A CALL FOR ACTION ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

International Global Health and Antimicrobial Resistance Workshop
World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)
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Antimicrobial medicine have played a key role as in both prevention and cure of infections. However, overuse and misuse of antimicrobials in humans, animals, and agriculture; gaps in infection prevention and control; lack of quality standard medicines; and inadequate investments in new medicines development may place in peril the breakthroughs in treatment of infectious diseases over the past 50 years. In the words of former WHO Director-General, Margaret Chan in 2015 “Antimicrobial resistance is a crisis that must be managed with the utmost urgency”. In 2018, the challenges identified in the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance still face all nations across the world, requiring concerted action, including from the global public health community. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO’s Director-General, has maintained antimicrobial resistance as one of WHO’s top priorities.

The WFPHA and this Geneva workshop aim to bring the global public health voice to bear on the current policy discussions in the field of antimicrobial resistance. It notably aims to emphasize the need to address the reality of healthcare systems and public health professionals worldwide within science, research and development, surveillance and epidemiology, healthcare delivery, and universal healthcare – all of which are required to sustainably address antimicrobial resistance for generations to come. Therefore, we call on all governments, the private sector, NGOs, health professionals, public and private research organizations, and all stakeholders to ensure that public health remains at the centre of all policy and scientific endeavours in the field of antimicrobial resistance.

We call on all actors to apply an approach set out in the Global Charter for the Public’s Health:

SERVICES:

- Prevention
  - Support the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance
  - Increase understanding of the issues through education and training
  - Reduce the incidence of infection through effective sanitation and hygiene and the application of good agricultural practices
  - Support stewardship to ensure appropriate use of existing antibiotics
  - Optimize the use of antimicrobial medicines in human and animal health as well as in agriculture
  - Strengthen the use of vaccines as a primary strategy to prevent primary and secondary infections

- Protection
  - Support appropriate regulation of antimicrobials in all stages of the antimicrobial life-cycle from production to disposal aligned with WHO to ensure good quality and foster appropriate use, including through the Essential Medicines List’s Access, Watch, and Reserve (AWaRE) model
  - Promote monitoring and surveillance (e.g. WHO GLASS & WHO AGiSAR) to inform appropriate use of antibiotics, research and development, to assess and document trends of antimicrobial use and resistance and to guide interventions
  - Apply stringent environmental standards in manufacture, distribution, control and disposals of antimicrobials
  - Support Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and World Health Organization (WHO) -led work towards a Global Framework for Development and Stewardship to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance
• Health Promotion
  o Apply an understanding of the social determinants of health
  o Address the "causes of the causes" of increasing antimicrobial resistance
  o Empower individuals and change behaviour through improved health literacy

ENABLERS:

• Good Governance
  o Improve national and jurisdictional legislation in all areas with an impact on antimicrobial resistance
  o Develop and strengthen cross-sectoral strategies, policies and institutions to improve action on antimicrobial resistance
  o Ensure transparency, accountability and best practice governance in dealing with antimicrobials including appropriate auditing of use and misuse

• Accurate Information
  o Increase understanding through strengthened surveillance transparency and research
  o Disperse accurate information as widely as possible through traditional and social media
  o Commit to effective government supported campaigns warning of the dangers of misuse of antimicrobials

• Capacity building
  o Improve knowledge and understanding through effective education and training
  o Expand knowledge and understanding beyond institutions and health professionals
  o Public health-driven research and development
    ▪ Prioritize R&D needs to focus on public health needs (human, animal and plants), at the intersection of pathogens, diseases and syndromes, and specific populations in need
    ▪ Ensure that incentives and funding for R&D address public health priorities and deliver public health returns, including access and stewardship provisions

• Advocacy
  o Improve civil society leadership in raising antimicrobial issues in communities, with government and with the private sector
  o Engage medical and veterinary practitioners and other health professionals, farmers, NGOs and all stakeholders to provide a strong voice in the media, in the community and to government to counter antimicrobial resistance
  o Encourage all public health actors to call on R&D organizations and funders to prioritize research efforts to those that address public health needs
  o Support efforts to ensure access and appropriate stewardship of existing health technologies, including drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics
  o Improve coordination of wider advocacy community to ‘speak with one voice’ to be better heard and to avoid confusing stakeholders with conflicting messaging