



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week webinar

Action and partnership on AMR to ensure a
coordinated One Health approach in Europe and
Central Asia

23 November 2020 from 09:30 to 11:00 CET



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1. Introduction

Understanding the complex interaction and role of different sectors is crucial to achieve success in combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Different sectors need to work together and coordinate their efforts in a challenging social, political and economic environment. Building on years of collaboration, Regional offices of FAO, OIE and WHO will join forces by forming a Regional tripartite joint secretariat to coordinate **One Health** action against AMR across the Region. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down progress and efforts to control AMR and may even accelerate the rate at which AMR emerges due to inappropriate use of antibiotics. The One Health approach is essential for addressing inter-related issues at the human – animal – environment interface, as well as our search for understanding the pandemic and the role played by animals, agriculture and the environment in the spread of disease and the evolution of the virus.

On the occasion of the annual World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (18-24 November 2020), high level representatives from the three regional organizations, organized a webinar on 23 November 2020, entitled: “Action and partnership on antimicrobial resistance to ensure a coordinated One Health approach in Europe and central Asia” and were joined by key partners of the region (see programme, Annex 1.). Together, they outlined and discussed the importance of setting up the new Regional Tripartite Joint Secretariat for Antimicrobial Resistance to make optimal use of available resources, foster synergies and avoid duplication of efforts in the fight against AMR by mobilizing stakeholders and partners and coordinating action across the Region.

The objectives of the webinar were:

- To encourage countries to actively take responsibility and commit to the implementation of their national AMR action plans;
- To reassure Member States of the commitment of the Tripartite Organizations and partners to provide a coordinated effort of providing tailored technical support throughout the European and Central Asia region.

The webinar was followed by 278 representatives of different sectors. Forty-six percent of participants were from the human health sector, 34% from the animal health sector, 11% from food safety, three percent from the agriculture sector and one percent from the environmental sector. Five percent of participants worked in other sectors which were not further specified (see Annex 2.).

The webinar gave the Tripartite an opportunity to call upon Member States to strengthen measures to combat AMR and enhance public advocacy for prudent use of antibiotics in the human and animal sectors. It also emphasized the impact of the current and post-COVID-19 situation on the human and animal health sectors and underlined how this crisis provides both opportunities and challenges to advance the work on AMR.

Additionally, the Tripartite and partners expressed readiness to support countries with the implementation of their national action plans, offering collaboration, when requested, to ensure no country is left behind in this challenging process. And last, but not least, they called upon partners, initiatives, foundations and other stakeholders to embrace coordination of actions across the region to ensure effective use of resources to avoid duplication of efforts.

2. Main messages from the speakers

This section provides the main messages of the speakers during the webinar. Their full statements can be read in Annex 3.

The meeting was facilitated by Dr Eran Raizman, Senior Animal Health and Production Officer at FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, who in his opening words highlighted that this meeting announces the formation of a Regional Tripartite Joint Secretariat with the aim to ensure a coordinated One Health support to Member States to fight the AMR in Europe and Central Asia.

Dr Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Sub Regional Office for Central Asia, welcomed the participants and shared the vision of the Tripartite collaboration: A World capable of preventing, detecting, containing, eliminating and responding to animal and public health risks attributable to zoonoses and animal diseases with an impact on food security through multi-sectoral cooperation and strong partnerships. Dr Plavsic emphasized the high priority that AMR occupies on both Global and Regional levels and that Regional Tripartite Mechanism establishment in Europe is an important and relevant initiative, which will be aligned with the terms of reference of the global Tripartite Joint Secretariat, however tailored to the regional needs. The regional coordination mechanism between FAO, WHO and OIE in Europe and Central Asia will be soon operationalized to work closer to and more efficient with Member States and partners across the region. (Power Point presentation can be found in Annex 4).

Mr Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, highlighted that this year's tripartite AMR awareness week has a special significance, given that it is taking place in the middle of a pandemic, hence the way we handle AMR has a special importance. In a world with a growing population, the challenge of ensuring safe food and meeting its growing demand, the world will have to produce 60% more food by 2050. As part of the One Health approach we should provide assistance to countries to ensure the safety of food products all the way from stable to table and remember that 66% of all infectious diseases are zoonotic and 75% of emerging diseases come from animals. It is thus important to join forces and act against imprudent use of antimicrobials, which can lead to residues in food and the environment, as well as drive AMR in humans and animals. However, act for an impact! Not only to prevent emerging diseases with zoonotic nature but also to better manage our resources, including antibiotics. It is important that we find the best way to coordinate support activities in countries.

Dr Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe framed AMR with United Action for Better Health, i.e. the European Programme of Work (the EPW). Dr Kluge emphasized the need to ensure health and well-being for all citizens. He stressed prioritizing behavioral and cultural insights as a flagship initiative and as a key to tackling AMR through monitoring public knowledge, risk perceptions, behaviour and trust. COVID-19 has contributed to altered use of antibiotics across the region, i.e. increasing in some countries while decreasing in others related to how people are responding to the crisis and the country context. For example, a behavioural insight study reported that of those self-medicating with antibiotics, 79-96% reported not having been infected with COVID-19 but believed antibiotic use would prevent infection. Dr Kluge presented three considerations to further drive action and partnership: 1) raising awareness and understanding human behaviour; 2) coordinating our efforts using the One Health approach; and 3) elevating health as a political priority for every sector. The intelligence generated will help countries to drive the urgent action needed and see through the COVID-19 crisis while helping avert an AMR catastrophe.

Mr Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Unit: Animal welfare, antimicrobial resistance, European Commission thanked the Tripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR for initiating the event and for bringing the important issue of AMR to the fore and expressed looking forward to continuing to work closely. Mr. Gavinelli emphasized that, whilst the current COVID-19 pandemic has somewhat eclipsed the priority given to AMR, we cannot afford not to give full priority to the fight against AMR, using the One Health approach. He underlined that the EU has acted ambitiously on all dimensions of One health, as per its 2017 One health Action Plan against AMR, which includes over 70 actions covering human health, animal health, the environment and research and innovation and that the EU Farm to Fork Strategy has set a concrete objective to reduce by 50% the overall EU sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 2030.

