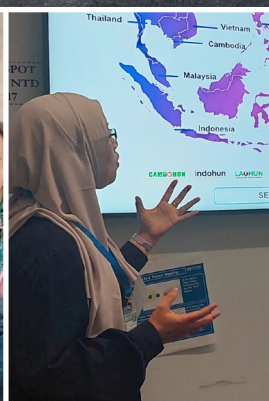
World Health
Organization



World Organisation
for Animal Health
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Quadripartite Working Group on Youth Engagement for AMR: **Inaugural meeting**

WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
5-6 Oct 2023



Introduction

A working group on engagement of young people in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was formed by the Quadripartite to provide a platform for youth-serving organizations to take part in global work to address the growing threat and impact of AMR.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health, which form the Quadripartite, started the initiative as an additional means to emphasize the threat that AMR presents to humans, animals, plants, ecosystems and livelihoods. The members of the working group will guide the Quadripartite's work in sensitizing and co-opting young people into global action against AMR. The inaugural meeting of the working group was held at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 5–6 October 2023.

A call for expressions of interest to join the working group was published in May 2023. The 14 members were selected according to their background to ensure wide sectoral, gender and geographical representation. The members are from 14 countries and represent 14 organizations led by or serving young people.

Expected functions of the working group

The group is expected to:

- **provide input on engagement of young people related to AMR;**
- **participate in and promote capacity-building on AMR, particularly with young people's networks, to increase knowledge about AMR in this population;**
- **facilitate the engagement of young people in developing awareness of and advocacy for action on AMR;**
- **promote and disseminate evidence-based examples of good practice, tools and initiatives to reach young networks and audiences through both formal media and social media;**
- **explore and use unconventional or previously unused methods of engagement with young people;**
- **contribute to joint events and intergenerational discussions on AMR, including the World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW), to ensure that the perspectives of young people are included; and**
- **mobilize young people to advocate for improvements in clinical, research, development and policy spheres, including increased funding and donor commitments for AMR at all levels, leading up to the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on AMR in 2024.**

Inaugural meeting

Opening session: 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. As agreed by consensus during the [global consultations on AMR awareness-raising](#) held in 2022, young people are one of the four priority target groups for joint awareness-raising activities. He said that young people have the potential to become global advocates for the issue and was inspired by the wonderful work done by the various organizations led by and serving young people represented at the meeting. Philip Mathew, Technical Officer, AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy Unit, WHO, briefed the members of the working group 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 the members.

Introductory presentations: All members of the working group made introductory statements about the priorities and achievements of their organizations to facilitate conversation and possibilities for collaboration among organizations.

Sessions: The technical sessions started with group discussions on more effective engagement of young people in global action on AMR. The working group members divided themselves into two groups for discussions facilitated by group chairs, and their conclusions were presented to plenary by their rapporteurs. Lucia Escati, Communications Officer, WOA, presented the Quadripartite's plans for World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) 2023, and ways in which young people could contribute to WAAW were discussed.

Day 2 began with a summary by the Chair of the proceedings of the first day. A proposed Quadripartite toolkit on youth engagement in AMR was described by Mimi Melles-Brewer, Technical Officer, WHO, who said that an outline of the 11 tools in the toolkit had been prepared after extensive consultations with organizations led by and serving young people, and a supplier has been identified. Members of the group expressed interest in supporting the development of the toolkit, and it was agreed that a webinar would be held to discuss the draft toolkit before it is finalized. Members stressed the importance of assessing the impact of the toolkit and suggested that updates be considered to ensure that the information remained relevant.

Jean Pierre Nyemazi, Unit Head, Global Leaders Group secretariat, WHO, outlined important global policy processes and the upcoming high-level meeting on AMR at the United Nations General Assembly. The members also discussed how young people could contribute to the agenda of that meeting.

Two sessions were held to discuss the agenda of the working group for the next year and their working processes. The meeting was closed by Lucia Escati, Communications Officer, WOA, on behalf of the Quadripartite AMR Awareness Working Group.

Engaging young people more powerfully and systematically

Young people as movers of global and national AMR agendas: The role of young people may differ according to region and age group. They can contribute broadly to advocacy, support research, participate in decision-making and complement communication on AMR. Young people have been engaged to only a limited extent as regional advocates, and more contact should be made with them through platforms to strengthen their role in advocacy for AMR and to become "AMR ambassadors". Representatives of young people could be engaged as partners in mobilizing communities of other young people. Their understanding of new types of media could be used to disseminate and amplify awareness and advocacy on AMR.

Reaching out to more young people through the working group: Existing platforms and instruments for engagement should be mapped. Toolkits should be developed for delivering AMR education and information at different levels, such as schools and universities, and for capacity-building and formal and informal education. Toolkits, educational materials and messaging directed at young people must be simple, ensure a positive approach and be linked with other interesting topics. A centralized platform could be created for events and activities directed at young people's constituencies, as the information is currently scattered and inaccessible. Organizations led by or serving young people should be provided with opportunities and pathways for engaging with the working group. For wider engagement of young people, a "hook" should be found to give young people a sense of direction, lead them to capacity-building initiatives to enable them to understand their roles and to act. AMR should be presented as an issue to which young people can relate and act on by adapting messages or by linking ideas with other fields of strong interest, such as climate change.

