

Terms of Reference for the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform

These Terms of Reference (TORs) for the **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform** (hereinafter referred to as the “**Platform**”) are agreed to by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) – collectively referred to as the “**Quadripartite**”.

I. Purpose

1. The Quadripartite established the Platform pursuant to the ad hoc Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on AMR’s 2019 report to the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, entitled “*No time to wait: securing the future from drug resistant infections*”. This report recommended the “*establishment of a constituency-based partnership platform facilitated and managed by the Tripartite¹ agencies with diverse representation (e.g. governments, private sector and civil society representing human, animal, plant and environment health, as well as agriculture and food and feed production) to develop and implement a shared global vision, narrative and targets*”.
2. The Platform is an inclusive, international, and multi-stakeholder platform which brings together relevant stakeholders across the human, animal, plant, and environment interface to assist in preserving antimicrobials as lifesaving medicines and ensuring their responsible use under a One Health approach. It promotes a shared global vision, builds more consensus, and takes action to contribute to the implementation of the Global Action Plan on AMR (GAP). In undertaking its work, the Platform will consider the recommendations of the Global Leaders Group (GLG) on AMR and the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistant (IPEA).

II. Objectives

3. The Platform will contribute to the Global Action Plan (GAP) and National Action Plans on AMR (NAPs) through the implementation of the following objectives:
 - **Promote a shared vision for action to tackle AMR:** Engaging all relevant stakeholders across the human, animal, plant, and environment interface to build a global vision, narrative, and targets for actions to tackle AMR.
 - **Information-sharing and networking:** Providing a venue for information-sharing and collaboration to reach a common understanding and enable coordination of activities between the different sectors.
 - **Support concrete actions that substantially advance progress in containing, combatting, and ultimately reversing AMR:** Drawing on advice and evidence from relevant global governance mechanisms (e.g., the GLG on AMR, and the IPEA) and other academic and scientific institutions to identify and gain support for priority areas for action.

¹ “Tripartite” refers to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO)

III. Guiding Principles

4. The Platform adheres to the following guiding principles:
 - **Multisectoral and multidisciplinary systems approach:** Recognizing that AMR is a complex and multidisciplinary One Health issue, the work of the Platform will reflect the involvement of multiple actors, disciplines, and sectors.
 - **Transparency and open access:** The Platform will conduct its work in a transparent manner and regular updates on its priorities, work plan(s) and Plenary shall be published on the Quadripartite's respective websites and/or communicated to the public in other forms, as appropriate.
 - **Inclusivity:** The Platform will seek to achieve a balance between inclusiveness and effectiveness by ensuring that the voices of all relevant stakeholders are heard.

IV. Nature

5. The Platform is not a decision-making body but a voluntary, collaborative coordination mechanism facilitated by the Quadripartite. It does not have a separate legal personality and each member of the Platform is a separate and distinct entity.

The Platform will be hosted by FAO. The rules, policies and procedures of FAO will apply to any administrative matters pertaining to the operation of the Platform.

V. Reporting

6. The Platform will report to the 'Heads' of the Quadripartite.

VI. Membership

7. The Quadripartite will publish a call for membership on their respective websites and/or other online channels, as appropriate. Applications for membership must be submitted to the Coordinating Team (as defined in section VII.V. below) and are open to applicants from the following sectors:
 - a) governments;
 - b) UN entities and Specialized Agencies, intergovernmental global and regional organizations;
 - c) international and regional financial institutions and philanthropic donors;
 - d) civil society organizations and networks;
 - e) academic and research organizations; and
 - f) private sector entities.
8. The Coordinating Team will make decisions on membership by consensus, in accordance with the respective rules, regulations, policies and guidelines of each of the Quadripartite organizations, as may be amended or updated from time to time. Should members of the Coordinating Team have differing views about an application, they shall make every effort to find a compromise to achieve inclusiveness.
9. The Coordinating Team will communicate the outcome of the above process to the applicant, explaining the reasons for its decision, referring to relevant rules, regulations, policies and guidelines. In addition, each of the four Quadripartite Organizations may inform its Members on the decisions taken and the underlying reasons.
10. Members of the Platform will be entitled to attend meetings of the Platform and will be requested to participate in Plenary sessions. Members of the Platform will each appoint a representative at an adequately high level of their organization, and a designated alternative, to participate in the Platform and its Operating Mechanisms (as defined in section VII below).
11. Members of the Platform and their representatives will be required to disclose details of their legal status, governance, membership, sources of funding and activities.

12. Members of the Platform will receive no fees or remuneration for their involvement in regular Platform activities.

VII. Operating Mechanisms

13. The Platform's objectives will be achieved through the: (a) Plenary; (b) Clusters; (c) Action Groups; (d) Steering Committee; and (e) Coordinating Team (collectively referred to as the "Operating Mechanisms").