Dr Natalia Zhukova, Director of the Department for Sanitary, Phytosanitary and Veterinary Measures, Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) highlighted the importance of AMR in the Eurasian Union Area. In line with the requirements of EEU Standards and the control measures to prevent AMR and ensure safe food, Member Countries have checked the food and animal products for drug residues based on the national legislation of each country of EEU. Currently, the EEC is working with Member Countries, making changes in the veterinary drug section of the EEU's technical food safety regulations. The EEC is also working with the current legislation on the EEU Area to regulate a circulation of veterinary drugs between Member Countries, which provides for uniform requirements and procedures for the registration of veterinary medicines and the method of determining the residual quantities of the active substances of veterinary drugs in the products of animal origin. This work will also help combat antimicrobial resistance. The EEC understands that in order to ensure the safety of animal products, further improvement of the Union's regulations on rationing and control of veterinary medicines in animal food products is very important, and therefore it is very important to cooperate with the Tripartite and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

3. Main messages from the panel discussion

The panel consisted of Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Sub Regional Office for Central Asia, Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Nino Berdzuli, Director, Division of Country Health Programmes, WHO, Regional Office for Europe and Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Unit: Animal welfare, antimicrobial resistance. European Commission.

The panelists were asked to reflect on three main questions:

1. Which are the barriers for a real multisectoral collaboration and what can be done to overcome these?
2. What are the priority actions to tackle AMR through the One Health approach?
3. Which actions are better conducted by individual sectors?

Three main commitments were offered by the panelists: 1) the political commitment, with prioritization of health in the political agenda, 2) the formalization of commitment between public health, animal health including wildlife, environment protection and food safety authorities in Member States, which leads to clear roles and responsibilities for each actor, 3) the allocation of resources for implementation of AMR action plans. Many national AMR action plans cannot be fully implemented because there are no funds specifically allocated to this.

Other important aspects that were mentioned by the panelists include the lack of universal awareness among many different target groups. Communication is very important at all levels and between all stakeholders, especially when there is a risk that profit may overrule safety. The adoption and enforcement of legislation needs to be strengthened and there is a need for further capacity building in every sector. Practical examples of actions to be implemented through a One Health approach include the integrated analysis and interpretation of surveillance data from different sectors as well as joint laboratory training as diagnostic procedures are similar between human, animal and environmental samples. This will ensure comparability of laboratory results from various sectors and sources.

It was also acknowledged that working with AMR in a One Health approach does not mean that all activities have to be conducted jointly. Certain actions should be tailored to a specific public, professional or political target group. Though behavioural research may build on the same principle in all sectors, the behaviour to be investigated and potentially altered will differ between sectors. Other examples include antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention and control programmes, which are typically implemented in healthcare facilities to avoid spread of infections and ensure proper antimicrobial treatment. However, there are similar programmes and procedures for animal health. Anyway, it is essential that there is always an exchange of information.

4. Main comments and input from the audience

The audience were asked a few polling questions and were invited to take the floor or react through the chat function. To the question “What are the main challenges to implement national AMR action plans in your country”, many participants indicated that the availability of funding and a lack of coordination were among the main barriers (see Figure 1).

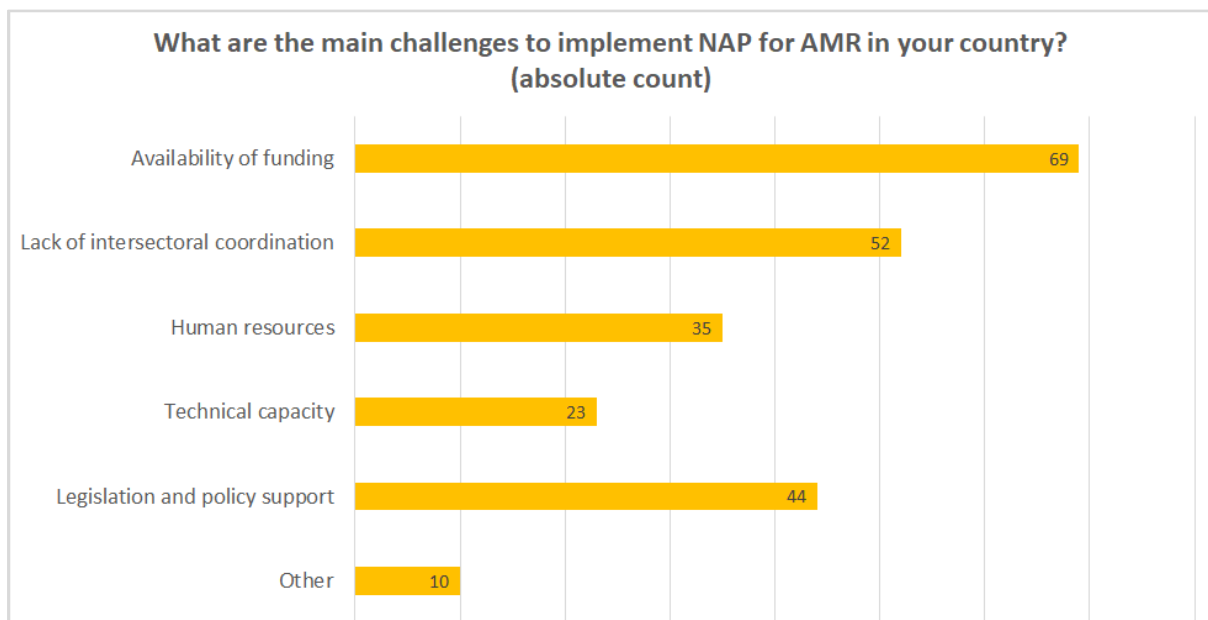


Figure 1. Participant responses to the question on main challenges to implement national AMR action plans.

