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Activities of the Working Group

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

(90 SG/11GT2)

ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

1. Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Chair of the Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the last General Session and the outcomes of its biannual meetings held from [4 to 6 October 2022](#) and from [28 to 30 March 2023](#). The Working Group held an extraordinary meeting on [3 August 2022](#) to review the work of its Subgroups prior to its October 2022 meeting.
2. The Working Group on AMR was established by the Director General following the adoption of Resolution No. 14 at the 87th General Session. Since its establishment, it has convened twice yearly in March/April and in October. Additionally, Subgroups of the Working Group have been formed to address specific issues. These Subgroups met regularly to prepare the discussions for the Working Group meetings.

The Working Group, in accordance with its [Terms of Reference \(ToRs\)](#) has built on the work of previous *ad hoc* Groups on AMR to provide guidance and set priorities to support the implementation of [WOAH Strategy on AMR](#) and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials, and the [recommendations](#) of the 2nd WOAHA Global Conference on AMR and prudent use of antimicrobials agents in animals.

The [members of the Working Group](#) are:

Dr Tomoko Ishibashi (Japan) (Chair)
Ms Barbara Freischem (The Netherlands)
Dr Gerard Moulin (France) – Up to October 2022
Dr Stephen Page (Australia)
Dr Donald Prater (United States of America)
Dr Fajer Sabah Al Saloom (Bahrain)
Prof Moritz van Vuuren (South Africa) – Up to end of 2023

3. The Working Group reviewed the progress made by the Subgroup on the revision of the Terrestrial Code Chapter 6.10. 'Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine'.

The six-member Subgroup of the Working Group drafted a revised Chapter 6.10. taking into consideration the proposal to include non-food producing animals and a reference the environment. The Working Group validated the draft and the [rationale of the Subgroup's](#) proposed amendments and submitted them to the Terrestrial Code Commission for review at its September 2022 meeting. The Code Commission commended the Working Group's effort and circulated the draft chapter in [Annex 23 of its report](#) for Member comments. At its February 2023 meeting, the Commission requested that the Working Group consider Member comments of technical nature and submit a revised draft for its September 2023 meeting. Meanwhile, the Working Group plans to set up an AHG to revise Chapter 6.8. and the Subgroup will revise Chapter 6.9. The plans to revise Chapters 6.7 and 6.11 of the Terrestrial Code and Chapter 6.2 of the Aquatic Animal Health Code will be assessed in due course.

4. The Working Group reviewed and endorsed the work of the *ad hoc* Group (AHG) on the Technical Reference Document of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance (TRAVI) for Aquatic Animals and on the work of the Subgroup on TRAVI for Swine and planned the future development of TRAVI for other animal species.

The AHG for aquatic animals included three members of the Working Group and seven external aquatic animal health experts. Using the approach for the poultry species, the Document only includes antimicrobials identified as authorised for use in aquatic animals in at least one country. The Working Group endorsed the peer-reviewed Document and commended the AHG's members for their high level of expertise and for developing a useful tool for professionals when

prescribing and overseeing the use of antimicrobials in aquatic animals. The TRAVI for Aquatic Animals was published in Annex 4 of the Working Group's October 2022 report ([TRAVI for Aquatic Animals](#)).

The Subgroup for Swine, consisting of five of the Working Group members sought feedback from industry experts on swine health, in particular on the inclusion of *Chlamydia suis* in the Subgroup's Document. Swine health experts concluded that chlamydiosis was not relevant for swine production and that no antimicrobial veterinary product was licensed for treatment of *C. suis* infection. Subsequently, the Working Group thanked the Subgroup for its tremendous work, endorsed the finalised Document for Swine and published it in Annex 5 of its October 2022 meeting ([TRAVI for Swine](#)).

For other animal species, the Working Group decided to prioritise bovine animals and cats and dogs, and to use *ad hoc* Groups to develop both TRAVI. Both AHGs, each chaired by a member of the Working Group, first met at WOAHA headquarters in April 2023 and are expected to complete their TRAVI in 2024. Additionally, it was proposed that the AHG for cats and dogs explore other antimicrobials (e.g., antivirals, antifungals, antiparasitics) to see how antimicrobial lists could be later expanded. The substantial revision of the main list will start after the completion of the TRAVIs for bovine animals and dogs and cats.

5. The Working Group was updated on the WOAHA antimicrobial use (AMU) database ANIMUSE (ANimal antiMicrobial USE), on the 7th and 8th round of (AMU) data collection and on the AMU field level data project.

The [ANIMUSE](#) Global Database on antimicrobial intended for use in animals was launched on 19 September 2022. The WOAHA Delegates were invited to submit their data for the 8th round of AMU data collection using the portal. The data dashboard (available to the public), the confidential country portal (available to WOAHA Members only), the security measures and helpdesk functionalities were explained. Since the launch, the portal was accessed by over a hundred Members and received positive feedback from key users and post-training workshops attendees, indicating overall appreciation. Upcoming activities include rebranding, development and implementation of the public portal dashboard, further in-region training workshops and further data analysis to monitor progress on prudent use of antimicrobials. The Working Group congratulated the team for the impressive work and recommended to collaborate with FAO (inFARM) and WHO (Global Integrated Surveillance System for AMR and AMU (GISSA)) for a better integrated surveillance process.

