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COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventy-seventh Session

Rome, 7-11 April 2025

FAO's work on Antimicrobial Resistance – Draft Conference Resolution

Executive summary

This document contains a draft Conference Resolution on addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) prepared through a Member-led, inclusive and transparent process, further to a decision by the 29th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, supported by the Council.

Accordingly, the draft Conference Resolution was prepared by an open-ended Working Group of Members, chaired by the Co-Chairpersons of the FAO Group of Friends of Tackling AMR, supported by the Animal Production and Health Division (NSA), to be submitted for approval by the 44th Session of the Conference (28 June – 4 July 2025).

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to consider the proposed draft Conference Resolution on antimicrobial resistance, with a view to recommending its approval by the 44th Session of the Conference.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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I. Background

1. In the Report of the 29th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), Members “decided to set up an open-ended Working Group, chaired by the Co-Chairs of the FAO Group of Friends of Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and supported by the FAO Animal Production and Health Division (NSA), to draft a Conference Resolution addressing the support FAO should provide to Members on AMR, building on Members’ commitments made in the 2nd Political Declaration on AMR to be endorsed at the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), within FAO’s mandate. The Resolution will be presented to the 44th FAO Conference.”¹ The Report of the 176th Session of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) then “welcomed the set-up of an open-ended Working Group, chaired by the Co-Chairpersons of the FAO Group of Friends of Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), to draft a Conference Resolution on FAO’s work on AMR to be presented to the 44th Session of the Conference.”²

2. Pursuant to the direction provided by COAG and the 176th Session of the Council, an open-ended Working Group was established to draft a Conference Resolution. In November 2024, in anticipation of the establishment of the Working Group, the Co-Chairpersons of the FAO Group of Friends of Tackling AMR (Kenya and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) requested that Members submit suggestions for priority issues to be included in the zero draft. Subsequently, with the support of a technical task team from FAO, primarily from the FAO Animal Production and Health Division (NSA), the Co-Chairpersons drafted a zero draft Resolution, circulated to Members on 9 January 2025. Members were requested to submit written comments on this zero draft Resolution.

3. A first in-person meeting of the open-ended Working Group was held on 23 January 2025. Following this meeting, the draft Resolution was revised to reflect Members’ inputs, and a first draft of the Resolution was circulated to Members on 31 January 2025. A second in-person meeting of the open-ended Working Group was held on 13 February 2025, where a real-time review of proposed amendments was undertaken to finalize remaining issues in the draft text. After the second open-ended Working Group, a revised version was circulated to Members on 26 February 2025, following which no further text-based comments were received before submission of the Resolution for consideration at the 177th Session of the Council.

¹ [C 2025/21, subparagraph 9\(g\)](#)

² [CL 176/REP, subparagraph 20\(c\)](#)

Annex 1

Draft Resolution for the Conference
Addressing Antimicrobial Resistance in Agrifood Systems

THE CONFERENCE,

Recognizing the heightened global awareness of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as a pressing health, economic and development challenge, and acknowledging the substantial political commitments and international collaboration achieved in recent years;

Acknowledging that AMR affects all people and is present in all countries, with the burden falling disproportionately on people in developing countries and those in vulnerable situations;

Acknowledging that, in collaboration with the other Quadripartite organizations and through the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action, FAO has a key role to play in addressing AMR and the use of antimicrobials within the context of sustainable agrifood systems transformation, in line with Members' priorities and contexts, including but not limited to animal production, animal health and welfare, aquaculture and marine resources, plant production and protection, biodiversity and restoration of nature, forestry, food safety, land, water and soil management;

Noting the request by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 29th Session to draft a Conference Resolution addressing the support that FAO should provide to Members on AMR and the subsequent endorsement of this request by the Council at its 176th Session, requesting that the Conference Resolution be presented to the 44th Session of the Conference;

