

# Communiqué of Directors of Regional Institutions for the Africa Continental World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2020

## Uniting to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

We, the Africa Regional Directors of

- Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)
- African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Regional Office for Africa
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Regional Office for Near East and North Africa
- World Health Organization (WHO), Regional Office for Africa
- World Health Organization (WHO), Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean
- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Regional Office for Africa
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Regional Office for Africa

have come together on the occasion of the 2nd Africa Continental World Antimicrobial Awareness Week to engender continental solidarity and strengthen commitment towards mitigating antimicrobial risks.

**NOTING** the importance of antimicrobials as front line medication in combating a host of diseases in humans, animals and crops alike, as well as supporting and enhancing agricultural and environmental practices to reduce risk of disease transfer;

**RECOGNISING** the silent public health threat that AMR poses in all countries in Africa;

**RECOGNISING** the socio-economic impact of AMR as a result of abuse and misuse of antimicrobials in the face of limited novel antimicrobials;

**RECALLING** the international commitments made during the G7 and G20 fora in setting examples for collective action and solidarity to addressing AMR globally;

**RECALLING** existing global and continental commitments including WHO's Global Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance, Africa Common Position on Antimicrobial Resistance, Africa Union Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance Control, OIE strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the prudent use of antimicrobials, and FAO's Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.

**CONCERNED** by uncontrolled antimicrobial use across the African Continent, including the use of falsified and substandard medicines in the context of inadequate oversight on production, procurement, quality, surveillance, and usage;

**COGNIZANT** of the multiple public health challenges confronted by the health systems in Africa and inadequate capacity to effectively address them;

**CONCERNED** with the increase in drug-resistant infections arising as a result of misuse of key antimicrobials previously proven to be effective;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the lack of awareness on AMR continues to hamper change in public health, animal health, agriculture, and environment practices as well as in regulation and oversight;

**EMPHASIZING** the critical nature of the 'One Health' approach to tackle AMR from all facets including human and veterinary sciences, agriculture, environment, aquaculture, and other perspectives;

**MINDFUL** of the urgency to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and improve food and nutrition security, and livelihoods in Africa's largely farming-based economies through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and made even more challenging in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic,

We, the Africa Regional Directors, **COMMIT TO:**

1. Fostering the One Health multisectoral collaboration as a means of leveraging our core competencies to effectively combat AMR,
2. Upholding the global and continental commitments on AMR and continuing to support African Member States in developing, reviewing, updating, and implementing national AMR action plans in line with the One Health approach,
3. Strengthening advocacy across all levels for the more prudent use of antimicrobials by increasing awareness, understanding, and encouraging behaviour change through evidence,
4. Supporting the integration of AMR actions in routine infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, as well as biosecurity and good hygiene practices,
5. Supporting the compliance and implementation of international standards for the management of human, animal, environmental and industrial waste
6. Supporting to the greatest extent possible, public-private sector collaborations that support effective and efficient use of antimicrobials and addressing antimicrobial use in animal and aquaculture feeds
7. Engaging with Civil Society Organisations, media, private sector, and general public to improve AMR awareness



The Participants' signatures in the spaces below record their joint acceptance of this communique as of 18 November 2020.

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