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One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and has the honour to inform them that the Tripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance on behalf of the Tripartite Organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and WHO) is soliciting proposals for nominations of serving or former ministers or senior government officials to serve as members of the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (Global Leaders Group), one of the key recommendations of the Interagency Coordination Group (IACG).

The IACG concluded its mandate by submitting its report to the UN Secretary-General in April 2019. The UN Secretary-General (UNSG) reiterated his commitment to antimicrobial resistance in a report that underlined the importance of implementing the recommendations. Furthermore, he requested the Tripartite Organizations in close consultation with his office to propose the terms of reference and mechanisms for establishment of the Global Leaders Group as a key global governance structure. The Tripartite Joint Secretariat (TJS) developed draft terms of reference for the Global Leaders Group based on the IACG recommendations and conducted consultations with Member States, civil society and the private sector through web-based discussions and events in October and November 2019. The terms of reference were updated based on the feedback received from the consultations and were reviewed by the Directors-General of the Tripartite Organizations before submission to the UNSG Executive Office in February 2020.

In a letter to the Tripartite Organizations dated 15 June 2020, the UNSG approved the terms of reference and recommend that the Global Leaders Group's advisory and advocacy role would be more effective if directly accountable to and therefore formally convened by the Tripartite Organizations on behalf of the UNSG. The terms of reference are enclosed. In addition, an information note was developed to address the consistent concern raised during the consultations on the Global Leaders Group and the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against Antimicrobial Resistance about the complementarity and interaction of the three governance structures recommended by the IACG. The information note is enclosed.

The Tripartite Joint Secretariat is soliciting proposals for nominations of serving or former ministers or senior government officials to serve as members of the Global Leaders Group. Members will be selected on the basis of their professional and political experience and must have either demonstrated knowledge of, or commitment to becoming familiar with the areas covered by the Global Leaders Group. The appointment will take into consideration gender

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balance, geographic diversity and representation from across the One Health spectrum. Selected members will be appointed jointly by the Directors-General of the Tripartite Organizations on behalf of the Secretary-General. No honorarium will be paid to members.

Applications¹ should include a curriculum vitae (CV) (maximum 500 words) and a motivation letter highlighting their contributions and what they will bring to the Global Leaders Group (maximum 500 words) for consideration to amr-tjs@who.int by **31 August 2020**.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 30 July 2020

¹ The Tripartite Joint Secretariat or the Tripartite Organizations shall not be obliged to reveal or discuss with any applicant or Member State how an application was assessed or to provide any other information related to the evaluation or selection process or to state to any applicant or Member State the reasons for elimination.

FINAL TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GLOBAL LEADERS GROUP

1. PURPOSE

The role of the Global Leaders Group will be to provide advocacy and advisory functions to ensure that action is taken to address the challenge of antimicrobial resistance.

2. MEMBERSHIP

COMPOSITION

The Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance will comprise the following:

- Serving or former Head of State and eminent individual to lead the Group
- Serving or former ministers and/or senior government officials serving in their individual capacities
- Executive Director of UN Environment Programme
- President of the World Bank
- Representatives from civil society organizations
- Representatives from the private sector
- Directors General of Tripartite as Ex-officio.

The Group will be co-chaired by the serving or former Head of State and the designated eminent individual.

DURATION

Member terms will initially be either for 2 or for 3 years, with flexibility for early termination or renewability for a second 2-year term, on agreement of the co-chairs and the Secretariat. To provide for continuity of the Group's work and ensure that the complete membership does not turn over at any one point, the terms of the members not serving as ex-officio will be staggered with half of the members being offered an initial 2-year term and half a 3-year term. The co-chairs and Secretariat will review ongoing membership of any member who is unable to participate in two consecutive meetings, after consultation with that member.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Serving or former ministers and/or senior government officials representing the One Health spectrum will be identified from a pool of nominees from Member States and appointment will be done with due consideration for geography, gender and representation across all sectors. Additional nominees can be identified by the Tripartite organizations. There will be a web-based call for Expressions of Interest for consideration of members from civil society and the private sector with a proven track record of working on antimicrobial resistance. Candidates will be requested to present their CV and motivation letter highlighting the contribution that they will make to the Leaders Group.