Noting FAO Resolutions 4/2015 and 6/2019, which emphasized FAO's leadership role in addressing AMR, noting the reports and guidance of the FAO Committee on Agriculture, the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock, the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the FAO Council and taking note of the Codex Alimentarius texts related to the risk analysis, monitoring and containment of foodborne AMR;

Taking note of the commitments outlined in the 2nd Political Declaration on AMR endorsed at the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in October 2024;³

Striving to meaningfully reduce, by 2030, the quantity of antimicrobials used globally in the agrifood systems, taking into account national contexts, by, *inter alia*, investing in animal and plant health to prevent and control infections, reducing the need for and inappropriate use of antimicrobials, including through investing in and promoting alternatives to antimicrobials and increasing implementation of stewardship guidance, taking into account the Codex Alimentarius and standards, guidance and recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health;

Affirming the importance of effectively addressing AMR through a One Health approach, as defined by the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), meaning cross-sectoral, coordinated inter-disciplinary efforts across human, animal, environmental and plant health, as well as other relevant sectors, utilizing the whole of FAO's collective expertise in an integrated manner;

Recognizing the critical role of soil health, integrated water management, sustainable use of agricultural inputs, including appropriate fertilizer use, and use of integrated pest management strategies to reduce inappropriate antimicrobial use (AMU) in crop production systems;

Acknowledging the efforts of the agriculture sector in minimizing and controlling AMR in agrifood systems, but that, despite the gains made, significant challenges still remain, with the annual Tracking Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self-Assessment Survey (TrACSS) from 2023 reporting that 93 percent of countries have developed national action plans (NAPs) but only 57 percent have

³ [n2429273.pdf](#)

budgeted and operational plans, and only 22 percent have adopted integrated approaches across sectors, including through a One Health approach, drawing on data and lessons from all sectors;⁴

Recognizing the urgent need to scale up long-term investments at national, regional and global levels to sustainably support the demands of rising livestock and aquaculture production - projected to grow by 10 percent globally by 2032⁵ - and to mitigate the projected decline in livestock production by as much as 11 percent in low-income countries in a high-impact AMR scenario by 2050;⁶

Strongly supporting the significant contributions made by FAO in addressing AMR through the development and implementation of the FAO Action Plans on AMR (2016-2020 and 2021-2025);

Noting the development of FAO tools and initiatives, including the launch of the RENOFARM initiative (reduce the need for antimicrobial on farms) and the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) system;

Recognizing the pivotal role of FAO as a member of the Quadripartite and FAO's key role in hosting the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform on behalf of the Quadripartite, the role of the Quadripartite organizations to establish an Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against AMR, after inclusive and transparent consultations with all Member Nations and the importance of the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund;

Emphasizing FAO's responsibility to support Members, at their request, in continuing to develop and implement multisectoral NAPs, strengthening surveillance systems, promoting sustainable production, including through agroecological and other innovative approaches, as well as sustainable intensification, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and building capacity to support minimizing and controlling AMR for sustainable agrifood systems transformation, in line with Members' priorities and contexts;

Urges FAO Members to:

- a. **Increase** political leadership and allocate adequate resources, including through mainstreaming AMR into broader national and regional development agendas, while monitoring and regularly updating multisectoral NAPs on AMR with national targets with clear timelines and accountability mechanisms informed by analysis of existing capabilities and priorities;
- b. **Strengthen** AMR institutional and regulatory frameworks – including capacity building and compliance – to support prudent, responsible and appropriate AMU and stewardship, in line with the standards, guidelines and codes of practice of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and standards, guidance and recommendations of the other Quadripartite organizations, including the World Organisation for Animal Health, to curb AMR across all agrifood systems at the national and international levels, promoting participation and collaboration with all stakeholders, including through a One Health approach;
- c. **Foster** financial resource mobilization by broadening the donor base of specialized financing mechanisms such as the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support the implementation of multisectoral NAPs on AMR and the establishment and work of the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against AMR, as well as by promoting contributions to other financing initiatives which include AMR in their scope and for which FAO is a delivery agency, such as the Pandemic Fund;
- d. **Encourage** engagement with the private sector, including to foster public-private partnerships, aimed at promoting innovation and financing sustainable agrifood practices and solutions to address AMR;
- e. **Promote** prudent and responsible AMU and reduce the need for antimicrobials in agrifood systems by investing in animal and plant health systems to prevent and control