Overall, legislation and policy support were seen as a bigger challenge for implementation than human resources and technical capacity.

Through the interactive platform, participants made overall 23 interventions, asked questions and captured their positions/opinions.

The majority of interventions highlighted the importance of strengthening the tripartite collaboration in countries and further strengthening collaboration with the environmental sector, particularly given that environment in many countries is not strongly represented within the Government and in different Ministries. The response to the second polling question on the need to ensure the availability of experience, expertise and resources across all sectors is building on this (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Participant responses to the question on the needs to ensure that experience, expertise and resources are available across sectors and to all Member States.

There was strong support for an international One Health coordination platform, and it was expressed that there is a need to strengthen the role and coordination of WHO, FAO and OIE in all countries for their coordination and support to countries to tackle AMR.

It was also proposed to expand the focus beyond antibiotics, including antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitics. Resistance to antifungals (e.g. azole fungicides) was mentioned to particularly impact crop production and would need to be addressed.

Sharing experiences between Member States from a One Health perspective was perceived as a useful practice to be adopted.

5. Final conclusions and future perspective

The formation of a Regional Joint Tripartite Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance was welcomed by the participants and key partners. Such a Secretariat can provide a common framework for collaboration with all major international stakeholders and ensure a coordinated effort to support Member States politically, technically and financially. The combined mandates and competitive advantages of the Tripartite Organizations and partners (e.g. UN Environment Programme), provide a strong platform for action on AMR across all sectors in all countries.

The conclusions from this webinar include:

1. Coordination of efforts, close collaboration and ensuring harmonized policy advice and messages are the preconditions for the success of Tripartite collaboration;
2. The Tripartite should aim to achieve maximal and meaningful impact on the reduction of the AMR threat and the prudent use of antimicrobials, at the political, policy, professional, production and public levels;
3. The establishment of a Regional Joint Secretariat will ensure a One Health approach to support countries with the implementation of their national action plans, offering collaboration when requested, to ensure no country in the region is left behind.

Annex 1. Programme

Webinar for World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2020

Action and partnership on antimicrobial resistance to ensure a coordinated One Health approach in Europe and central Asia

Programme

- 09:30–09:35 Introduction
Eran Raizman, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Facilitator
- 09:35–09:45 The need for a Regional Tripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR
Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Sub Regional Office for Central Asia
- 09:45–09:55 One Health, zoonoses and food safety
Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
- 09:55–10:05 Stop the COVID-19 crisis from becoming an antimicrobial resistance (AMR) catastrophe
Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe
- 10:05–10:15 Success stories in the European Union in antimicrobial medicines use reduction and related legislation
Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Unit: Animal welfare, antimicrobial resistance. European Commission
- 10:15–10:25 Actions taken in the Eurasian Economic Union to prevent AMR through the One Health Approach
Natalia Zhukova, Director of the Department for Sanitary, Phytosanitary and Veterinary Measures, Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)
- 10:25–10:55 Panel discussion
WHO, FAO, OIE, EC, EEC, including interventions and questions from Member States
- 10:55–11:00 Final remarks
Eran Raizman (FAO), Facilitator

Annex 2. Participant breakdown

Target audiences and stakeholders for the webinar were:

- High-level representatives from One Health-related Ministries (Health, Agriculture and Environment) and agencies;
- Representatives from major initiatives, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Foundations, etc. working in AMR;
- Regional and country representatives from FAO, OIE and WHO, Chief Veterinary Officers/Chief Medical Officers.

The webinar was followed by 278 representatives from 58 countries, of which 46 were representatives from the European and Central Asian region.

In terms of representation of the various sectors related to AMR, there was quite an equal participation from the human health sector (46%) and the non-human health sector (48%), represented by animal health (34%), food safety (11%) and agriculture (3%) (see Figure 3.). As was apparent from the discussions, the environmental sector only had little representation (1%).

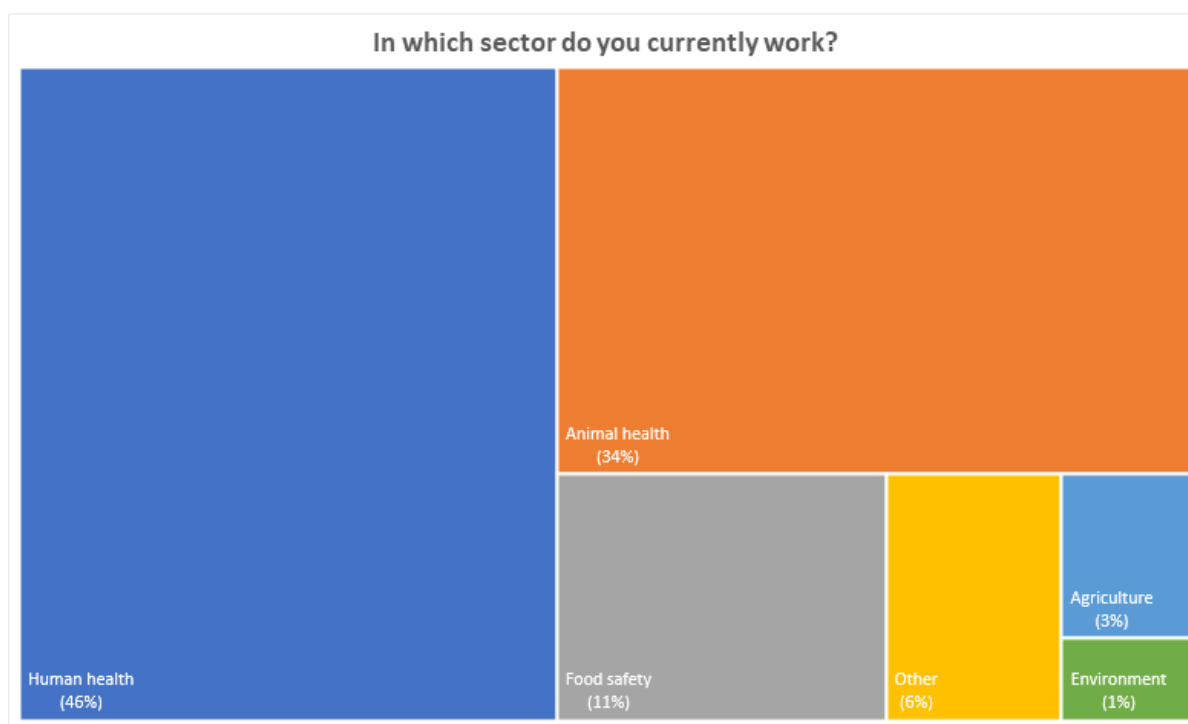


Figure 3. Participant breakdown by sectors.

