

Statement on agenda item 12.2–Antimicrobial resistance*Delivered at the 70th World Health Assembly*

Global Health Council members, PATH, the Global Health Technologies Coalition, and the American Academy of Pediatrics are pleased to see attention focused on antimicrobial resistance, which is a global threat to health. We applaud recognition of the need for new products, including antimicrobial medicines, diagnostics and vaccines as part of an effective strategy to combat AMR.

We ask that global efforts to combat AMR encompass the broad spectrum of antimicrobial resistance including not only a wide variety of bacteria, but also parasites, viruses and fungi. In addition, we note the importance of developing new tools, including point-of-care diagnostics, for other poverty-related diseases that can rapidly develop microbial resistance, including, for example, pneumonia, diarrheal disease, and typhoid.

We welcome the establishment of the Global Antimicrobial Surveillance System and are pleased that the system will expand to include other types of surveillance related to antimicrobial resistance as well as links to other global surveillance systems such as those that help reduce overuse of antimicrobials in agriculture. We call on the WHO to fully support these systems and ensure they are not created in silos, but rather are designed to meet global needs.

Funding for the range of activities combatting AMR, from the development of new tools to delivery and scale up, is vital. Resources must be allocated to ensure both stewardship and access through appropriate use of antimicrobials according to standard guidelines for judicious use, development of necessary diagnostics, and to ensure health care worker training to effectively diagnose infections. We commend the action taken by some member states in completing their national action plans on AMR, and urge others to develop plans in a consultative fashion. We respectfully urge the WHO to monitor progress to ensure accountability such that these plans are fully implemented.