

INTRAHEALTH INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT AT 70TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

May 2017

12.2 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Resolution WHA68.7, passed in 2015, urged Member States to have national action plans on antimicrobial resistance in place by the 70th World Health Assembly. We applaud the WHO on the progress made on the global action plan for antimicrobial resistance and the establishment of the Global Antimicrobial Surveillance System. We encourage accelerated rollout and routine monitoring of countries' progress toward strengthening national surveillance systems on antimicrobial resistance.

Member States must also monitor antibiotic consumption and ensure national policies regarding the use of antibiotics include infection prevention and control, protocols and competency-based training in infection prevention for health workers, and the appropriate use and regulation of antibiotics.

The WHO has issued a list of priority antibiotic-resistant bacterial pathogens where new medicines are most urgently needed; we urge the WHO to support the Global Antibiotics Research and Development Partnership and to make the prevention and control of tuberculosis a major global priority. As of 2015, multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis had already reached the level of a public health crisis in many countries, causing an estimated 250,000 deaths annually, including the deaths of thousands of health workers. Monitoring resistance to HIV drug regimens and malaria treatments must also remain priorities.

We look forward to working with the WHO and Member States to support efforts to combat antimicrobial drug resistance and increase public education to reduce the practice of clients demanding antibiotics for viral infections or minor or self-limiting bacterial infections. We also will support the training of health workers on how to properly respond to clients who unnecessarily request antibiotics.

An effective response to antimicrobial resistance relies on skilled health workers and resilient health systems. We urge the WHO and Member States to increase investments in these areas.

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