The 7th round of data collection's figures were presented using the new [interactive report](#) available on the public portal and the report was published in May 2023. The 8th round of data collection saw a substantial decrease in submissions, largely due to technology access issues. The Working Group appreciated the initiative to show Members how ANIMUSE can improve analysis of their own data but advised WOAHA to explore ways to support Members better so that the number of submissions increase over time.

WOAHA is developing a global repository of projects with field level AMU data from various countries, which includes methodology and reporting mechanisms. So far, 81 studies have been added. WOAHA is exploring ways to better display and disseminate project information.

6. The Working Group was updated on the progress achieved in the project for Substandard and Falsified Veterinary Products (SFVPs).

The project aims to create a global alert system for WOAHA Focal Points for Veterinary Products (FPVPs) and is modeled on WHO's successful surveillance system for SF medical products. Alerts generated from notifications of SFVPs received from WOAHA's network of FPVPs will inform Members of incidents of SFVPs and help remove these products from circulation. This system will help gain a better understanding of SFVPs and their impact on AMR. In the pilot phase I, fourteen geographically well distributed Members reported 37 incidents, and key findings may be published while respecting data confidentiality. The pilot phase II will aim to enroll 40 Members and will use a SharePoint portal to make reporting and alert notifications easier. An electronic

expert group (EEG) will be established in 2023 to develop guidelines on post-marketing surveillance of veterinary products quality.

The Working Group recommended to explore further the harmonization between human and animal health sector initiatives for SFVPs and the approach taken so far, which is very similar to existing pharmacovigilance systems. It also recommended improving awareness and understanding on data reporting to increase Member participation.

7. The Working Group was updated on the work of the Quadripartite⁴ on AMR.

The Quadripartite plans to revise the **Global action plan (GAP)** and publish it as a 'Quadripartite document'; a change from the 2015 GAP produced by WHO in consultations with other sectors. Whereas most of the GAP 2015 remains valid, an update of key areas is undergoing and should be ready for the High Level AMR event planned at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 2024.

The **GAP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)** is in its 4th year of reporting. New guidance were developed to support the establishment, the monitoring and evaluation of National Action Plans (NAP). Data from the GAP M&E framework and [Tracking Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self-Assessment Survey \(TrACSS\)](#) were used for the 2023 GAP biennial progress report. TrACSS data suggest that only 20% of the 157 countries undertake M&E of NAP delivery.

The global collaborative **Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (MSPP)** launched during the World Awareness Antibiotic Week (WAAW) 2022 engages and empowers stakeholders across the One Health spectrum to fight against AMR. [A call for membership has been launched](#) and approximately 60 countries have expressed interest to join the MSPP. The 1st plenary meeting is scheduled for July 2023.

The 3rd **Ministerial conference on AMR** was held in Oman in November 2022. The [Muscat Ministerial Manifesto on AMR](#) has been signed by 47 countries. The Manifesto includes two specific targets for the animal sector: a) reduction of AMU in animals to 30-50% by 2030, and b) zero use of Medically Important Antimicrobials (MIA) for human medicine in animals for non-veterinary medical purposes. WOA's position is that animal sector targets should be global and not country-specific. WOA plans to monitor regional and global level progress towards the manifesto's targets using data reported to ANIMUSE. The 4th Ministerial conference will be in Saudi Arabia in 2024, likely after UNGA 2024.

The [6th AMR GLG meeting took place in February 2023](#) and emphasized the urgent need for financing mechanisms to support the implementation of NAPs and to address the antibiotic pipeline and access crises through investment in research and development. The GLG published a [Pocket guide for ministers on how to respond to AMR](#) in November 2022. The GLG has developed a roadmap for UNGA 2024 to advocate for concrete political commitments as well as to secure sustainable financing. 'Antimicrobial resistance' will be rebranded as 'AMR' so that media, politicians, and the general public can relate to it more easily.

The Working Group was updated on the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) initiative, which currently provides grant finance to ten low- and middle-income countries to develop, implement and scale up One Health AMR NAPs with Quadripartite cooperation.

8. The Working Group was updated on the plan to revise WOA's [AMR Strategy](#), published in 2016, to ensure continued relevance. The Working Group considered the current framework of the WOA AMR Strategy to still be adequate and relevant. It highlighted data (e.g. more data of better quality) and improved antimicrobial stewardship as crucial elements to be strengthened. Its complete feedback was published in [annex 3 of its October 2022 report](#). In March 2023, the Working Group was informed on the plan to reinforce actions on companion animals (i.e., cats &

¹ Quadripartite: the Tripartite partnership for One Health, bringing together the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), formally became the Quadripartite when it signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP in March 2022.

dogs to start with) across the four pillars of the AMR Strategy. The final concept note will be presented to the Group for review at its October 2023 meeting.

9. The Working Group was informed that their [Terms of References have been revised](#). The Deputy Director General-approved this revision, which clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the chair, rapporteur and Secretariat. WOHAI will be calling for experts to promptly fill two vacancies on its Working Group following resignations.