⁴ [Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance in Food and Agriculture, FAO, 2024](#)

⁵ [OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2023 – 2032](#)

⁶ [World Bank, 2017](#)

infections and outbreaks, including through investing in and promoting alternatives to AMU, such as, when possible, vaccination, increasing implementation of stewardship guidance, supporting research efforts, and providing funding mechanisms, taking into account the relevant guidance, recommendations and standards, including those from Codex Alimentarius, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the World Health Organization, and the International Plant Protection Convention, among others;

- f. **Monitor** and **promote**, in line with national contexts and priorities, the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobial agents for phytosanitary purposes in plant production and protection, according to international guidance and reference standards, as well as good agricultural practices (GAP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), to prevent the emergence and spread of AMR and the spillover of antimicrobial residues into the environment and throughout agrifood systems, including given subsequent risks of contamination of the food chain;
- g. **Commit** to undertaking work at FAO, through its relevant Governing Bodies, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, to develop further global guidance to prevent and reduce the use of antimicrobials in plant agriculture, building on the work of Codex Alimentarius, including its Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne AMR, and relevant International Plant Protection Convention guidance;
- h. **Acknowledge** the impact of antimicrobial growth promoters on antimicrobial resistance and the particular need to phase out the use of medically important antimicrobials for this purpose, as well as encourage the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials when used prophylactically based on an ambitious, incremental and country-specific approach, building on the Codex Alimentarius Standards, including the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne AMR and relevant World Organisation for Animal Health guidance, as appropriate;
- i. **Strengthen** technical capabilities to generate and regularly report high-quality AMR data from animals and food, as well as AMU data in plant production and protection, including to the InFARM system, for evidence-based decision-making in agrifood systems and integration into the Quadripartite Global Integrated System for Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Usage (GISSA), reinforcing the importance of integration and interoperability with human health data;
- j. **Encourage** international and regional collaboration and regulatory harmonization on AMU and AMR, to facilitate access to safe, quality and effective medicines, diagnostics, vaccinations and other health products in agrifood systems, focusing on the development, implementation and enforcement of rules to detect, control and prevent the use of substandard and falsified medicines, as well as encouraging prescription-only use of antibiotics and ensuring consistent approaches to AMU and AMR monitoring;
- k. **Promote** exchanges on good practices and equitable access to AMR solutions, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as well as utilizing existing mechanisms such as the Multistakeholder Partnership Platform, the biannual Ministerial Conferences on AMR, the World AMR Awareness Week and increased participation in relevant international and regional events;
- l. **Ensure** that AMR interventions in agrifood systems are inclusive, resilient and equitable, with particular attention to low-income countries, as well as populations in vulnerable situations such as smallholder farmers, women and children, local communities and Indigenous Peoples, including through targeted financial and technical assistance; and

Requests FAO to:

- a. **Strengthen** its technical assistance to Members, upon their request, for the development, implementation, regular updating, monitoring and implementation of multisectoral NAPs

