

Actions needed to Implement the 2024 Political Declaration on AMR

Animal health actions & metrics

Background

- ➔ In 2024, every United Nations Member State endorsed the '[Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance](#)'. It includes numerous commitments by governments supported by action from others.
- ➔ The Declaration offers multiple opportunities to improve animal health around the world. The strongest consensus amongst nations is around increased prevention.
- ➔ Useful documents: [WOAH's AMR Progress Report](#), FAO publication: '[How Prevention Reduces the Need for Antibiotics](#)', which both focus on progress and prevention.

Advancing the Declaration

Countries now have five years to advance the commitment within the Declaration. Demonstrable progress will be critical to maintain momentum for AMR and bold action is needed to bring together stakeholders, generate increased support for greater animal disease prevention and increase the tools available. It will require close collaboration and dialogue across the public and private sector. Efforts must be built on input from the entire value chain to ensure alignment, responsible action and support in addressing AMR.

This document provides metrics to measure progress and proposed actions that public and private sectors should take to advance them. The commitments relevant to the animal health sector are listed under four headings:

1. Improved Animal Health and Prevention
2. Responsible Use
3. Surveillance and Impact
4. Finance and Investment

Important context

1. Demand for animal protein is expected to increase in the coming years according to FAO, particularly in emerging and developing countries,
2. Trade of animal protein products (milk, eggs, poultry, swine, beef) will therefore likely increase,
3. Research shows animal disease outbreaks are likely increasing - partly due to changing climate, movement of animals, etc,
4. There are significant efforts underway to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions (particularly methane) of livestock production.

1) Improved Animal Health + Prevention

Animal Health company actions	Metrics to assess progress	Governments actions
Commitment: Invest in animal health to prevent and control infections (Art. 69). Ensure access to antimicrobials, vaccines, diagnostics. (Art. 43).		
Companies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to prioritize prevention tools for disease control. To-date 71 vaccines to market from 2019-23 and global animal vaccine sales grew 33% from 2015-22 while antibiotic sales fell 29.9%. Implement industry-led Roadmap to Reduce the Need for Antibiotics that focuses on prevention. Work with emerging market governments to increase access/supply by reducing barriers to market (unnecessary regulations, disharmonized requirements, lack of infrastructure for use.) 	Metrics to assess progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has animal disease prevention and control been prioritized by governments? What notable initiatives have been taken? Increasing rate, number of products brought to market Increase in adoption of vaccines and diagnostics Changes in livestock morbidity or mortality rates to determine effect of enhanced vaccination strategies 	Governments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop formal national disease prevention programs as a ‘first line of defence.’ Have regular, structured dialogue with animal health sector and farmers on disease prevention and response. Evaluate regulatory systems to reduce any unnecessary burden on time and cost for market access. Collaborate with other nations through VICH to improve regulatory convergence for better access.
Commitment: Invest in equitable access to veterinary services, (Art. 73) + accelerate efforts to strengthen veterinary services (Art. 42).		
Companies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support veterinary schools with scholarships and programs. From 2019-2023, companies supported training of 1.9M medicine users and provided over \$25 million in veterinary scholarships and research grants. Continue to encourage global and national authorities to invest in their veterinary services. Develop partnerships with veterinary schools to support student recruitment and strengthen curriculum. 	Metrics to assess progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth of number of veterinarians Dedicated efforts to increase veterinary availability 	Governments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase support for programs that train (para) veterinarians in disease surveillance, prevention and control. Support development of reference center networks in areas where they do not exist today. Invest in vaccination campaigns and other broad prevention programs that bring expertise to individual farms/animals. Issue requests for vaccines to control outbreaks earlier to ensure companies can meet demand and contain spread.
Commitment: Ensure vaccination strategies for priority diseases by 2030 with implementation plans for which vaccines exist (Art. 72).		
Companies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to supply high-quality vaccines for endemic diseases and outbreaks. Support efforts to develop national vaccination plans that can reduce disease rates and antibiotic need. Work with governments on coordinated campaigns to promote prevention as a first line of defense. 	Metrics to assess progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in national vaccination rates Increase in approval rates for vaccines Changes in livestock morbidity or mortality rates 	Governments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop formal national vaccination strategies in collaboration with producers/medicine manufacturers to address significant production diseases. Track vaccination rates in major species to determine where greater protection levels may be needed. Conduct an assessment to evaluate barriers to authorizing vaccines that are commonly available in other countries. FAO, WOAH and other IGOs should significantly increase vaccination promotion efforts, including overcoming political and trade barriers to vaccination.

