
2024 UN Political Declaration on AMR: Key takeaways for Veterinary Services

For the second time in history, UN Member States have adopted a [Political Declaration](#) on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). During the 79th United Nations General Assembly in September 2024, they reached consensus on 44 commitments. Almost half of them consider animal health matters, including four setting specific goals for our sector. Such recognition marks a significant milestone of our efforts to contain AMR.

This memo summarises the key outcomes that Veterinary Services need to consider and implement as their essential contributions to ensure that this global effort translates into successful achievements.

Four commitments for the animal health sector by 2030

As a member of the national Veterinary Services, your work plays a central role in ensuring their achievement.



Reduced quantities of antimicrobials used in animals

'Strive to meaningfully reduce [...] the quantity of antimicrobials used globally in the agri-food system [...] taking into account the [...] standards, guidance and recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health.' (69)



Prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in animals

'Commit to ensure that the use of antimicrobials in animals and agriculture is done in a prudent and responsible manner in line with [...] the standards, guidance and recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health.' (70)



Prioritisation of prevention with a focus on animal vaccination strategies

'Ensure [...] that animal vaccination strategies are defined with an implementation plan [...] taking into account WOA's list of priority diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use [...].' (72)



Investment to ensure access to essential veterinary services

'Invest in animal health systems to support equitable access to essential veterinary services, improve animal health and appropriate management practices to prevent infections [...].' (73)

(X): corresponding commitment number the AMR Political Declaration.

Broader scope of commitments and practical implications for animal health

Beyond the four commitments that focus exclusively on animal health, several others consider animal health matters. To help you navigate through them, this document highlights key points alongside the [priorities](#) identified by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) to close the gap in the animal health sector. As a member of Veterinary Services, this is what it implies in your daily work:

Prevention



Global commitments

Coordinated vaccination strategies

- Invest in disease prevention through improved biosecurity and promote the use of alternatives to antimicrobials, including vaccines (69)
- Ensure, by 2030, that animal vaccination strategies are defined with an implementation plan (72)
- Align national action plans on AMR with national animal health vaccination and immunisation strategies (52)

Higher capacity to prevent animal diseases

- Strengthen Veterinary Services to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment and antimicrobial stewardship (42)
- Ensure equitable and timely access to and greater supply of antimicrobials, vaccines and diagnostics, especially in low- and middle-income countries (43)



What you can do

to enhance prevention strategies at national level

- Promote the implementation of effective hygiene management and biosecurity measures at farm level
- Identify gaps in the management of priority diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use
- Implement vaccination programmes where possible
- Support accelerated research, development, manufacturing and use of innovative tools, including high-quality vaccines and alternatives to antimicrobials
- Request [PVS missions](#) to WOA to analyse your national situation and implement the One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for AMR
- Develop national Essential Veterinary Medicine Lists (EVMLs) to improve access to medicines



The tools you can use

- List of priority diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use ([poultry, swine, fish, cattle, sheep, goats](#)) – WOA
- International standards on animal diseases ([terrestrial, aquatic](#)) and [vaccine manufacturing](#) – WOA
- PVS Tool ([terrestrial](#) and [aquatic](#)) – WOA
- [Information note on animal health and welfare and AMR and AMU](#) – AMR Global Leaders Group (GLG)
- Global EVMLs (as they become available) | Issued to date: EVML for [dogs and cats](#) – WSAVA

Resourced surveillance



Global commitments

Capacity building for stronger surveillance systems

- Strengthen national capacities for sustainable, sector-specific, integrated and interoperable surveillance systems for AMR and antimicrobial use (98)
- Invest in a competent animal health workforce (94)

Better access to surveillance data

- Report quality data on AMR and antimicrobial use in animals through global databases (99)
- Use laboratory information systems to support collection of data on prevalence, re-emerging disease surveillance, mortality and morbidity attributable to AMR (98)



The tools you can use

- Existing databases to monitor AMR and report on their use include the Global Database for Antimicrobial Use in Animals ([ANIMUSE](#)) – WOA
- International Standards on surveillance ([terrestrial, aquatic](#)) and [bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing](#) – WOA
- [Pocket guide for political decision-makers on integrated surveillance](#) – AMR Global Leaders Group (GLG)
- [Guidance on integrated surveillance](#) (to be issued in 2025) – FAO, WHO, WOA, UNEP

Less unnecessary use of antimicrobials in animals

- Improve veterinary oversight of antimicrobial use in animals at national level (73)
- Invest in innovative, rapid, effective, validated and affordable diagnostic and laboratory systems to prevent misuse of antimicrobials (53)



What you can do

to increase surveillance in animal health systems

- Report data on antimicrobial use through national surveillance reports to inform sector-specific and cross-sectoral decision-making
- Advocate for and inform national target setting for antimicrobial use
- Publish data on antimicrobial use
- Report more accurate quantitative data on antimicrobial use to ANIMUSE

Cross-sectoral coordination



Global commitments

Inclusive and transparent health governance

- By 2030, all countries must have multisectoral National Action Plans on AMR with national targets set and under implementation (24)
- All relevant stakeholders—farmers, animal health professionals, academia, volunteers, civil society, private sector, and youth—should be involved in the development and implementation of these plans (29)

Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials through effective legislation

- Align national animal health regulations with WOH international standards on AMR and use of antimicrobials (70)

