

I 11. Global governance

The political declaration on AMR⁷⁹ by the second UNGA-HLM on 26 September 2024⁸⁰ and the Jeddah Commitments to Accelerate Actions on AMR (16 November 2024)⁸¹ by the fourth global High-Level Ministerial Conference (HLMC) on AMR galvanised global political commitment to address AMR. The WHO has long recognised the need for a concerted global effort to contain AMR; to this end, it convened scientific working groups back in 1994 to address the issue.⁸² The WHO published the first global strategy on AMR in 2001.⁸³ Global uptake was slow and, 15 years later, it issued the Global Action Plan (GAP) on AMR together with the FAO and the WOA. ⁸⁴

The GAP promotes five strategic objectives to: (i) improve awareness and understanding of AMR through effective communication, education and training; (ii) strengthen the knowledge and evidence base through surveillance and research; (iii) reduce the incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene and infection prevention measures; (iv) optimise the use of antimicrobial medicines in human and animal health; and (v) develop the economic case for sustainable investment that takes account of the needs of all countries, and increase investment in new medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines and other interventions. To enforce the GAP, the 194 member states of the WHO committed to integrating the above five GAP objectives into their NAPs on AMR.⁸⁵

The political declaration of the 2016 UNGA-HLM on AMR represented a landmark in the world's commitment to tackling AMR, calling for greater urgency and action in response to the challenge.

In 2019, based on the recommendations of the ad hoc Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on AMR, the Tripartite of the FAO, the WHO and the WOA formed the Joint Secretariat on AMR. In 2022, the United Nations Environment Programme joined the group and the Secretariat was renamed the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) on AMR.

The QJS on AMR facilitates interagency coordination among the Quadripartite. The Quadripartite Strategic Framework on AMR, coordinated by the QJS, supports efforts to scale up national responses to AMR, as well as to mobilise resources in the multilateral system, including United Nations member nations, the G7 and the G20. The QJS supports the operations of global governance structures, including the GLG on AMR and the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform, as well as the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

The GLG on AMR was established in 2020 by the Quadripartite organisations to accelerate political action on AMR. The GLG is composed of heads of state, serving or former ministers and/or senior government officials acting in their individual capacities. The mission of the GLG is to collaborate globally with governments, agencies, civil society and the private sector through a One Health approach, advising on and advocating for prioritised political actions for the mitigation of drug-resistant infections through responsible and sustainable access to and use of antimicrobials.⁸⁶

⁷⁹ See UNGA-HLM (2024a).

⁸⁰ See UNGA-HLM (2024b).

⁸¹ See United Nations (2024).

⁸² See Prestinaci, Pezzotti and Pantosti (2015).

⁸³ See WHO (2001).

⁸⁴ See ReAct (n.d.).

⁸⁵ See WHO (2016).

⁸⁶ See Dogan (2024).

The presidencies and members of the G7 and G20 also advocate for an end to AMR. The G7 has explicitly mentioned AMR in outcome documents from the presidencies of the United Kingdom (2021), Germany (2022), Japan (2023) and Italy (2024), while AMR has featured in G20 Leaders' Declarations in Saudi Arabia (2020), Italy (2021), Indonesia (2022), India (2023) and Brazil (2024).^{87, 88, 89} The third global HLMC on AMR was held in Muscat, Oman, on 24-25 November 2022 (the first having been in 2014). The Muscat Manifesto,⁹⁰ endorsed by about 50 countries since 2022, includes, for the first time, targets on antimicrobials in agrifood systems, animal health and human health. The UNGA-HLM on AMR of 26 September 2024 was the second opportunity to discuss AMR since 2016, followed by the fourth HLMC on AMR in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Global high-level political commitment is a prerequisite for effective local, national and global-level action to tackle AMR, particularly with regard to funding, policy development and multi-sectoral collaboration. In a political

declaration, United Nations members have committed to new targets and practical steps to address this global threat to humans, animals, plants and the environment.

Future ministerial conferences and parallel processes, such as G7 and G20 discussions, will be well placed to capitalise on the focus the UNGA-HLM provides. Targets set by the UNGA-HLM on AMR, as well as the coordinating structure of the QJS and the anticipated Independent Panel for Evidence on Action Against AMR (to be established in 2025) espoused by the Jeddah Commitments, are a solid structural basis for furthering global efforts to tackle AMR. The fifth HLMC on AMR will be held in Nigeria in 2026 and the next UNGA-HLM on AMR will be held in 2030. Together, these fora should provide an opportunity to lay the foundations for stronger global AMR governance and consolidate political support accordingly. Funding implementation, particularly in low-income countries, requires continuous effort.

⁸⁷ See Wellcome (2024).

⁸⁸ See Global AMR R&D Hub (2024).

⁸⁹ See G20 Brazil (2024).

⁹⁰ See Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (2022).