

CALL TO ACTION

Combat Antimicrobial Resistance & Preserve Antimicrobials for Future Generations

May 2016

The Need to Act Now

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) may jeopardize progress against current global health threats, bring a resurgence of past diseases, hinder medical advances such as organ transplantation, reduce effectiveness of treatment, increase overall health care costs and strains health systems.¹ 700,000 deaths attributed to AMR each year could rise to 10 million by 2050 if coordinated action is not taken.²

Inappropriate use of antimicrobials is major driver of AMR and results from complex deficiencies across the health system including lack of legislation and regulation, inefficient supply chain management, few quality assurance mechanisms, inappropriate prescribing and dispensing practices, and lack of adherence and other patient behaviors. Being a threat in every region, it is critical that every country, be concerned with and proactively take steps against AMR, towards a concerted, coordinated global action.

Our Call to Action

The Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN), a faith-based organization, with 105 members from over 30 countries, supports churches & church health systems to provide just, compassionate, and quality pharmaceutical services, and believes that access to safe & effective medicines of assured quality is a human right. Our biannual forum, held from 19 to 21 May 2016, in Tübingen Germany, intensified our focus on AMR and infectious diseases, and brought together stakeholders to share ideas, knowledge & best practices, and chart an effective course of action to address the global challenge of AMR.

In this context, we, the participants of EPN's Forum 2016 renew our call for immediate action to mitigate the threat that AMR poses for every country. Our four recommended actions build upon our 2011 call for action and also draw from World Health Organization's 2015 Global Action Plan on AMR:

1. Building Advocacy, Awareness and political will to combat AMR
2. Strengthening capacity of Health Systems to effectively address AMR
3. Ensure effective coordination between stakeholders
4. Strengthening monitoring and surveillance systems for AMR

We recommend targeted areas of action for the following key groups:

- government and policymakers
- health care institutions (both public and private)
- health schools, training institutions, and professional associations
- health care providers and community health workers

Strengthening our Resolve

The participants of this Forum resolve to promote, advocate, and implement these actions against AMR in alignment with EPN's Strategic Plan and actions plan from WHO. EPN remains deeply committed to the fight against AMR so that we can preserve antimicrobials for future generations.

¹ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en/>

² amr-review.org/file/111