2) Responsible Use

Animal Health company actions	Metrics to assess progress	Governments actions
Commitment: Strive to reduce the quantity of antimicrobials used (Art. 69).		
<p>Companies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply prevention tools that reduce the need for antibiotics including vaccines, nutrition, diagnostics, etc. • Research into potential ‘antibiotic alternatives’ • Invest in emerging digital technologies that can improve animal management and disease protection. 	<p>Metrics to assess progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in disease rates • Increases in adoption of prevention measures (vaccines, biosecurity, etc.) • Reduction in use of highest priority critically important antibiotics • Maintenance of animal welfare and economic viability of farm operations 	<p>Governments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strive to understand why farmers use antibiotics to more effectively help communicate the value of prevention. • Help farmers by investing in prevention programs to ‘reduce the need to use antibiotics’. • Ensure that alternative tools to prevent/manage disease are available: vaccines, better feed, digital technologies, diagnostic tools, funds to invest in biosecurity, etc.
Commitment: Ensure responsible use in line with the Codex Alimentarius (Art. 70) and Promote appropriate use through education, training, comms, best practices (Art. 51).		
<p>Companies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote responsible use using the approach: “as little as possible, as much as necessary” • Continue to educate veterinarians and paraprofessionals and animal health workers on responsible use. To date about 200,000 are trained per year in responsible use. • Build on FAO publication - “How prevention can reduce the need for antibiotics” 	<p>Metrics to assess progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness levels of best practices in responsible use • Public support for prevention and vaccination as core tool in animal health 	<p>Governments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the ‘Code of Practice to minimize and contain foodborne AMR’ (CXC 61-2005) • Consider public information campaigns about the importance of investing in preventative care for animals. • Consider how to recognize animal caretakers that embody prevention/responsible use in external communications.

3) Finance + investment

Commitment: Sustainable financing for AMR plans (Art.37). Existing financing to expand investment (Art.34+35). Promotion R&D incentives, financing (Art.86)		
<p>Companies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in R&D. Internal calculations show collective annual investments to develop new products in the range of \$1.5 – 2.5 billion. Company R&D budgets running between 6 -11% of annual revenues. 	<p>Metrics to assess progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has more funding gone to animal health for products that are new to that market? • Are governments or others incentivizing animal health R&D investment? • How many countries maintain and publicly fund vaccine banks? 	<p>Governments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have dedicated budgets to implement national AMR plans including specifically for animal health. • Consider how to generate more funds nationally to support animal caretakers for preventative health. • Support the establishment of antigens and/or vaccine banks to enable a fast response in case of an outbreak.

4) Surveillance + Impact

Animal Health company actions	Metrics to assess progress	Governments actions
Commitment: Strengthen national AMR + AMU surveillance systems (Art. 99). Encourage countries to report data (Art. 98).		
Companies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share antibiotic sales data with all governments that request data. • Support monitoring of resistance for animal pathogens and share data with governments when requested. 	Metrics to assess progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many governments have data systems in place? For human pathogens? For animal pathogens? • How many countries are reporting data to WOAH & FAO? 	Governments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply 'Codex guidelines and integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne and AMR' (CXG 94-2021) • Create, maintain and upgrade systems to collect share and assess AMR and AMU. • Work with FAO, WOAH, and animal caretakers to support efforts to collect use and resistance data.
Commitment: Strengthen environmental prevention strategies (water, soil, food, vectors) (Art.77). Prioritize sustainable production by adopting manufacturing standards (Art. 91).		
Companies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to apply our industry principles and practices throughout medicines lifecycle: OneHealth, stewardship, enforcement of regulations, joint responsibility, transparency. • Enforce supplier Codes of Conduct, including emission controls, supplier audits and training/assistance to suppliers, among others through active involvement in global Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Initiative (PCSI) to promote responsible supply chain management. 	Metrics to assess progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do countries have manufacturing standards that are enforced? 	Governments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to include environmental impact assessment during authorization of products. • Continue to enforce standards on manufacturing. • Enforce legal standards regarding sale, use and disposal of approved products only. • Include all manufacturers in pharmacovigilance and reporting requirements (including generics, compounders and national companies) • Conduct enforcement against illegal/counterfeit medicines.