Statement on agenda item 7.2—Antimicrobial resistance

Delivered January 25, 2017 at the 140th session of the World Health Organization Executive Board

Chairperson, Honorable Ministers, distinguished delegates, and colleagues,

Global Health Council would like to take this opportunity to highlight several points for your consideration regarding agenda item 7.2, Antimicrobial resistance. This statement is supported by PATH and the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC).

Council and Coalition members, including PATH, work every day to fight the rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) both in the lab and on the frontlines. As such, we fully support General Assembly resolution 71/3 on AMR, and respectfully call for all the stakeholders it identifies to meet their commitments. In particular, we note that the resolution identifies research and development (R&D) as a vital part of an overall strategy to fight AMR. While significant progress has already been made on many of the items in resolution 71/3, progress toward creating a development and stewardship framework for new technologies to address AMR has been slow.

In this context, we would like to call the Executive Board’s attention to the importance of the follow-up mechanisms identified in resolution 71/3. We believe that the success of the fight against AMR will depend on how well the global health community creates accountability to meet 71/3 and other AMR-related commitments. We ask that WHO accelerate efforts in conjunction with FAO and OIE to create an interagency coordination group, and that this coordination group be given the authority to provide real accountability within cooperating agencies.