Strategies to encourage organizations led by and serving young people to work on AMR: Real-life stories and personal experiences could be used to reach and engage young people. Young people should be encouraged to act and to recognize issues on which they could focus. Once the issue is presented in a convincing way, sharing best practices and opportunities for action are important. Recognition and funding are the main levers for encouraging young people to work on AMR. The Quadripartite should collaborate with funding agencies to obtain seed money for youth groups to enable them to start work on AMR. Regional and country offices of Quadripartite organizations could also mobilize resources for youth groups. Some form of academic credit or internships in universities and other educational institutions could also help youth groups, as most consist of students looking for career opportunities.

Contributions to and advancement of the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on AMR in 2024

Priorities for advocacy by young people: AMR is associated with several issues of equity, such as wide gaps among countries in access to newer antimicrobials. Inequity and injustice, which place low- to middle-income countries and vulnerable populations at a disadvantage, are priorities for all young people's organizations. Other priorities are advocacy for a One Health approach and involving stakeholders effectively in the field. Currently, actions to combat AMR are focused on human health, and there is little intersectoral collaboration. Firm commitments and action are expected in the political declaration from the high-level meeting, avoiding empty rhetoric. Young people and their organizations look forward to greater participation in the consultations for that meeting and in policy development and implementation of national action plans.

Mobilization of support for priorities: The working group will speak with one voice about meaningful engagement of young people in action on AMR. The working group represents several large organizations led by young people that are present in many countries and have memberships of thousands. These could be mobilized to amplify messages on priorities for advocacy. The group could also contact other organizations that are not represented in the working group, through task forces or outreach platforms. To increase engagement, side-events could be organized during the World Health Assembly and the high-level meeting, if funding permits.

Individually, the working group members could organize AMR-specific events to attract more partners. The Global AMR Youth Summit, for example, is organized by several working group members. The platform and legitimacy of the working group could be used to promote best practices, best buys and AMR advocacy from the perspective of young people. The members could also ensure their organizations' presence at events and consultations on AMR policies and ensure that their delegates intervene effectively. These actions will be made possible by translating priorities for advocacy and their evidence base into simple, clear language and narratives to which young people can relate.

Contributions of youth groups and the working group contributing to World AMR Awareness Week

The activities of WAAW have increased over the years and are now held in all regions of the world. Young people can support the WAAW in several ways, primarily by making the activities more visible and amplifying the messages. The Quadripartite could facilitate the contributions of young people by endorsing and highlighting their work whenever possible. They could map networks and organizations led by young people that could contribute to the WAAW and provide a centralized platform for posting WAAW activities to inspire more youth groups, all of which seek visibility and recognition. Further, young people could be supported by "youth-friendly" materials, pre-WAAW events and digital communication toolkits for WAAW. Linkage of young people's networks to the country offices of the Quadripartite organizations could stimulate WAAW events and activities.

The group decided to organize an event during WAAW 2023, the nature of which is to be decided.



Agenda and work plan of the working group

▼ AGENDA

To be strategic and efficient, the working group decided to address three objectives and the activities associated with them.

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.

The working group proposed an agenda of activities that members, rather than their organizations, could implement jointly. As the Quadripartite will not endorse all the activities and projects of the working group, even though it has set the group's mandate, Quadripartite logos and branding will be used in programmes and events only after prior agreement. The working group members nevertheless sought active support from the Quadripartite in implementing the proposed agenda. Working group members could be invited to Quadripartite events in order to understand their processes and policies and to develop their own networks.

▼ WORK PLAN

The work plan is based on the three objectives set in the agenda.

Objective 1

- Create a video to introduce AMR, with a call to action and introduction of the working group members.
- Create a branding scheme for use by the working group.
- Host a side-event at the World Health Assembly and at the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting in 2024, if funding permits.
- Investigate possible collaboration with regional and country offices of Quadripartite organizations in planning events and activities.

Objective 2

- Create a list of global health days on which a wider population of young people could be engaged on AMR.
- Hold a webinar, workshop or roundtable discussion during WAAW.
- Host a "hackathon" (innovation challenge), possibly in collaboration with a university.
- Create online quizzes or interactive platforms to engage young people and direct them to learning resources on AMR.
- Support the launch and dissemination of the proposed Quadripartite toolkit on youth engagement for AMR.
- In the long term, create a course in use of the Quadripartite toolkit on youth engagement for AMR.

Objective 3

- Create a public document presenting the working group's action points and messages to the Quadripartite organizations to strengthen the engagement of young people in global AMR action.
- Hold a consultation with young people to confirm the priorities for advocacy before the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting in 2024.
- Co-create a policy statement on AMR action with other organizations that are not represented in the working group.
- Support the participation of young people at the World Health Assembly and the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on AMR in 2024.

