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Development of a global action plan on antimicrobial resistance

During the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly, from 19–24 May 2014, the Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA67.25 on “Antimicrobial resistance”. One of the main actions that the resolution calls for is the drafting of a global action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance, including antibiotic resistance, to be submitted to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in 2015. The attached paper describes the process that WHO will follow to develop the draft global action plan and to ensure that it reflects the commitment, perspectives and roles of all relevant stakeholders and that all stakeholders have clear and shared ownership and responsibilities.

Background and rationale

1. The Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA67.25 on “Antimicrobial resistance”. Through this resolution, the Health Assembly has requested the Director-General to develop a draft global action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance, including antibiotic resistance, and to submit a draft of that global action plan to the Health Assembly in 2015. Following the approval of resolution WHA67.25 in May 2014, the events and activities set out below will need to be undertaken during 2014–2015.
2. WHO will lead the development of a draft global action plan that reflects the commitment, perspectives and roles of all relevant stakeholders and in which stakeholders have clear and shared ownership and responsibilities.
3. The draft plan will include the following components:
 - context, including what has already been done or is in progress;
 - main areas of concern or priorities for action;
 - guiding principles and values;
 - key targets and quantifiable objectives (outcomes, impacts, achievements over next 10 years);
 - ways in which progress can be monitored, measured and periodically reported (indicators);
 - key stakeholders (that is, who will be responsible for actions required);
 - plans for implementation (roles, responsibilities, collaborations, timelines, resources); and
 - support functions and mechanisms (including the role of WHO).
4. The World Health Assembly, through resolution WHA67.25, has specifically requested WHO to consult Member States and other relevant stakeholders, especially other multilateral stakeholders such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in developing the global action plan. Such consultation is a major component of the workplan for the next 12 months.

Operational plan

5. Over the next 12 months, the following activities will be undertaken.
6. **WHO governing bodies.** The draft global action plan will be presented for consideration by the governing bodies throughout its development. The key meetings are (in chronological order):
 - September to October 2014: sessions of WHO regional committees;
 - October to December 2014: informal consultations to provide Member States the opportunity to comment prior to submission to the Executive Board;
 - 26 January to 3 February 2015: the draft global action plan presented to the 136th Executive Board;
 - February to May 2015: informal consultations to provide Member States the opportunity to comment prior to submission to the World Health Assembly;
 - 18–26 May 2015: the draft global action plan submitted to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly.

7. **Strategic and technical consultation.** The Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (STAG-AMR) has been convened to advise the Director-General on the main areas of concern, priorities for action, and medium- to long-term objectives for inclusion in the draft global action plan. A report on the outcome of the second STAG-AMR meeting, at which the views of over 30 representatives from a wide range of organizations and stakeholders with an interest in AMR were presented, contains recommendations on the structure and core content for the global action plan. WHO will continue to work with STAG-AMR to engage a wide range of organizations and experts in order to set out the scientific and policy issues, develop proposals for targets and indicators, and review the draft global action plan prior to its submission to the governing bodies in 2015. The next meeting of STAG-AMR is planned for 16 to 17 October 2014, with a further meeting expected to take place prior to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in 2015.

8. **Cross-sectoral and multinational commitment.** The Secretariat will work with Member States and key stakeholders to convene high-level political and interagency discussions to contribute to the draft global action plan. The meetings, which take place in the second half of 2014, include:

- a meeting co-sponsored with and hosted by the Netherlands, in collaboration with FAO and OIE, to bring together human and animal health and agriculture at The Hague on 25–26 June 2014;
- a second co-sponsored meeting to address the rational use of antibiotics hosted by the seven sponsor countries of the Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative (Brazil, France, Indonesia, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, and Thailand) in November 2014;
- a third co-sponsored meeting to promote the development of global surveillance capacity, systems and standards hosted by Sweden in December 2014;
- bilateral and multilateral engagement with FAO, OIE, the World Bank and others to address the economic impact of antimicrobial resistance;
- other strategic and technical consultations to address, for example, innovation in research and development and “business models”, and infection prevention and control measures to control antimicrobial resistance spread in health care.

9. **Multisectoral engagement.** In parallel with the above, the Secretariat invited contributions from organizations and groups, including civil society, patient groups and nongovernmental organizations with an interest in AMR, through an open web-based call from July through August 2014; all Member States had been invited to contribute by this stage. A follow up of the web-based consultation will be undertaken on the draft global action plan prior to its submission to the World Health Assembly in May 2015.

10. **Drafting the global action plan.** This will be undertaken by a Secretariat team in Health Security and Environment, based on the above external engagements and contributions, and working with the WHO Global Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (comprising staff from all regional offices and relevant technical programmes). WHO will also work closely with FAO and OIE.

11. **Action proposed.** The Regional Committee is invited to review this information note and make additional comments to the process and the focus of the draft global action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance, including antibiotic resistance. In particular, feedback on the following would be appreciated and will be taken into account in finalizing the draft global action plan which will be presented to the Executive Board in 2015: (1) the components of the draft plan; (2) the consultation process; and (3) the support required from the Secretariat.