Members will be selected on the basis of their professional and political experience and must have either demonstrated knowledge of, or commitment to becoming familiar with, the areas covered by the scope of the Global Leaders Group. The appointments will take into consideration gender balance, geographic diversity and representation from across the One Health spectrum. Members will then be appointed by a letter signed jointly by the Directors General of the Tripartite on behalf of the Secretary General.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The accountability of the Leaders Group will be to the Tripartite organizations and their Member States through their governing bodies.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following are the key principles that guide the work of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance:

- The Group primarily has an advisory and advocacy role to address the global antimicrobial resistance crises by maintaining high levels of global, political and advocacy momentum.
- The Group should have no legal identity and should be time bound with focused terms of reference and a plan of action with key performance indicators.
- The composition of the Group should reflect the full spectrum of One Health across animal, human and plant health, food and feed production and the environment.

4. KEY FUNCTIONS

The Group aims to fulfill the following key functions:

- (a) Maintain urgency, public support, political momentum and visibility of the antimicrobial resistance challenge on the global agenda; Advocate for action, including support for the expanding work of the Tripartite organizations (FAO, OIE and WHO), UN Environment and other international and regional entities;
- (b) Monitor and report on progress, gaps and accountability in the global response to antimicrobial resistance;
- (c) Advocate for multistakeholder engagement with the participation of Member States, UN agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations and regional entities, civil society, the private sector, researchers and other key stakeholders to develop and work towards a shared global vision, goals and coordinated action on antimicrobial resistance;
- (d) Provide advice and guidance on reports of the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance (IACG recommendation E3);
- (e) Monitor and advocate for the inclusion of antimicrobial resistance and a One Health “lens” in investments and programmes of major financing instruments for agriculture, health, development, food and feed production and other relevant areas (IACG recommendation D1).

5. WAYS OF WORKING

Members of the Group will advance the antimicrobial resistance agenda primarily through availing their voices and expertise at the global level. The Group will advance its objectives and functions specifically through:

- Supporting the development and dissemination of strategic advocacy messages and the shared global vision and goal;
- Actively participating in antimicrobial resistance focused events such as the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week and promoting it in their respective sectors;

- Utilizing their convening power and institutions to facilitate and galvanize key stakeholders for global action against antimicrobial resistance;
- Identifying and creating opportunities and networks to advance the cause of the Group in addressing antimicrobial resistance;
- Indicating the need and reporting on the assessed gaps, challenges and solutions in the global response to antimicrobial resistance.

6. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

The Tripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance, which is a joint effort by FAO, OIE and WHO, will provide Secretariat support for the Group. The Secretariat is hosted by WHO and will have liaison officers from OIE and FAO based in their respective organizations.

7. MEETINGS

Meetings will be held twice per year, one virtual and one face-to-face. The face-to-face meeting will be held at locations which correspond with important high-level meetings (e.g. African Union, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, European Union, G20, G7, Mercosur, Southern African Development Community, World Economic Forum and major UN meetings). If events and issues deem it necessary, additional ad hoc meetings will be convened at a time convenient to members.

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Complementarity of governance structures for antimicrobial resistance

The Independent Panel for Evidence, The Global Leaders Group and the Partnership Platform

Background

The 2016 [Political declaration of the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance](#) represented a landmark in the world's commitment to tackling antimicrobial resistance, calling for greater urgency and action in response to its many challenges. Members of the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to convene an ad hoc interagency coordination group (IACG), co-chaired by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and the Director-General of WHO, to provide practical guidance on the approach needed to ensure sustained and effective global action to address antimicrobial resistance. In April 2019, after global consultations, the IACG presented its report ["No Time to Wait: Securing the future from drug-resistant infections"](#) to the UN Secretary General.