The Tripartite will actively reach out to the environmental sector when developing the Regional Tripartite Joint Secretariat to ensure a complete One Health approach.

Annex 3. Full statements of speakers

Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Sub Regional Office for Central Asia - The need for a Regional Tripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR

Vision: A World capable of preventing, detecting, containing, eliminating and responding to animal and public health risks attributable to zoonoses and animal diseases with an impact on food security through multi-sectoral cooperation and strong partnerships.

Historical information:

- Formally in April 2010 in Hanoi the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Concept Note.
- Tripartite Commitment (October 2017)
- Tripartite Priority Activities (2017-2020)
- Memorandum of Understanding (2018)

Global Tripartite – Governance and Mandate

- The executive level: Respective Directors General or their designated Deputy or Assistant Directors General of the FAO and WHO and the OIE, who meet in person at least once annually, and by teleconference as necessary, to discuss and reach consensus on strategic issues.
- Rotating “Tripartite Secretariat” was agreed at the annual Tripartite Executive Meeting (February 2012) in response to an executive-level desire to ensure a structured and robust follow-up of the decisions taken, to maintain the annual Tripartite Executive Meeting at the highest strategic level and to delegate non-executive level strategic and technical issues to a Secretariat.
- The overall mandate of the Secretariat is to ensure, between executive-level meetings, a direct line of communication among the three agencies, to inclusively and consistently address technical and policy issues of mutual concern throughout the year and take appropriate decisions, in support of the collective executive level direction.
- The representative will be tasked by his/her organisation to contribute to the technical and policy discussions, to liaise with relevant units/officers within his/her respective organisation, and make proposals, when relevant and appropriate, on behalf of their organisation at this level.

Global Tripartite Secretariat – Functions

- To act as the entry point for questions to/among the Tripartite, excluding particularly urgent or politically sensitive issues, which will be managed directly at the executive level.
- To act as the entry point and to provide early analysis of new Tripartite initiatives and feedback on new activities within an individual international organisation of the Tripartite where Tripartite awareness and/or consultation and/or collaboration might be beneficial, needed/considered.
- To facilitate discussions and give internal guidance on existing Tripartite activities when requested, through coordination of topic-specific contact points in each individual organisation.
- To propose and coordinate strategic approaches to Tripartite funding and donor advocacy when appropriate.

- To gather and coordinate organizational input into Tripartite communications and documents as required (except those issued directly from specific Tripartite technical activities, unless requested by the focal points of the activity) and coordinate Tripartite consensus.
- To review general/umbrella tripartite documents at a technical level and coordinate revision if necessary.
- To optimize ways of collaboration among the tripartite agencies and to propose solutions to any issues or concerns on tripartite collaboration should they arise.
- To identify strategic and other important questions to be brought to the attention of the executive level for information, resolution or decision.
- To facilitate the preparation of the Tripartite Executive Meeting, including agenda, strategic questions, and background materials.
- To communicate and follow-up on executive decisions made during the Tripartite Executive Meeting with relevant staff within the organisations.
- To prepare draft agreements and actions for consideration by the Tripartite Executive Meeting.
- To identify issues that may require the preparation of joint press releases or other communication approaches.

Global Tripartite Secretariat – Working Procedures

- The meeting of the Secretariat is chaired by the respective member organizations on a rotational basis. The hand-over will take place once a year at the end of the first Tripartite Secretariat teleconference immediately following the annual Tripartite Executive Meeting.
- Regular meetings of the Tripartite Secretariat are held, when possible and deemed necessary, on a monthly basis by teleconference or videoconference. Ad hoc meetings may be convened by mutual agreement in response to questions of concern arising between meetings.

Global Tripartite Secretariat – Resources and Amendments

- Each organisation contributes sufficient human and financial resources to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the Secretariat.
- These Terms of Reference should be reviewed annually or before each Tripartite Executive Meeting. The review is adopted by the three organizations at the executive level.

Activities of the Global Secretariat

Tripartite Priority Activities – historical overview:

- 2011: Three Technical Topics as priorities
 - o Antimicrobial resistance,
 - o Rabies and
 - o zoonotic Influenza
- 2017 (October): Tripartite Commitment
- 2017-2020 - Tripartite Priority Activities (Complement Tripartite Commitment)
- 2018 (May): MoU FAO/OIE/WHO on cooperation to combat health risks at the animal-humans-ecosystems interface in the context of the “One Health” Approach and including antimicrobial resistance
- 2019 (February): Tripartite Work Plan to combat health risks at the animal-humans-ecosystems interface in the context of the “One Health” Approach 2019 – 2020

Joint activities under the MOU:

- Supporting the Interagency Coordination Group on AMR established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016, as well as the continuing implementation of the Global Action Plan on AMR
- Engaging with countries to reinforce national and regional human health, animal health and food safety services
- Improving inter-agency collaboration in foresight analysis, risk assessment, preparedness building and joint responses to emerging, reemerging and neglected infectious diseases at the animal-human-ecosystems interface
- Addressing food safety challenges requiring a multi-sector approach in the context of reinforcing food security.
- Promoting coordinated research and development to achieve a common understanding of the highest priority zoonotic diseases and the research and development needed to prevent, detect, and control them
- Developing a Voluntary Code of Conduct to reinforce implementation of international standards on responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials

