



## Terms of Reference

# Quadripartite Working Group on Youth Engagement for Antimicrobial Resistance

## Background

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global health and development threat. Research estimates that drug resistance caused 1.3 million deaths globally in 2019 while AMR infections played a role in 5 million deaths. According to the World Bank, AMR could lead to a 1.1-3.8% reduction in global gross domestic product by 2050 and affect our ability to effectively manage infections.

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial agents. Antimicrobial resistant organisms are found in people, animals, food, plants and the environment (in water, soil and air). They can spread from person to person or between people and animals, including from food of animal origin and even the vegetables. As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents become ineffective and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat, increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. Therefore, a One Health approach is critical to mitigate AMR and help ensure that the health of people, animals and ecosystems are sustainably balanced and optimized.

Student and youth-led movements are concerned with a wide range of development issues. They can serve as an untapped resource for driving multi-sectoral action to ensure a One Health response to AMR. Youth-serving organizations support the agency and efforts of youth on a wide range of issues. These organizations and their key staff have years of experience in mobilising and harnessing the imagination and energy of youth networks for a common cause.

Both youth-led networks and youth-serving organizations are well positioned to sensitize national and international leaders as well as policy makers to invest more in preventing and addressing AMR, including strengthening legislation, regulation and enforcement mechanisms.

### *What is Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement?*

*‘Meaningful adolescent and youth engagement’ is defined as ‘an inclusive, intentional, mutually-respectful partnership between adolescents, youth and adults whereby power is shared, respective contributions are valued. Young people’s ideas, perspectives, skills and strengths are integrated into the design and delivery of programmes, strategies, policies, funding mechanisms and organizations that affect their lives and their communities, countries and world.’*



The Quadripartite established a Working Group on Youth Engagement for AMR in 2023, as a dynamic group of organizations, serving youth and/or representing youth themselves, with the aim to amplify the voices and experiences of young people, and to harness and expand their expertise, energy and ideas to address AMR.

## **Objective**

The objective of the Quadripartite Working Group on Youth Engagement for AMR is to guide and support the Quadripartite's engagement with youth in order to harness the energy of this population in the global response to AMR. The Working Group continues to build on existing work by Quadripartite agencies with youth in other contexts (eg. UNEP's Young Champions of the Earth; FAO's Supporting Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems, RAI; WHO Youth Council) and will both feed into and learn from the work of the other Working Groups to ensure synergy.

## **Functions of the Quadripartite Working Group on Youth Engagement for AMR**

1. Provide inputs to the Quadripartite on youth engagement related to AMR;
2. Participate in and promote AMR-related capacity building opportunities widely, particularly with youth networks, in order to increase knowledge on AMR among this population;
3. Facilitate the engagement of youth in the development of AMR awareness and advocacy tools for youth;
4. Promote and disseminate evidence-based AMR examples of good practices, tools and related initiatives to reach youth networks and audiences, harnessing both formal media and social media channels, including the Quadripartite's toolkit on youth engagement for AMR;
5. Explore and utilise unconventional or previously untapped methods of engagement with the youth;
6. Contribute to joint events and intergenerational discussions on AMR, including the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), in order to bring youth perspectives to the discourse;
7. Mobilize young people to advocate for relevant improvements across clinical, research, development, and policy spheres, including increased funding and donor commitments for AMR at all levels, to ensure implementation of the final declaration of the UNGA 2024 High-Level Meeting on AMR.



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## Composition and Membership

The Working Group will be composed of representatives of youth-led and youth-serving organizations with expertise in youth engagement working across various sectors. The Quadripartite organizations will also participate in an ex-officio capacity. The applicant/representative should oversee or directly support programs serving youth. AMR should be an area of work for the network/organization they represent.

The aim is to ensure the Working Group represents different regions and countries especially low- and middle-income countries as well as has gender balance.

Members shall not issue statements and/or communicate positions on behalf of the Quadripartite agencies. Members are not permitted to use any of the names or logos of the Quadripartite. Members are expected to demonstrate commitment to spreading AMR awareness and promoting stewardship by stimulating discussions and debate via online and offline platforms and communities. Members are expected to serve as spokespersons for their work serving on the Working Group. Members should be able to dedicate a reasonable portion of staff time to this Working Group, acknowledging that their organization has endorsed their representation on the Working Group.

## Term

Selected members will serve for a term of two years at the discretion of the Quadripartite agencies. Individuals may withdraw from the Working Group any time based on written notification to WHO, on behalf of the Quadripartite. Similarly, the Quadripartite reserves the right to terminate the participation of any member or the Working Group itself at any time. Members who fail to demonstrate active participation in meetings and events without appropriate explanation will be deemed to have withdrawn from the initiative. The term of each member will be subject to renewal by the Quadripartite agencies at their discretion. The terms of the new members will start in October 2025.

## Selection

The Working Group will be advertised through an open call for membership. Applicants will be required to provide their CV or personal profile as well as their institutional affiliation and key demographic data (date of birth, gender and nationality). They should also describe their previous work on AMR including engagement with young people and access to youth networks. The Quadripartite agencies may further explore interest through a



conversation with shortlisted applicants and will select up to 7 new members based on this process, while retaining up to 7 current members. The Quadripartite agencies shall not be obliged to reveal or discuss with any applicant how an application was assessed or to provide any other information related to the evaluation or selection process or to state to any applicant the reasons for non-selection.

## **Meetings and administration**

Monthly virtual meetings will be organized. Based on availability of funds, Working Group members may meet at least once a year in-person. Recommendations coming out of the Working Group are of advisory nature. Recommendations shall be based on consensus; where consensus is not possible, majority and minority views may be represented. Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) is hosting the Secretariat of the Working Group on behalf of the Quadripartite agencies. The Quadripartite organizations will jointly decide on the Chair of the Working Group from among the selected membership.

## **Deliverables**

The Working Group deliverables will be decided through the creation of an annual workplan that will draw from, but are not limited to, documented priority actions coming out of regular dialogue within the Working Group and advice from the Quadripartite.

## **Achievements to date**

The Working Group has successfully achieved the following,

- Developed a Youth Manifesto, which sets out the priorities of youth around the world, leading up to the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AMR 2024, and will continue to serve as an advocacy document for implementation of the Final Declaration.
- Developed 'Leslie got Malaria' a children's book targeting ages 6-9, on drug-resistant malaria.
- Contributed to the Quadripartite toolkit on youth engagement for AMR, and digital tools for AMR awareness-raising among youth, such as through *Kahoot!*
- Engagement in high-level meetings, including the World Health Assembly, the UNGA High-Level Meeting on AMR, the fourth global high-level ministerial meeting on AMR, including receipt of an award for the Working Group's achievements, which were acknowledged by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



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- Developed a 'Save Lives: Prevent AMR' video, which emphasizes the importance of addressing AMR and the need for young people to get involved .

