

Dear Dr. Nabarro,

We are writing you on behalf of ReAct – Action on Antibiotic Resistance to congratulate you on the milestone of the recently adopted UN political declaration on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In particular, we are pleased to see a mandate given for the UN Secretary-General to set up the Ad hoc Inter-Agency Coordination Group.

ReAct - Action on Antibiotic Resistance (www.reactgroup.org) is an independent global network that for over a decade has been active on all continents, promoting and advocating for concerted action on and solutions to sustainable management of antimicrobial resistance. We consider access to effective antibiotics as a corner stone of the human right to health and as such an integral part of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹. In the process of defining the magnitude of the global AMR threat, ReAct has contributed to the understanding of the now well-established links between antimicrobial resistance and SDGs. The summary of these efforts was published in the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation's Development Dialogue Series.²

For the coming steps in setting up the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on AMR (IACG) and the following processes to further define its work priorities, our hope is that this will be done in a fully transparent manner and that input from civil society will be actively sought. Civil society involvement should be a central focus of the IACG due to its critical role in moving towards profound systems and behavioural changes towards sustainability in antibiotic consumption and production. To facilitate action on antimicrobial resistance, learning from other sectors such as climate change about what options could be pursued for financing of interventions globally and on the ground, respectively, should be considered.

Towards this end we would recommend that clear safeguards to avoid any conflict of interest in the IACG are immediately developed to foster the trust and transparency necessary for the IACGs success. Moreover we would recommend that an independent Scientific Advisory Panel is established to support the work of the IACG for effective science-policy interface. Finally we would urge that reporting on progress is closely coordinated and aligned between the IACG and concerned global initiatives, including the Global Health Security Agenda, SDG implementation reviews of progress and others to avoid duplication and conflation of reporting processes.

On the basis of the above we would like to kindly ask for a meeting with you at your convenience to discuss these considerations more in detail.

Sincerely,

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¹ Jasovsky D., Cars O. Antibiotic resistance - No sustainability without antibiotics. Global Sustainable Development Report 2015. UN DESA-Division for Sustainable Development. 2015

² Jasovsky D., Littmann J., Zorzet A., Cars O., Antimicrobial Resistance - A Threat to the World's Sustainable Development. Development Dialogue Paper No.16. Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. 2016