Regional Tripartite Mechanism in Europe

Launching:

- Relevance: Important and relevant initiative.
- Timing: November-December 2020, January 2021 (before Executive meeting in February 2021)
- Experience from other regions:
 - Asia and Pacific: Tripartite is in place from 2010, progressive development
 - Africa: In place from 2016, progressive development, Tripartite-Plus context.
- Dialogue and exchange between parties (Tripartite, Tripartite-Plus)
- Legal basis: the global framework, relevant documents,
- Legal capacities at regional level to formalize cooperation

Governance:

- Nomination of the Regional Tripartite Secretariat / One Health Regional Coordination Group for Europe
 - *Presidency: Rotational bases (mirror of Global executive),*
 - *Liaison with Global Tripartite Secretariat and technical teams at HQs,*
 - *Title: to be discussed,*
 - *Composition: to be discussed,*
 - *Structure and modus operandi: to be discussed,*
 - *Liaison with technical teams at HQs – to be ensured.*
- ToR: Aligned with Global ToR, with elements relevant for the region.
- Nomination and role of representatives: Model of the Global Secretariat
- Working procedures: Model of the Global Secretariat
- Resources: Model of the Global Secretariat.
- Development and operationalisation: progressively.

Thank you,

Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative OIE

Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia - One Health, zoonoses and food safety

This year the tripartite AMR awareness week has a special significance. It is taking place in the middle of a pandemic that has not been seen in recent generations. However, while the pandemic is a visible crisis and a wakeup call that all of us can feel daily in the last 8 months, it comes on the top of other crises the world has been facing. One of them is antimicrobial resistance.

Nevertheless, there is a clear line that connects these crises. It all comes down to how we manage our resources. How we exploit them versus how we keep them. Unfortunately, for decades, despite repeated warnings, human kind ignored the concept of sustainability, and now we are already seeing and paying the consequences.

World population is expected to increase for another 30 to 50 years, reaching at least 11 billion by 2050. Feeding a hungry and populated world is not only challenging but has its own negative effects on the environment, on us.

While, sadly, each night about 800 million people go to bed with empty stomach, the middle class continues to grow. Their increased purchase power also includes better quality proteins, mainly from animals.

To satisfy this demand the world will have to produce 60% more food by 2050.

Sadly, 75% must come from the same amount of land.

Livestock production intensification, therefore, must continue and even be enhanced in order to meet these demands.

Further, this process directly impacts the demand for high quality and safe food from animal origin.

Producing safe food should be approached particularly from its zoonosis potential because most foodborne pathogens are transmitted from food-producing animals, mainly their feces, through the food chain to people, often in other countries than where the food is produced.

The problem with these foodborne pathogens does not stop there, on the dining table, because these animal originated pathogens, may be resistant to the same antibiotics that are used to treat sick people. This stems from an imprudent antibiotic use within these intensive production systems, on the farm!

Thus, the concept of safe food, or food safety should go all the way from farm to fork, including the environment, to prevent, not only sickness, but further antibiotic resistance that directly increases death toll.

As part of the One Health approach we should provide assistance to countries to ensure the safety of the food they produce all the way from stable to table.

Food produced in intensive livestock systems has a huge burden on the environment not only in terms of its contamination with pollutants, including antibiotics, but also because increased livestock production means reoccupying more and more natural habitats, particularly forests for livestock production, either for growing feed or raising and pasturing animals.

With time, the natural landscape that surrounds us becomes more and more fragmented, where patches of forest are separated by or even come along with intensive livestock farms and crop fields to grow their feed.

As a result, more and more humans and livestock are getting in closer contact with wildlife., Our close relationship with wildlife means also the very close interaction with their pathogens, particularly the one with zoonotic and even more, pandemic potential!

Considering that 67% of all infectious diseases are zoonotic, and three quarters of emerging infectious diseases originate from animals, the risk is real, the risk is here and the pandemic is a real wake up call for it.

Emerging pathogens, like the one that is causing COVID-19, pose a daily threat to our life. By now, all of us know it better than any textbook or scientific article published even less than a year ago.

Even if many of these pathogens are viral, AMR will make our task to fight against their consequences even more difficult, simply because many of these viral infections are worsened by bacterial contamination.

Just like busy airports around the world who suddenly got paused due to the pandemic, humanity must halt and reflect on the way forward.

Clearly, the way we have chosen so far is not sustainable and will not only exacerbate the climate change and AMR crises but will also increase the threat of emerging pathogens and pandemics.

It is definitely not too late to join forces and act. But act for an impact! Not only to prevent emerging diseases with zoonotic nature but also to better manage our natural resources, which have been proven to be their origin.

Advocacy and raising awareness are pivotal in this effort. This webinar is an example of joint forces to raise awareness.

I am taking this opportunity to express my support for the 3 Regional Tripartite Organizations to join forces and help coordinate the AMR efforts in our region. Your determination in reducing AMR threat before it is too late is acknowledged and appreciated.

While the FAO/WHO/OIE tripartite is focusing on AMR, similar efforts must take place using the One Health approach to prevent and fight the threat of emerging and even endemic zoonosis. Only this joint effort will ensure us and the coming generations' prosperity and health.

Thank you,

Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative FAO

Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, Regional Director for WHO Regional Office for Europe - Stop the COVID-19 crisis from becoming an antimicrobial resistance (AMR) catastrophe.

SARS-CoV-2 is the latest in a succession of zoonotic infections that have spread to humans with catastrophic consequences.

The resulting COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption and devastation globally. Despite this, the pandemic has catalyzed action on persistent and growing health challenges. I am encouraged to be here today with our Tripartite partners to announce that we will form a Tripartite Joint Secretariat on antimicrobial resistance for our region.

The Secretariat will help us coordinate and strengthen action across the region to combat AMR and call for prudent use of antibiotics in the human and animal sectors.

