



**International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation**

Since 1949 | Students today, pharmacists tomorrow.

## Combating the Persistent Global Issue of Antimicrobial Resistance

### JOINT CALL TO ACTION

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**Established in 1949**, IPSF is the leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science students and recent graduates that promotes improved public health through the provision of information, education, networking, and a range of publications and professional activities.

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# IPSF



A global threat to health, livelihoods, and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), antimicrobial resistance (AMR) continues to take the spotlight as one of the major public health challenges of our generation. Antimicrobial agents are increasingly becoming ineffective owing to the resistance developed through their excessive or inappropriate use, with grave repercussions on human health, animal health and plant health, as well as negative impacts on food, the environment and the global economy. Through a coordinated, multi-stakeholder, One Health approach, there is a need to address the growing burden of Antimicrobial resistance to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, especially Goals 2, 3, 6, 9, 12 and 17.

On behalf of **the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF)** which represents the voice of over 350, 000 pharmacy students and recent graduates in 92 countries and areas worldwide — in collaboration with the **International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Young Pharmacists' Group (YPG)** and the **World Health Students' Alliance (WHSA)** — we acknowledge the establishment of the UN Interagency Coordination Group on antimicrobial resistance, which provides practical guidance and recommendations for necessary approaches to ensure sustained and effective global action to address AMR.

While progress has been made, we urge the global society to call for urgent actions at local, national, regional and international levels:

1. To invest in high-quality research and development and ensure that access to safe, quality, effective, and affordable existing and new antimicrobials, diagnostic technologies and vaccines is adequate;



2. To increase joint efforts to implement the actions and attain the strategic objectives of the global action plan on AMR, and to take steps to tackle emerging issues;
3. To combat AMR at the highest political level by governments using a One Health approach to reduce the disease burden, mortality and disability associated with it;
4. To enhance cooperation at all levels for real action towards combating AMR through health system strengthening; research and regulatory capacity building; and technical support through twinning programmes that are built on best practices, emerging evidence and innovation;
5. To develop a comprehensive civil society, the private sector and stakeholder engagement strategy with specific activities and platforms to encourage the full participation of each respective entity;
6. To enhance the appropriate use of all antimicrobials through the development and implementation of guidelines and criteria which govern the way antimicrobials should be used;
7. To utilise and strengthen youth engagement in national advocacy and policy implementation on AMR issues;
8. To conduct awareness programmes at national level to raise awareness on AMR to the general population and strengthen the role of the media to tackle this issue;
9. To allocate resources to infection prevention and control practices in hospitals and invest in research to develop and generate new antimicrobial agents;
10. To urgently conduct post-market surveillance of antimicrobials and take the necessary action to eliminate substandard and falsified antimicrobials; in human health, approximately half of the products reported in the Global Surveillance and Monitoring System for substandard and falsified medical products of the World Health Organization (WHO) are antimicrobials;



11. To expand the use of vaccines, mainly to avoid preventable infections and reduce antibiotic use;
12. To establish enforceable regulations and governance for the licensing, distribution, use and quality assurance of antimicrobial medicines in human and animal health. This must include a regulatory framework for the preservation of new antibiotics and the adoption of policies on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and agriculture;
13. To increase investments towards building antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) capacity in all countries, particularly in low and middle-income countries where antimicrobial consumption is increasing at the highest rate with low resources available; and
14. To increase funding targeted towards the implementation of research projects that seek to identify the barriers and facilitators of the implementation and embedding of AMS interventions in different contexts or cultural settings.

Overall, we call for more coordinated efforts to avoid duplication of work and leverage scarce resources more effectively. Our collective impact has the potential to reduce and slow the development of resistance; reduce the impact of infectious diseases on human, animal health and economic development; and ultimately foster the continued ability to treat infectious diseases with effective and safe medicines. Hence, addressing AMR should be considered as one of the highest yield development investments by a country.