World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2016: 14-20 November

Event: Advocating for Appropriate Antibiotic Use

Date: 16 November, 1.15pm-2.45pm (lunch from 1pm)

Location: Grand Ballroom, The 3 West Club (3 W 51st Street, at 5th Ave & 51st)

Concept Note

Hosted by the World Health Organization

With the participation of:
- Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations
- Permanent Mission of the UK to the United Nations
- The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Consumer Reports/ Consumers International
- NYC Mayor’s Office
- Every Woman Every Child, Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General
- Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
- Global Health Strategies

Background

Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest and borderless threats to global health today. Rising to dangerously high levels in all parts of the world, it is compromising our ability to treat bacterial infections in humans and is reducing our capacity to protect the health of animals. With antibiotic use in agriculture due to increase by two thirds by 2030, it has the potential to threaten safe and sustainable food. Without concrete action to stop the spread of antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance trillions of dollars and millions of lives, particularly of those most vulnerable such as mothers and children, are at risk, creating major barriers towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A Global Action Plan to tackle the growing problem of resistance to antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines, developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), was endorsed by member states at the 68th World Health Assembly in May 2015. One of the key objectives of the plan is to improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance.

In September 2016, Heads of State met at the United Nations for a High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance to summon and maintain strong national, regional and international political commitment in addressing antimicrobial and antibiotic resistance. The meeting, which resulted in the endorsement by Member States of a Political Declaration, also highlighted the importance of the One-Health Approach and the roles inter-governmental organizations, particularly the Tripartite Organizations of WHO, FAO, and OIE, in establishing, implementing and sustaining a cooperative global, multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral approach.

Purpose

In November 2015 the World Health Organization launched a global campaign, “Antibiotics: Handle with care”, during its first World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) which emphasises that antibiotics are a precious resource and should be preserved.

The campaign objectives are:
- To make antibiotic resistance a globally recognised health issue.
- To raise awareness of the need to preserve the efficacy of antibiotics through appropriate use.
- To increase recognition of the role that individuals, health and agriculture professionals and governments must all play in tackling antibiotic resistance.
- To encourage behaviour change and convey the message that simple actions can make a huge difference.
To build on the momentum achieved during the September UN High Level Meeting, the World Health Organization is hosting an event during WAAW on the 16th of November which will bring together various stakeholders across multiple sectors to increase awareness of global antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the public, policymakers, health and agriculture professionals to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

Through a moderated discussion, speakers will address the challenges of antibiotic resistance and the risks faced particularly by mothers and children, the role of policymakers, consumers, food producers, and the healthcare industry in spreading awareness and advocating for responsible antibiotic use, and the importance of the One Health Approach in addressing antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance.

The global federation of consumer groups Consumers International (CI) has called for multinational restaurant chains to make global, timebound commitments to stop serving meat from animals routinely given antibiotics. In September 2016 Consumer Reports, a member of CI, launched the report “Chain Reaction” together with partners, which lists how top restaurants are reducing the use of antibiotics in their meat supply, such as Chipotle, Subway, and Panera—the latter which reports that 91% of all the meat and poultry it serves is raised without antibiotics. As Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO stated to the G7 in 2015, “Consumer groups and civil society can play an important role in combating antimicrobial resistance. Consumers who question the safety of food produced from heavily-medicated animals, and make purchasing decisions accordingly, can have a profound impact on industry practices.”

**Agenda & Speakers**

**Opening Session:**
- Dr. Nata Menabde, Executive Director of the World Health Organization Office at the UN, *Opening* (3min)

**Panel:**
- Ambassador Juan Gomez Camacho, PR of Mexico to the UN, *the role of policymakers* (5min)
- Dr. Theoklis Zaoutis, Chief of Infectious Diseases, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, IDSA, *the role of the healthcare industry and the particular dangers of antibiotic resistance for maternal, child, adolescent and newborn health* (5min)
- Jean Halloran, Consumer Reports/ Consumers International, *highlighting their latest report and the role of consumers and food producers* (5min)
- Dr. Jay Varma, Deputy Commissioner for Disease Control, NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene, *the role of local governments* (5min)
- Carla Mucavi, Director of the NY Office, Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN, *the work of the Tripartite, the importance of the One Health Approach* (5min)

**Interactive Discussion:** Comments and questions from the floor welcome. (15-20min)

**Closing Session:**
- Ambassador Martin Shearman, UK Mission to the UN, *Closing and summary of the discussion* (3-5min)

**Target audience**

75-100 people. Civil society, private sector, those in the medical, agricultural, and animal health fields, consumer advocates, academia, member states, and other stakeholders (emerging and current) in the AMR/ ABR field.

*A light lunch will be available from 1pm. Programme will start promptly at 1.15pm.*

To RSVP, please click [HERE](#) to register.

WHO Campaign Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtXaMy1Nvjs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtXaMy1Nvjs)
Social Media: #AntibioticResistance @WHO