This is vitally important to see us through the COVID-19 crisis while helping avert an AMR catastrophe.

To further drive action and partnership on AMR there are three considerations I present to you today:

1. Raising awareness and understanding human behaviour
2. Coordinating our efforts using the One Health approach
3. Elevating health as a political priority for every sector

Raising awareness and understanding human behavior

COVID-19 has contributed to altered use of antibiotics across the region. We see reports of antibiotic use increasing in some countries while decreasing in others. This relates directly to how people are responding to the crisis and the country context.

In some countries, for example, when surgical interventions were postponed, increased IPC measures were taken in hospitals, and citizens had fewer doctor consultations, we saw a decrease in antibiotic use.

However, in countries where treatment guidelines are not available or followed; where people can buy antibiotics over-the-counter, there has been an increase of antibiotic use. Research conducted through our Behavioral and Cultural Insights Unit in nine countries and areas shows a concerning rise in the use of antibiotics to prevent COVID-19. Of those self-medicating with antibiotics, 79-96% reported not having been infected with COVID-19 but believed antibiotic use would prevent infection.

If AMR grows, we risk losing the effectiveness of antibiotics when needed most. Medical procedures and infections such as pneumonia and tuberculosis will continue to become harder to treat as the antibiotics used to treat them become less effective.

Its clear action is what is required – we must harness our understanding of human behaviour to engage everyone – parents, children, healthcare workers.

Through our European Programme of Work (the EPW), our agenda for health in the region for the next five years, I have emphasized the need to ensure health and well-being for all citizens. To mobilize progress, I have prioritized behavioral and cultural insights as a flagship initiative. It is key to tackling AMR through monitoring public knowledge, risk perceptions, behaviours and trust. This intelligence will help countries in drive the urgent action we need.

Which brings me to my second point:

To tackle AMR we need to coordinate our efforts using the One Health approach

The identification of a specific variant of SARS-COV2 associated with Mink in Denmark is a stark reminder of the interaction between human and animal-health. It was thanks to the alertness of the veterinary public health authorities in Denmark and their good collaboration with human public health authorities that this came to light - showing the importance of One Health in action

The same should apply to antibiotics as they continue to be used in humans, animals and plants, and antibiotic resistant pathogens transmit from one to the other.

The Tripartite collaboration, whose combined mandates stretch across the human-animal-environment interface, is crucial to help address these environmental determinants. This platform will help us work with Member States and partners to manage risks in humans, animals and the environment, as well as to investigate and respond to public health emergencies and coordinate action against AMR.

This collaboration shows very encouraging political willingness, which brings me to my third point:

Prioritising health on the political agenda

To tackle AMR at the highest level we need health to be a priority for every sector.

Our European Programme of Work serves this purpose. Its innovative commitment to building the capacity of health officials in our member states, helps promote health on the political agenda. In the field of AMR, we are proactively building capacity in antibiotic stewardship, infection prevention and control, and surveillance of antimicrobial use and resistance. While supporting countries in the implementation of their national action plans to address AMR.

To support these efforts WHO Europe has created an independent structure to help elevate all aspects of health on the political agenda. The Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development, chaired by Professor Mario Monti, brings together experts from a range of fields including economics and life science, government and leaders of the business community.

The Commission will draw lessons from the COVID-19 responses and will make recommendations on investments and reforms to improve the resilience of health systems. When the Commission met in October ONE Health was identified as a key focus area.

When looking at the challenging road ahead I echo the words of Al Gore: *“We sometimes emphasize the danger in a crisis without focusing on the opportunities that are there.”*

I hope we can use the brutal test of the COVID-19 crisis to find new ways of solving persistent health problems and identify opportunities for new partners to join us in this work.

Thank you

Dr Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe

Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Unit: Animal welfare, antimicrobial resistance. European Commission - Success stories in the European Union in antimicrobial medicines use reduction and related legislation.

- Thank the Tripartite (OIE, FAO and WHO) Joint Secretariat on AMR for having been at the initiative of this virtual event, and you look forward to continue working with them closely.
- Stress that, whilst the current COVID-19 pandemic has somewhat eclipsed the priority given to AMR, we cannot afford not to give full priority to the fight against AMR, using the One Health approach.
- Underline that addressing AMR through a One Health approach is a priority of Commissioner Kyriakides. Highlight that President von der Leyen has called this Commission to ensure the full implementation of the 2017 EU One Health action plan (AP) against AMR.
- Underline that efforts from actors at all level and across all of the One health dimensions are required to reduce AMR, acknowledging the interlinkages between human, animal, plant and environmental health.
- Underline that the EU has acted ambitiously on all dimensions of One health, as per its 2017 One health Action Plan against AMR, which includes over 70 actions covering human health, animal health, the environment and research and innovation.
- Highlight that, in line with the “One health” approach, to reduce the need for antimicrobials, DG SANTE continues to promote vaccination, robust surveillance, strict infection prevention and control, and – specific to animal health - animal husbandry systems and feeding regimes which support good animal health and welfare.
- Highlight that in line with this Commission’s political priorities and the Green deal, and forthcoming instruments and the new MFF, the EU will act further. The EU Farm to Fork Strategy has set a concrete objective to reduce by 50% the overall EU sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 2030. The planned Health Union will strengthen the EU’s response against AMR and the new pharmaceuticals package will notably include a revision of legislation to support innovation for novel antimicrobials, a major unmet need up until now. Horizon Europe will continue funding research on AMR.
- Encourage EU MS and Third countries to continue efforts to reduce excessive and inappropriate use of antimicrobials, as per their national action plans, and encourage them to underpin them with an integrated, cross-sectoral One health approach.
- Indicate that combatting AMR is also important in the context of Covid-19 where Covid-19 patients could develop secondary bacterial infections resistant to antimicrobials. Thus, efforts at infection prevention and control remain pivotal both for preventing Covid-19 and AMR.

