

Statement on agenda item 12.2—Antimicrobial resistance

Submitted May 5, 2017 at the US Department of Health and Human Services World Health Assembly Stakeholder Listening Session

Members of the Global Health Technologies Coalition and PATH are actively involved in the development of new tools to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance and are pleased to see the recognition of the need for new products, including antimicrobial medicines, diagnostics and vaccines as part of an effective strategy to combat AMR.

As organizations with expertise in the development of technologies targeting poverty-related diseases, we are pleased that the Secretariat has expanded efforts to prevent and control drug resistance in HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. We call on the US to fully support these efforts and to ensure that global efforts to combat AMR focus on the broad spectrum of antimicrobial resistance including a wide variety of bacteria, but also parasites, viruses and fungi. In addition, we note the importance of prioritizing the development of new tools, including point-of-care diagnostics, for other poverty-related diseases that can rapidly develop microbial resistance, including pneumonia, diarrheal disease, and typhoid, which continue to cause high levels of mortality and morbidity.

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 and links to other global surveillance systems. We call on the US to fully support expanded efforts and help ensure these systems are not created in silos, but are designed to meet the overall needs of the health system.

We note the importance of adequate funding for the entire range of activities needed to combat AMR, from the development of new tools to delivery and scale up. Appropriate resources must be allocated to ensure both stewardship and access through appropriate prescribing and use of antimicrobials, as well as to ensure training so that health care workers can effectively diagnose infections.

We commend the action taken by member states in completing their national action plans on AMR however we urge the US to emphasize the importance of accountability to ensure these plans are fully implemented.