One of the recommendations of the IACG was to strengthen accountability and global governance by establishing three interrelated structures:

- 1 An Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance in a One Health context.
- 2 A One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (Global Leaders Group), supported by a Joint Secretariat managed by the Tripartite Organizations (FAO, OIE and WHO).
- 3 A Multi Stakeholder Partnership Platform to facilitate multi stakeholder engagement on AMR, to include members of the Tripartite Organizations, UN agencies, interested governments, civil society, private sector and academia.

Purpose of the Information Note

This Information Note provides greater clarity on the inter-relationships between these three structures. Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Global Leaders Group have been shared widely. Feedback has been received from multiple stakeholders including national governments, private sector, civil society and academia (available [here](#)). The final Terms of Reference have been approved by the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General. Similar global consultations have been held on the draft TOR for the Independent Panel on Evidence. Feedback has similarly been received from myriad stakeholders (available [here](#)). Some of the feedback requested further clarity on how the three governance structures will complement each other. This Information Note seeks to provide clarity and presents the key features of the three governance structures with the caveat that a draft of the Terms of Reference for the Partnership Platform is still being developed.

Governance structures: core features

The Tripartite Organizations are accountable to their respective Member States and are well placed to ensure that the governance structures do not duplicate AMR efforts. All three governance structures work to support the broad vision: *a world in which antimicrobials are preserved for the welfare of living beings*. The outputs of the Independent Panel on Evidence inform the agenda of both the Global Leaders Group (GLG) and the Partnership Platform; the deliberations of the GLG similarly feed into the agenda of the Partnership Platform; and the issues that emerge during the broader discussions held on the Partnership Platform likewise feed into the work of the other two structures. There will be a systematic flow of information between the three structures to ensure synergy and shared learning. Further details on how these structures complement each other are presented in the table below. There will be further inclusive discussions on the Partnership Platform before its Terms of Reference are finalized.

Governance structures of Antimicrobial Resistance: overview

(The structures are neither hierarchical nor sequential)

	Independent panel on Evidence	Global Leaders Group	Partnership Platform ¹
Vision (common)	<i>A world in which antimicrobials are preserved for the welfare of living beings</i>		
Purpose	To assess the science relating to AMR and provide options for interventions	To advocate and advise to ensure that action is taken to address the challenges of AMR	To develop and implement a shared global vision, narrative and targeting on AMR
Focus	Assessment and reporting of evidence based on independence and political neutrality	Political momentum and guidance on actions in response to the reports of the Independent Panel on Evidence	A venue for information sharing and collaboration
Emphasis	Synthesis of research and evidence to provide practical options for mitigation and containment of AMR	High level advocacy and influence with policy-makers for actions at country and global levels	Collective engagement on diverse areas of importance by all stakeholders
Members	Experts across One Health	Primarily governmental and intergovernmental; plus representatives from private sector and civil society across One Health	Primarily civil society organizations and networks, representatives of private sector, governments and multilateral agencies across One Health
Basis of membership	Expertise, region, gender, discipline and sector	Geographical and gender representation	Willingness to engage
Size	Small (10-15)	Small (to be confirmed)	Very large (500+)
Membership duration	2–3 years	2–3 years	To be confirmed
Chair/co-Chair	Appointed by UN SG ²	Appointed by the Tripartite Organizations	To be confirmed
Meeting frequency	To be decided; likely to be several times a year	Twice a year	To be confirmed
Subcommittees	Working groups to be appointed as needed	None	To be confirmed
Accountable to	UN SG ²	Governing bodies of Tripartite Organizations	To be confirmed
Deliverables	Periodic reports	Meeting reports	To be confirmed

¹ The descriptions provided for the Partnership Platform are indicative. These might vary depending on the results of public consultations to finalise its Terms of Reference which will be held at a later stage.

² This is the current position as at 16 July 2020.