Andrea Gavinelli,

Head of Unit: Animal welfare, antimicrobial resistance. European Commission

Доклад
для вебинара по случаю Всемирной недели правильного
использования антибиотиков – 2020
«Действия и партнерство в сфере борьбы с устойчивостью к противомикробным препаратам с целью обеспечения скоординированной реализации подхода «Единое здравоохранение» в Европе и Центральной Азии»

Действия, предпринимаемые в Евразийском экономическом союзе для предотвращения устойчивости к противомикробным препаратам в рамках подхода «Единое здравоохранение».

Добрый день, уважаемые коллеги!

Разрешите поприветствовать Вас от имени Евразийской экономической комиссии и поблагодарить за приглашение участвовать в вебинаре, в рамках которого запланировано обсуждение актуальной на сегодняшний день проблемы распространения устойчивости к противомикробным препаратам.

Антибиотики сегодня широко используются в животноводстве для лечения продуктивных животных, в кормовых добавках, в растениеводстве и садоводстве для подавления возбудителей заболеваний, профилактики, для увеличения срока хранения готовой продукции.

Безусловно, бесконтрольное применение антибиотиков, при котором концентрации их остатков в продуктах питания могут превышать допустимые уровни, создает угрозу здоровью населения и будущим поколениям, а также формирует дополнительный риск возникновения антибиотикорезистентности.

Попадая в организм человека через пищевые продукты в небольших количествах, антибиотики запускают механизм привыкания к ним и перестают действовать для лечения болезней.

Основная проблема заключается в том, что возрастающая устойчивость населения к антибиотикам может привести к тому, что некоторые распространенные заболевания станут неизлечимыми.

Деятельность Евразийской экономической комиссии осуществляется на основании Договора о Евразийском экономическом союзе от 29 мая 2014 года (далее – Договор о Союзе), где определено, что продукция, выпускаемая в обращение на территории Союза, должна быть безопасной.

Евразийская экономическая комиссия в сфере СФС-мер разрабатывает нормативные правовые акты для обеспечения санитарно-эпидемиологического благополучия, карантинной фитосанитарной и ветеринарно-санитарной безопасности территории Евразийского экономического союза (далее – Союз), с учетом научного обоснования применения СФС - мер.

Уполномоченные органы государств-членов Союза в соответствии с правом Союза осуществляют государственный санитарно-эпидемиологический и ветеринарный надзор (контроль) в отношении пищевой продукции животного происхождения на соответствие требованиям технических регламентов Союза, Единым санитарно-эпидемиологическим и гигиеническим требованиям, Единым ветеринарным (ветеринарно-санитарным) требованиям. При этом все вышеперечисленные документы содержат положения, касающиеся необходимости контроля содержания

в пищевой продукции животного происхождения ветеринарных препаратов, в том числе антибиотиков.

В рамках контроля качества и безопасности пищевых продуктов пристальное внимание уделяется выявлению содержания в них, в том числе остаточных количеств ветеринарных лекарственных средств, интенсивная разработка и регистрация которых ведется во многих странах.

Договором о союзе определено, что в целях обеспечения безопасности к продукции могут устанавливаться более жесткие требования, чем требования, установленные международными документами.

Соответственно нормативы для некоторых ветеринарных препаратов (например, тетрациклиновая группа) установленные в Союзе, являются более жесткими по сравнению с нормативами, установленными международными стандартами. Данные нормы отличаются от международных стандартов, являются более ограничительными, но имеют соответствующее научное обоснование на основе оценки риска, что советуется положениям Соглашением ВТО по санитарным и фитосанитарным мерам.

На сегодняшний день Евразийской экономической комиссией ведется работа по внесению изменений в технический регламент Таможенного союза «О безопасности пищевой продукции» (ТР ТС 021/2011) в части включения в него нормативов содержания ветеринарных лекарственных средств в пищевой продукции животного происхождения.

В указанном проекте изменений в ТР ТС 021/2011 содержатся МДУ остаточных количеств содержащихся в мясе, рыбе, мясе птицы, молоке, продуктах пчеловодства, что позволит устранить один из механизмов развития антибиотикорезистентности у населения.

Кроме этого, Евразийская экономическая комиссия проводит работу по подготовке Правил регулирования обращения ветеринарных лекарственных средств на таможенной территории Евразийского экономического союза, которые предусматривают единые требования и процедуры регистрации ветеринарных лекарственных препаратов на территории Союза, в том числе, предусматривают обязательное представление заявителем в орган

по регистрации ветеринарного препарата методики определения остаточных количеств действующего вещества ветеринарного лекарственного препарата в продукции животного происхождения. Эта работа также будет содействовать борьбе с устойчивостью к противомикробным препаратам.

В рамках взаимодействия с ВОЗ в августе 2020 года на площадке Департамента санитарных, фитосанитарных и ветеринарных мер Евразийской экономической комиссии состоялся вебинар «Остатки ветеринарных препаратов в продуктах питания животного происхождения – проблема общественного здравоохранения», организованный ВОЗ совместно с Евразийской экономической комиссией, в котором приняли участие представители уполномоченных органов государств-членов Евразийского союза, стран СНГ, осуществляющих надзор за пищевой продукцией.

В рамках вебинара экспертами ВОЗ, Комиссии Кодекс Алиментариус были освещены вопросы осуществления лабораторного контроля остатков ветеринарных лекарственных средств в пищевой продукции животного происхождения, применения методов определения содержания ветеринарных лекарственных средств в пищевой продукции животного происхождения

на примере стран Европейского союза. Информация, полученная в ходе вебинара, уже используется в работе по внесению изменений в ТР ТС 021/2011.

Мы понимаем, что для обеспечения безопасности обращаемой на таможенной территории Союза пищевой продукции животного происхождения необходимо

дальнейшее совершенствование нормативных правовых актов союза в части нормирования и контроля остатков ветеринарных лекарственных средств в пищевой продукции животного происхождения и поэтому для нас очень важно сотрудничество с ВОЗ, ФАО, Комиссией Кодекс Алиментариус.