Increased awareness

- Promote awareness on AMR and responsible use of antimicrobials through targeted One Health efforts, including media campaigns, whole-of-society behaviour change initiatives and best practice sharing (51)
- Strengthen stewardship programmes by integrating AMR modules into education and training at all levels to create sustainable, locally relevant solutions (51)



The tools you can use

- [International Standards, guidance and recommendations](#) for terrestrial and aquatic animals – WOH
- [Veterinary Legislation Support Programme](#) – WOH
- [E-learning modules on AMR](#) – WOH
- [Guidelines on how to talk about AMR](#) – WOH
- [One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for AMR](#) – FAO, WHO, WOH, UNEP



What you can do

to encourage responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in the animal health sector

- Ensure that the use of antimicrobials is supported by clinical examination by an animal health professional and diagnostic tests whenever possible
- Avoid the use of Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials (HPCIA) for human health (colistin, fluoroquinolones, third and fourth generation cephalosporins and phosphonic acid derivatives) for:
 - non-veterinary medical purposes (e.g., growth promotion)
 - prevention of infectious diseases in groups of animals in the absence of clinical signs
- Develop national guidelines based on existing international standards and guidance
- Educate and engage stakeholders in antimicrobial stewardship throughout the entire value chain.

Adequate funding



Global commitments

Targeted investment in animal health systems to prevent animal diseases

- Support equitable access to essential veterinary services and improve animal health management practices (73)
- Promote the timely supply of quality and affordable essential veterinary medicines, vaccines and diagnostics (73)

Advocacy for funding to support the implementation of national action plans on AMR

- Allocate funding for activities outlined in national action plans (34)
- Strengthen sustainable financing through existing mechanisms (including global and regional banks) and promote the mobilisation of financial resources and investments (35, 37)



What you can do

to secure sustainable funding

- Cost and budget activities included in national action plans on AMR
- Advocate with your government to prioritise investments in animal health and Veterinary Services
- Use recommendations from [PVS missions](#), including targeted PVS components, to prioritise interventions by cost-effectiveness
- Explore Public-Private Partnerships with pharmaceutical and commercial laboratory companies at national and regional levels
- Promote incentives to harmonise regulatory frameworks for marketing authorisations of veterinary medicines and diagnostic tests



The tools you can use

- [PVS evaluation mission reports](#) – WOH
- [Guidelines on Public-Private Partnerships in the veterinary domain](#) – WOH
- [Economic Impacts of AMR in Food-Producing Animals](#) (Report) – EcoAMR series
- [Averting the Health and Economic Impacts from AMR through One Health Policy and Investment](#) (Policy brief) – EcoAMR series
- [Pocket guide for Ministers on how respond to AMR](#) – AMR Global Leaders Group (GLG)

From commitment to action

The adoption of the 2024 AMR Political Declaration is a remarkable achievement. It shows that both national competent authorities and different sectors must unite towards shared strategic goals and coordinated actions. It also exemplifies a greater recognition of the central role of the animal health sector in addressing AMR.

This milestone will help effective advancement of national action plans on AMR in line with WOA's [Global Strategy](#). It will also shape the Global Action Plan on AMR which is currently under review.

Let's seize this momentum.

To effectively tackle AMR, we need bold and decisive actions at national and local levels. The value of this consensus will only be in its ability to inspire sustainable change across countries and sectors. These commitments must now be translated into tangible actions and positive results.

Facts and figures

(Between 2025 and 2050)

In the absence of strong global, regional and national responses, it is estimated that bacterial AMR will be directly responsible for:



39 million
human deaths⁽¹⁾



Animal production losses
equivalent to
US\$ 953 billion⁽²⁾

However, immediate responses and bold actions will change the course of events:



Combining new antimicrobials with improved health care and vaccination as well as safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in low- and middle-income countries can boost this impact to save **110 million lives** from both AMR and non-AMR infections⁽³⁾



Achieving **30%** reduction of antimicrobial use in livestock globally within a 5-year time-period can lead to a cumulative increase in global GDP by **US\$ 120 billion**⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ GBD 2021 Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators. *Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance 1990-2021: a systematic analysis with forecasts to 2050*. Lancet. 2024;404(10459):1199-226. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(24\)01867-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(24)01867-1).

⁽²⁾ Adamie BA, Akwar HT, Arroyo M, Bayko H, Hafner M, Harrison S, Jeannin M, King D, Kweon S, Kyeong ND, Olumogba F, Rigby I, Song SJ, Yerushalmi E, Yugueros-Marcos J, Zakaria S. (2024). – *Forecasting the Fallout from AMR: Economic Impacts of Antimicrobial Resistance in Food-Producing Animals – A report from the EcoAMR series*. Paris (France) and Washington, DC (United States of America): World Organisation for Animal Health and World Bank, pp. 170. <https://doi.org/10.20506/ecoAMR.3541>. Licence: CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO.

⁽³⁾ Vollset SE, Altay U, Bhattacharjee NV, Chalek J, Giannakis K, Gray A, Han C, Lindstedt PA, Naghavi M, Raggi C, Smith AE, Smith G, Swetschinski L, Wool E, Yuan CW, Murray CJL. (2024). – *Forecasting the Fallout from AMR: Human Health Impacts of Antimicrobial Resistance – A report from the EcoAMR series*. Paris (France) and Washington, DC (United States of America): World Organisation for Animal Health and World Bank, pp. 30. <https://doi.org/10.20506/ecoAMR.3540>. Licence: CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO.