

Statement to the Executive Board, 144th Session

Agenda Item: 5.8.1

Antimicrobial Resistance

Thank you Chair, on behalf of Health Action International we are grateful for the opportunity to speak, supported by ReAct: Action on Antibiotic Resistance.

We urge that the Tripartite work to finalise, as soon as possible, the Development and Stewardship Framework, that clear milestones be set for implementing actions to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and in the case of failing to achieve such milestones, Member States should consider new international instruments to strengthen the response.

Unfortunately, in previous discussions on the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on AMR, and on the process of the Development and Stewardship Framework, there has been an under-representation of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). We hope to see a group of Member States come together to act decisively and collectively on AMR and also voice the views of LMICs.

Concrete proposals on sustainable and tangible funding for capacity building to manage AMR must be developed. Make it easier for countries to access catalytic funds in the short term and promote specific priorities for catalytic funding in the early phases of developing and implementing NAPs. Countries should take leadership in setting up and engaging in discussions on what global mechanisms for providing catalytic funding could look like.

Global, regional and national financial institutions should continue to explore means to support the generation of stronger investment cases for AMR. This may be to stress the point 'pay now or pay much more later', or using existing data and improve data availability to develop convincing evidence-based narratives. We refer to a paper on AMR and financing published by ReAct and Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in December.

We call on relevant international funders to explore how they can adapt their work to be more AMR-oriented.

We call upon WHO to ensure that effective antibiotics are a key part of Universal Health Coverage efforts and that the EB and WHA resolutions on UHC as well as on AMR should reflect this.