В заключении хотели еще раз сделать акцент на том, что проблема антибиотикорезистентности - глобальная проблема и только скоординированные действия всех стран смогут дать положительные результаты в борьбе с ней.

Natalia Zhukova, Director of the Department for Sanitary, Phytosanitary and Veterinary Measures, EEC

Annex 4. Power Point presentation on the Global and Regional Tripartite Coordination Mechanism



Global and Regional Tripartite Coordination Mechanism

Dr Budimir Plavsic

Regional Representative, Head of RR in Moscow,
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

Webinar for World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2020

Action and partnership on antimicrobial resistance to ensure a coordinated One Health approach in Europe and central Asia

23 November 2020



One-Health Vision:

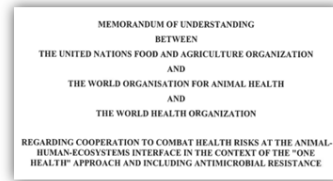
A World capable of preventing, detecting, containing, eliminating and responding to animal and public health risks attributable to zoonoses and animal diseases with an impact on food security through multi-sectoral cooperation and strong partnerships.

The basis of the FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite Alliance

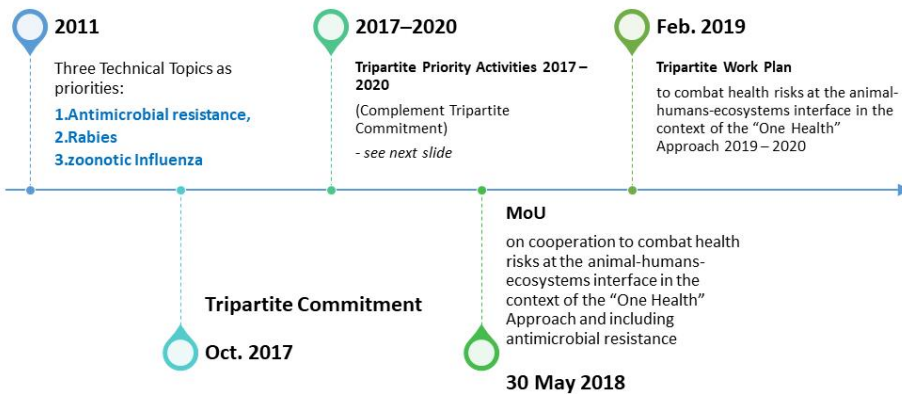
- Tripartite Concept Note (April 2010)
- Tripartite Commitment (October 2017),
Tripartite Priority Activities (2017-2020)
- Memorandum of Understanding (2018)

Actions

- Capacity building for surveillance and rapid response,
- consistency across the standard-setting activities,
- Evaluation and mitigation measures,
- Strengthening of the health authorities in MC



Tripartite Priority Activities



Tripartite Priority Activities 2017 – 2020

A. Health Systems Focus:

1. Re-enforcement of national health services
2. Intelligence, early warning, and disease IS
3. Preparedness and response to infectious diseases
4. Coordination on R&D on zoonotic pathogens

C. Pathogen-Specific Focus:

1. Dog-mediated Rabies
2. Zoonotic Influenza
3. MERS-CoV
4. Zoonotic Tuberculosis
5. Vector borne disease
6. Rift Valley fever (RVF) coordination

B. Topic-Specific Systems Focus:

1. Antimicrobial Resistance
2. Food Safety
3. Climate Change
4. Nagoya Protocol
5. Communications – overarching all activities



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



OIE
WORLD ORGANISATION
FOR ANIMAL HEALTH



World Health
Organization

MoU on cooperation - “One Health” Approach

Joint activities under the MoU:

- *Interagency Coordination Group on AMR (UN General Assembly in 2016), continuing implementation of the Global Action Plan on AMR*
- *Reinforcement of national and regional human health, animal health and food safety services*
- *Collaboration in foresight analysis, risk assessment, preparedness building and joint responses to emerging, reemerging and neglected infectious diseases at the animal-human-ecosystems interface*
- *Addressing food safety challenges requiring a multi-sector approach in the context of reinforcing food security.*
- *Research and development on priority zoonotic diseases*
- *Code of Conduct on responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials*

Initial areas of collaboration:

- *antimicrobial resistance;*
- *emerging and endemic zoonotic diseases (incl. FBD) and information sharing; and*
- *strengthening of health systems.*

Regional Tripartite Secretariat - Europe

Pre-launching discussions:

- Relevance: *Important and relevant initiative.*
- Timing: *Now*
- Experience from other regions:
 - Asia and Pacific: Tripartite is in place from 2010, progressive development,
 - Africa: In place from 2016, progressive development, Tripartite-Plus context.
- Dialogue and exchange between parties (Tripartite, Tripartite-Plus)
- Legal basis: the global framework, relevant documents,
- Legal capacities at regional level to formalize cooperation

Regional Tripartite Secretariat - Europe

Governance *(for discussions):*

- Nomination of the Regional Tripartite Secretariat for Europe/ One Health Regional Coordination Group for Europe
 - Presidency: Rotational bases (mirror of Global executive),
 - Liaison with Global Tripartite Secretariat and technical teams at HQs,
 - Title: to be discussed,
 - Composition: to be discussed,
 - Structure and modus operandi: to be discussed,
- ToR: to be aligned with Global ToR, with elements relevant for the region.

Regional Tripartite Secretariat - Europe

Governance:

- Nomination and role of representatives: Model of the Global Secretariat
 - Executive – non-executive level
- Working procedures: Model of the Global Secretariat
- Resources: Model of the Global Secretariat.
- Development and operationalization: progressively.



Thank you for your attention



Global health security is only as safe as the combined strength of national human, animal, and environmental health services to fight disease risks.



Dr. Monique Eloit
OIE Director General



12 rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France – www.oie.int – oie@oie.int

