



General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 April 2024

Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 125

Global health and foreign policy

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 March 2024

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/78/L.50)]

78/269. Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance convened by the President of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [76/257](#) of 29 March 2022, entitled “Elevating pandemic prevention, preparedness and response to the highest level of political leadership”, in which it decided to hold a high-level meeting in 2024 on antimicrobial resistance and requested the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators to present options and modalities for the conduct of such a meeting, including potential deliverables, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme, the Quadripartite organizations, and with the support of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance,

Reaffirming its commitment to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance in 2016,¹ in which it reiterated that antimicrobial resistance challenges the sustainability and effectiveness of the public health response to communicable diseases and epidemics, as well as imperils the gains in health and development and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²

Acknowledging that, owing to antimicrobial resistance, many achievements of the twentieth century are being gravely challenged, in particular the reduction in illness and death from infectious diseases achieved through social and economic development; access to health services and to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable medicines; hygiene, safe water and sanitation; disease prevention in community and health-care settings, including immunization; nutrition and healthy food; improvements in human

¹ Resolution [71/3](#).

² Resolution [70/1](#).



and veterinary medicine; and the introduction of new antimicrobial and other medicines,

Recognizing the importance of addressing growing antimicrobial resistance to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Mindful of the need to summon and maintain strong national, regional and international political commitment to addressing antimicrobial resistance comprehensively and multisectorally, and to increase and improve awareness of antimicrobial resistance,

Taking note of the 2019 report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance,³ the Strategic Framework for collaboration on antimicrobial resistance of the Quadripartite organizations and the work of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance, which consolidates their cooperation,

Taking note also of the High-level Interactive Dialogue on Antimicrobial Resistance, convened by the President of the General Assembly in 2021, and of the Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance – 2021,⁴

Taking note further of the contributions by the Ministerial Conferences on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2014 and 2019 in the Netherlands, the Third Global High-level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2022 in Oman, during which 47 Member States endorsed the Muscat Ministerial Manifesto, the forthcoming Fourth Global High-level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance in Saudi Arabia, and other planned ministerial conferences in 2024,

Recalling the organization of the 2023 high-level meetings of the General Assembly on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, on universal health coverage, and on the fight against tuberculosis and the adoption of the three political declarations,⁵

Emphasizing the important role and the responsibilities of Governments, as well as the role of relevant intergovernmental organizations, particularly the World Health Organization in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Organisation for Animal Health within their mandates and as appropriate, in preventing, addressing and responding to the challenges of antimicrobial resistance, and the essential need for multisectoral and cross-sectoral efforts and the engagement of all relevant sectors of society, such as human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, finance, environment, development, research, education and consumers, to generate an effective response, including towards a “One Health” approach,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution 68.7 of 26 May 2015, entitled “Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance”,⁶ and World Health Assembly resolution 72.5 of 28 May 2019, entitled “Antimicrobial resistance”,⁷ which reflect a global consensus that antimicrobial resistance poses a significant public health challenge, and emphasize the paramount significance of achieving the five strategic objectives of the global action plan,

³ A/73/869.

⁴ A/75/903, annex.

⁵ Resolution 78/3, annex, resolution 78/4, annex, and resolution 78/5, annex.

⁶ See World Health Organization, document WHA68/2015/REC/1.

⁷ See World Health Organization, document WHA72/2019/REC/1.

