



22 May 2017

**70th Session of the World Health Assembly
Agenda Item: 12.2 Antimicrobial Resistance**

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the WMA, representing more than 9 million physicians from more than 100 countries.

We would like to acknowledge WHO leadership over the past year and appreciate that AMR is now a global and political matter, extending far beyond the health sector. Though we express our concern that the Declaration of the UN High-Level Meeting on AMR lack specific targets.

We remain concerned about the slow progress with regards to national regulations pertaining to dispensing antibiotics without prescription which remains rampant in various regions as well as the use of antibiotics for non-medical purposes. We urge member states to address over the counter antibiotic dispensing nationally with the utmost urgency.

Research has repeatedly shown that medical students, physicians and other healthcare professionals feel that the education and knowledge received about antibiotic use as well as antimicrobial resistance is sometimes insufficient and does not prepare appropriately for practice. Learning modules specific to appropriate antibiotic use as well as infection prevention and antimicrobial resistance should be provided during both pre-service but also continuing education as the field continues to evolve very rapidly. We would like to call upon member states and the WHO to fund and support independent basic and continuing education in AMR through academia and health professionals' organizations.

The WMA welcomes the increased funding towards research and development for new antibiotics and diagnostics, but would like to remind, that investing in human resources and education is of essence to preserve existing antibiotics, prevent multidrug resistant infections and ensure appropriate prescribing.

The WMA continues its commitment to educating physicians on AMR through various courses and our interprofessional ONE HEALTH approach. We remain ready to assist and participate in the development and dissemination of AMR teaching modules to physicians and other healthcare professionals.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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