Timelines and working modalities

Meeting schedule: The working group will meet virtually every month. Meetings will be convened by the Chair with assistance from the secretariat. The working group will meet physically once a year in Geneva or another location, if funds can be mobilized by the Quadripartite organizations.

Thematic sub-groups: As all the members cannot work on all dimensions of the work plan, thematic sub-groups will be created for the three objectives.

External relations: The working group should prepare an introductory video and/or slides to be used to publicize the group. A web presence could be explored, either on the websites of the Quadripartite organizations or on the planned website of the joint Quadripartite secretariat. An independent presence of the working group on social media might not be possible due to constraints of capacity and policy.

Events: All events organized by the working group will be agreed by consensus among the members and the Quadripartite organizations. The events could be publicized through the social media sites of members and their organizations. The events will be supported by the secretariat.

Agenda of the meeting

▼ DAY 1		
Time		Presenter/Chair
08:30-09:30	Registration	
09:30-09:35	Welcome remarks	Thomas Joseph Unit Head, AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy, WHO
09:35-09:45	Group photo	
09:45-10:00	Briefing for the chair and members Expected outcomes from the meeting	Philip Mathew Technical Officer, AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy, WHO
10:00-10:45	Introductory presentations from the chair and all members of the Working Group about the work of their organizations (Maximum 3 slides, 5 mins per presentation)	All participants (Moderated by the chair)
10:45-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-12:30	Introductory presentations (contd.)	All participants (Moderated by the chair)
12:30-14:00	Lunch (B Building)	
14:00-15:10	Group Work- How can we engage youth more powerfully and systematically in AMR action? (2 groups of 7 members)	All participants (Moderated by the group chairs and rapporteurs)
15:10-15:30	Coffee break	
15:30-16:00	Group presentations (5 mins of presentation and 5 mins of Q&A for each group)	All participants (Moderated by the chair)
16:00-16:10	Quadripartite Plans for World AMR Awareness Week	Lucia Escati Communication Officer, WOAHA
16:20-17:00	Discussion- How can we contribute to WAAW?	All participants (Moderated by the chair)

▼ DAY 2		
Time		Presenter/Chair
09:30-09:40	Recap of the discussions on Day 1	Chair of the Working Group
09:40-09:50	Status of the Quadripartite Toolkit on Youth Engagement for AMR	Mimi Melles-Brewer Technical Officer, AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy, WHO
09:50-10:10	UNGA High Level Meeting on AMR 2024 and youth advocacy	Jean-Pierre Nyemazi Unit Head, Global Leaders Group Secretariat
10:10-11:00	Group work- How can we work together to make a difference to the UNGA agenda? (2 groups of 7 members)	All participants (Moderated by the group chairs and rapporteurs)
11:00-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-11:45	Group presentations (5 mins of presentation and 5 mins of Q&A for each group)	All participants (Moderated by the chair)
11:45-12:45	Discussion- Agenda and workplan for the working group for next 1 year	All participants (Moderated by the chair)
12:45-14:00	Lunch (B Building)	
14:00-15:00	Timelines and working modalities of the group	All participants (Moderated by the chair)
15:00-15:15	Closing remarks	Lucia Escati Communication Officer, WOAHA
15:15	Coffee and depart	

List of participants for the inaugural meeting

- **Audrey Wong**, United States of America, International Pharmaceutical Students Federation
- **Augusto Baron Cruz**, Honduras, Young World Federation of Public Health Associations
- **Ezechiél Prosper Noali**, Burkina Faso, Action des Jeunes contre la Résistance aux Antimicrobiens
- **Francesca Zanni**, Italy, European Network of Medical Residents in Public Health
- **Jessica Mitchell**, United Kingdom, Community Engagement for AMR, University of Leeds
- **Karina Khatic**, Trinidad & Tobago, International Veterinary Students Association
- **Kristina Almazidou**, Greece, International Student One Health Alliance (represented by Chihab Zeggada)
- **Marina Ungurenci**, Romania, Federația Asociațiilor Studenților în Medicină din România
- **Michael Mosha**, Tanzania, Roll Back AMR Initiative
- **Nahashon King'ori Gicheru**, Kenya, Youth Empowerment and Development Foundation
- **Pablo Daniel Estrella Porter**, Ecuador, World Medical Association- Junior Doctors Network
- **Randa Ahmad Ali**, Jordan, Jordan One Health Alliance
- **Salman Fitrat Khan**, India, International Federation of Medical Students Associations
- **Vipat Kuruchittham**, Thailand, South-East Asia One Health University Network (represented by Latiffah Hassan)
- **Thomas Joseph**, Unit Head, AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy, WHO
- **Jean-Pierre Nyemazi**, Unit Head, Global Leaders Group Secretariat, WHO
- **Lucia Escati**, Communication Officer, World Organisation for Animal Health
- **Mimi Melles-Brewer**, Technical Officer, AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy, WHO
- **Diriba Mosissa**, Technical Officer, AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy, WHO
- **Naomi Wanjira-Vollet**, Team Assistant, AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy, WHO
- **Philip Mathew**, Technical Officer, AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy, WHO

For more information,
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