

OIE statement remarks for EMRO WAAW press conference 18th November 2021

World Organization for Animal Health - OIE pushes for the adoption of One Health approach and multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for AMR.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) continues to be a public health threat of high concern to all people around the world and in Africa. The COVID-19 pandemic is still raging in its second year, nonetheless, many lessons must be learned on the importance to be proactive, focus on prevention and preparedness, and most importantly to adopt a *One Health* approach for AMR governance and implementation that is inclusive of all relevant sectors and disciplines.

For the successful governance of AMR, it is essential to promote sustainable actions to include both proper institutional arrangements that are met with robust societal demand – from both public and private sectors alike. Several promising first steps have been taken at global, regional, and country levels. The importance of adopting a '*One-Health*' approach in tackling AMR has been recognised globally following the endorsement of the Global Action Plan on AMR. This is an emphasis that the OIE is putting to ensure we stop the resistance and create awareness.

The WAAW week also marks one year since a unique partnership of six regional organizations was formed to push ahead on fighting AMR in Africa, involving the Tripartite Partners (the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the World Health Organization (WHO)) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

The goal for this year's campaign for the region is to promote the One Health approach ensuring inclusivity of governments, private sector, and researchers to catalysing action on AMR and supporting the implementation of AMR NAPs as we move on to a post covid pandemic way of life. This is priority for OIE and the tripartite partners.

Furthermore, the objectives we envision are:

1. To advocate for strong public, private and research organisations collaboration for sustainable AMR programs resourcing and strengthening of the OH approach.
2. To promote the sharing of research findings to inform policy
3. Recognise and leverage on the diverse expertise of multisectoral collaborations in accelerating implementation of AMR NAPs.

To find out more about this year's events, go to: <https://www.oie.int/en/event/world-antimicrobial-awareness-week-2021/>

Resources:

<https://rr-africa.oie.int/en/our-mission/implementing-the-oie-strategy-on-antimicrobial-resistance-in-africa/>

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