Taking note of the report of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and its recommendations to the Secretary-General of April 2019,

1. *Decides* that the one-day high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance to be convened by the President of the General Assembly shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26 September 2024 during the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and shall consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two multi-stakeholder panels and a brief closing segment;

2. *Also decides* that the overall theme of the high-level meeting will be “Investing in the present and securing our future together: accelerating multisectoral global, regional and national actions to address antimicrobial resistance”;

3. *Further decides* that:

(a) The opening segment, to be held from 10 to 10.45 a.m., will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General, the Director General of the World Health Organization, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health, the President of the World Bank, a representative of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as a person affected by antimicrobial resistance, selected in consultation with Member States by the President of the General Assembly and giving due consideration to gender balance and geographical representation;

(b) The plenary segment, to be held from 10.45 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., will comprise statements by Member States and observers of the General Assembly; a list of speakers will be established in accordance with established practices of the Assembly, and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States;

(c) The closing segment, to be held from 5.30 to 6 p.m., will comprise summaries of the multi-stakeholder panels and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly and a representative of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as a person affected by antimicrobial resistance;

4. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements for the two multi-stakeholder panels will be as follows:

(a) Two multi-stakeholder panels will be held in parallel to the plenary segment, one from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the other from 3 to 5 p.m.;

(b) The multi-stakeholder panels will address the following themes:

Panel 1: Addressing the urgent global risk of antimicrobial resistance across the human, animal, plant and environmental sectors through equity, access, building awareness and innovation;

Panel 2: Addressing human health, animal health, agrifood systems and protecting the environment to tackle antimicrobial resistance, through surveillance, capacity-building, sustainable resources, financing and investment;

(c) Each of the two multi-stakeholder panels will be co-chaired by two representatives, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly from among the Heads of State or Government attending the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member

States, taking into account gender balance, level of development and geographical representation;

(d) The President of the General Assembly may invite parliamentarians, local governments, the heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities, including the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme as well as the World Organisation for Animal Health, and international financial institutions, development partners, civil society, the private sector, academia, medical and scientific associations, Indigenous Peoples, representative organizations of people affected by antimicrobial resistance, persons with disabilities and community organizations to serve as speakers on the panels, taking into account gender balance, level of development, geographical representation and the representation of youth and older persons;

5. *Also decides* that the high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented political declaration with a shared vision including the consideration of measurable targets and objectives on, inter alia, mobilizing political will and action at the national, regional and international levels to address the drivers, sources and challenges of antimicrobial resistance, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly;

6. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Organisation for Animal Health and other relevant partners, to organize and preside over an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, before the end of June 2024, with the active participation of regional organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, the private sector including the agriculture and food industry, broader communities, ensuring the participation and voices of women, children, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and people of African descent, as well as appropriate senior-level representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local governments, and relevant United Nations entities, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and also requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting;

7. *Encourages* all Member States and members of the United Nations specialized agencies to participate in the high-level meeting, including the multi-stakeholder panels, at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government, and invites all observers of the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level;

8. *Invites* the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, including the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme as well as the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, regional commissions and relevant envoys of the Secretary-General, to participate in the high-level meeting, as appropriate, and urges them to consider relevant initiatives, such as the 2021 Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance, in support of the preparatory process and the high-level meeting, particularly with regard to sharing evidence and good practices, challenges and lessons learned;

9. *Invites* non-governmental organizations with relevant expertise that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the

Secretariat to attend the high-level meeting and participate in the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing and the multi-stakeholder panels;

10. *Invites* members of civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, including research institutes, development partners and other relevant initiatives to make a fundamental contribution to the process in terms of raising awareness of the importance of addressing antimicrobial resistance;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the high-level meeting, including its panel discussions, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard for gender parity, to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis⁸ and to bring the list to the attention of the Assembly for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the high-level meeting;

12. *Encourages* Member States and members of the United Nations specialized agencies to include in their delegations to the high-level meeting ministers from all relevant ministries, as appropriate, representatives such as parliamentarians, mayors and governors, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, community organizations and faith-based organizations, academic institutions and the private sector with expertise in antimicrobial resistance, philanthropic foundations, and networks representing people affected by antimicrobial resistance, with due regard to gender balance and geographical representation;

13. *Decides* that the proceedings of the high-level meeting and the multi-stakeholder hearing shall be webcast, and encourages the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Director General of the World Health Organization, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health to give the highest visibility to the high-level meeting, through all relevant media platforms and information and communications technologies.

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⁸ The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.