

2017 ASEAN LEADERS' DECLARATION ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR): COMBATING AMR THROUGH ONE HEALTH APPROACH

Adopted in Manila, Philippines on 13 November 2017

1. WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila, Philippines on 13 November 2017, have come together to jointly cooperate in combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through a multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach within the framework of "One Health";
2. RECOGNIZING the Global Action Plan on AMR adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) Member States at the 68th World Health Assembly in May 2015, which was developed in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and served as the basis for the political declaration of the *High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Antimicrobial Resistance* agreed by all United Nations (UN) Member States on 21 September 2016 during the UN General Assembly;
3. REAFFIRMING Asia Pacific Bi-Regional Commitment on the 'Communiqué of Tokyo Meeting of Health Ministers on AMR in Asia' adopted in Tokyo, Japan on 16 April 2016 which called for commitment among WHO Member States in the Western Pacific and South East Asia Regions to urgently address the damaging threats of AMR through multisectoral and multidisciplinary actions at the regional and national levels within the "Asia-Pacific One Health Initiative on AMR";
4. ACKNOWLEDGING ASEAN commitment envisioned in the ASEAN post-2015 Health Development Agenda endorsed at the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 18 September 2014 which serves as a working basis for ASEAN Health Cooperation post-2015;
5. RECOGNIZING that the AMR problem is accelerated and exacerbated by inappropriate use of antimicrobials in humans, animals, aquaculture and crops, limited regulatory systems across sectors, inadequate good quality microbiology laboratories, scarce resources, absent or ineffective use of AMR surveillance data to guide clinical and policy decisions, maldistributed and insufficient infectious disease and infection prevention and control experts, inadequate infection prevention and control measures in health facilities and communities, limited development of new antimicrobials, and antibiotic residues in environmental components, leading to uncontrolled variation in the food chain, risk to the environment and human health;
6. RECOGNIZING that antimicrobials are the cornerstone of modern medicine and that AMR threatens every fundamental armamentarium that mankind has worked and invested on for many years in saving millions of lives from infections around the world;
7. RECOGNIZING further that countries, particularly those with inadequate healthcare systems, and are currently burdened with healthcare-associated infections, tuberculosis, HIV and malaria are affected more because of AMR;

8. RECOGNIZING that the scale of the AMR situation extends beyond public health with socio-economic and environmental health impacts which threatens global health security and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
9. EMPHASIZING that AMR demands urgent, concerted, multisectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration at the national, regional and global levels;

Do hereby declare our commitments to develop an ASEAN strategic plan to combat AMR with the following key priority areas:

10. FORMULATING AND EXECUTING a national action plan adopting One Health approach on combating AMR by advocating high level support and with the following features: comprehensive multisectoral responsibility and governance; inclusive mechanisms to actively engage the participation of relevant stakeholders; defined objectives and goals that are aligned with the overarching Global Action Plan; activities and strategies will be sustainably financed by governments and other stakeholders; and, effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
11. PROMOTING awareness and advocacy through a multisectoral and multidisciplinary commitment with stakeholder participation; celebrating the annual World Antibiotic Awareness Week and conducting other campaigns;
12. STRENGTHENING training and educational programmes for relevant professionals and students to enhance the knowledge, attitude and practices on appropriate antimicrobial prescribing, dispensing and use, and on infection prevention and control measures;
13. STRENGTHENING the regulatory systems, pharmaceutical and food supply chain management, health financing mechanisms, agricultural value chain management to ensure equitable, timely and sustainable access to safe, efficacious, affordable and quality antimicrobials, environmental management of antibiotic residues and impacts;
14. IMPLEMENTING antimicrobial stewardship programs and infection prevention, control and treatment measures at all levels of healthcare and the community to effect positive behavioral changes on appropriate prescribing, dispensing and use and to contain and reduce the burden of infection towards the overall improvement of patient outcomes;
15. ENHANCING regulatory mechanisms towards a no prescription-no antibiotic sales as decided by the national authority in human and veterinary medicine; phasing out the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in animals in the absence of risk analysis;
16. STRENGTHENING national and regional laboratory capacity, surveillance and monitoring systems for AMR, antimicrobial consumption and use (AMC and AMU), and drug residues, moving towards an integrated AMR surveillance and promoting research on impact of AMR on environment and agriculture that will guide relevant sectors in the development of policies and regulations as well as evidence-based and effective treatment guidelines to optimize the use of antimicrobials;
17. STRENGTHENING national and regional capacity to encompass research and development of new antimicrobials and other alternatives, diagnostic health technologies and vaccines;
18. ENGAGING all relevant stakeholders and development partners in the implementation of the ASEAN strategic plan to combat AMR.

19. TASKING the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) with support from the Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) and related subsidiary bodies and sectors to develop and monitor the implementation of the ASEAN strategic plan to combat AMR.

Adopted in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines on this Thirteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen, in a single copy, in the English language.