- through multidisciplinary, multisectoral and inclusive AMR governance mechanisms, including through a One Health approach;
- b. **Support action** to continue the development of sustainable agrifood production systems through, but not limited to, delivery of the RENOFARM initiative with the aim of supporting Members to meaningfully reduce, where possible, the quantity of antimicrobials used globally in agrifood systems, while contributing to broader goals of climate resilience, environmental protection, sustainability and nutrition, while leaving nobody behind;
 - c. **Develop** further the InFARM system and work with the World Organisation for Animal Health to enhance AMR and AMU data generation, analysis, transparency and reporting, within FAO's mandate, across all food and agriculture sectors and the entire food chain, promoting cross-sector data sharing and exploring innovations and advanced technologies for AMR detection and characterization;
 - d. **Develop**, through its relevant Governing Bodies, in consultation with Members and all relevant stakeholders, further global guidance to prevent and reduce the use of antimicrobials in plant agriculture, building on the work of Codex Alimentarius, including its Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne AMR, and relevant International Plant Protection Convention guidance;
 - e. **Support** efforts to address research gaps and promote knowledge generation to minimize and control AMR within agrifood systems and develop global guidance to assist Members, upon their request, in reducing and managing AMR risks and promoting sustainable production, including agroecological and other innovative approaches, as well as sustainable intensification;
 - f. **Develop** targeted training programmes for policymakers, agricultural workers, veterinarians and other veterinary health professionals and paraprofessionals, and community animal and plant health workers and leaders, and others, to build awareness and practical skills for AMR management, focusing on prudent and responsible AMU, biosecurity and disease management, prevention and antimicrobial stewardship, and establish regional AMR knowledge hubs, where necessary, to promote the exchange of good practices, innovations and localized solutions, making use of existing training initiatives and technical assistance offered by the Quadripartite organizations, to ensure synergies and avoid duplication;
 - g. **Explore** innovative incentives and financing mechanisms involving public-private partnerships and philanthropic funding to promote sustainable agricultural practices which reduce the need for antimicrobials and support equitable access to new evidence-based health products and technologies in agrifood systems to reduce AMU, including alternatives to antimicrobials, particularly in developing countries;
 - h. **Strengthen** technical assistance to support the establishment of prerequisites for sustainable agrifood systems including good agricultural practices related to hygiene, sanitation and biosecurity, access to clean water, soil health, biodiversity and nature restoration, and the wider enabling environment such as institutional capacity, appropriate regulatory frameworks, infrastructure, workforce and financial resources;
 - i. **Support** Members, upon their request, in analysing and strengthening their regulatory frameworks and implementation capacities on AMU and AMR, based on their own capacities, needs and priorities, including those of developing countries, and in alignment with the relevant international guidance, to ensure sustainable progress;
 - j. **Further** support research and the development of guidance that reflects the economic case for addressing AMR, specifically focusing on the cost-effectiveness of prevention, working closely with the other Quadripartite organizations;

- k. **Promote** whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to AMR management through inclusive AMR policies and strategies, while fostering cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration, including through the implementation of behavioural change initiatives, including through a One Health approach and based on science and evidence;
- l. **Continue** to support and promote the Multistakeholder Partnership Platform on behalf of the Quadripartite to foster multisectoral dialogue and engagement across sectors to assist Members, on their request, with the implementation of NAPs, ensuring, in particular, the participation of stakeholders from low-income countries, and support the consultation process to inform the establishment of the Independent Panel for Evidence for Action on AMR;
- m. **Ensure** FAO's role, in collaboration with the other Quadripartite organizations and in consultation with Members, in updating the current Global Action Plan (GAP) on AMR by 2026, advocating for the critical role of agrifood systems in minimizing and controlling AMR;
- n. **Develop**, in consultation with Members, an updated FAO Action Plan to succeed the current 2021-2025 Action Plan, which supports the implementation of the GAP and is based on a rigorous evaluation of the current FAO Action Plan;
- o. **Allocate** sufficient human and financial resources for the implementation of this Resolution;
- p. **Implement** a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to report regularly to Members in the relevant Governing Body meetings on FAO's progress on implementing this Resolution, the upcoming updated Quadripartite GAP, and the FAO Action Plan on AMR, to minimize and control AMR;
- q. **Report** biennially to the FAO Conference on progress in the prevention and control of AMR, and on prudent and responsible AMU, including updates on global trends, resource mobilization, country-level achievements and areas requiring further action and support.