VII.I The Plenary

14. The Plenary will be the Platform's central forum and will enable members of the Platform to debate, coordinate, and exchange best practices and lessons learned. Plenary sessions are open to all members of the Platform and may be held in-person, virtually, or in a hybrid format, as appropriate. Plenary sessions will be held annually, and additional sessions may be convened by the Coordinating Team or Steering Committee upon the request of the members of the Platform.

VII.II. The Clusters

15. To ensure broad representation across the One Health spectrum relevant to AMR, members of the Platform will be categorized into the following five Clusters:
 - a) governments, UN entities and Specialized Agencies, global and regional intergovernmental organizations;
 - b) international and regional financial institutions, and philanthropic donors;
 - c) civil society organizations and networks;
 - d) academic and research organizations; and
 - e) private sector entities.

VII.III. Action Groups

16. Any member of the Platform may propose an Action Group to implement agreed activities on specific AMR topics and subtopics. Action Groups will be open to all members of the Platform, and each Cluster is encouraged to provide its members with the opportunity to participate therein.
17. The Action Groups will:
 - a) identify, implement, and monitor roadmaps for action using evidence and scientific knowledge produced by the Quadripartite and relevant global mechanisms (e.g., the GLG on AMR, and the IPEA) and academic and scientific institutions;
 - b) report on their activities to the Steering Committee, the Coordinating Team and/or the Plenary; and
 - c) prepare and provide in a timely fashion documentation, data, and other evidence requested by the Steering Committee, the Coordinating Team and/or the Plenary.

VII.IV. The Steering Committee

18. The Steering Committee will coordinate the activities of the Platform and facilitate the implementation of its priorities, plans, and proposals, as agreed by the Plenary.
19. The Steering Committee will be composed of representatives from the Quadripartite, the Clusters and the Action Groups (the "Steering Committee members"). The Steering Committee members do not receive remuneration for their work.
20. The Steering Committee will appoint a Chairperson who serves and represents the interests and is accountable to all the members of the Platform. The Steering Committee will select the Chairperson by consensus from either: (a) the Steering Committee members; or (b) the adequately high-level representatives nominated by the members of the Platform. The Steering Committee may appoint a

Vice-Chairperson following the same procedure and conditions as for the appointment of the Chairperson.

VII.V. The Coordinating Team

21. The Coordinating Team will be composed of a representative from each of the Quadripartite organizations. It will be hosted by FAO on behalf of the Quadripartite, and will form part of, and report to, the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) on AMR.
22. The Coordinating Team, under the leadership of the QJS, will provide day-to-day management of the Platform and operational and administrative support to the Plenary, Clusters, Action Groups, and the Steering Committee. Its responsibilities include, *inter alia*:
 - a) evaluating and approving submitted membership applications;
 - b) identifying and assigning members of the Platform into Clusters;
 - c) providing logistical and administrative support to the Platform (e.g., organizing relevant meetings);
 - d) developing for the Steering Committee's endorsement a proposal for the approval of Action Groups;
 - e) administering the allocation of any funds made available by the Quadripartite to activities undertaken by members of the Platform, as appropriate;
 - f) developing for the Steering Committee's endorsement the internal and external communication strategy described in section VIII below;
 - g) conducting regular monitoring and evaluation of the Platform against the criteria set forth by the Steering Committee;
 - h) undertaking other activities as may be necessary to advance the Platform's objectives; and
 - i) any other functions necessary to facilitate the implementation of these TORs.

VIII. Communication with Stakeholders

23. The Platform will develop an internal communications strategy to enable ongoing multi-directional dialogue between members of the Platform, Clusters, Action Groups, and the Steering Committee. It will also develop an external communications strategy to provide regular updates on its priorities, work plan(s) and Plenary, and generate support for the work of Action Groups and any other endorsed activities.

IX. Targets

24. The Platform's performance will be measured by key input, process and output indicators that assess the achievement of its objectives. The work plan(s) and metrics of these indicators will be agreed upon by the Steering Committee as early as possible and should include short-term targets (one year from the Platform's establishment), medium-term targets (three to five year from the Platform's establishment) and long-term targets (ten years from the Platform's establishment).

X. Financial Arrangements

25. Consistent with its nature as a voluntary, collaborative coordination mechanism, members of the Platform are not required to make any financial contributions to the Platform and will undertake activities utilizing their own resources. Each member of the Platform will bear its own costs for participating in the Platform, including the travel and per diem costs for attending any in-person Plenary sessions or other meetings related to the Platform.
26. The Quadripartite may financially contribute to activities undertaken by members of the Platform, subject to the availability of resources, and through mutually agreed joint trust funds – or other

appropriate joint funding mechanisms – in accordance with their respective rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. The allocation of such funds to members of the Platform requires the approval of the Coordinating Team in each instance.

XI. Operational rules and amendments to the TORs

27. After prior agreement with the QJS on AMR, the Coordinating Team will propose Operational Rules to these Terms of Reference (ToRs).
28. Any amendments to these TORs and Operational Rules may be discussed and approved by consensus of the Quadripartite.