

**Statement to the 136th Session of the WHO Executive Board
on agenda item 8.1 Antimicrobial Resistance**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity of addressing the distinguished EB members on behalf of MMI and PHM.

We commend the Secretariat report for highlighting, among other critical issues; misuse and overuse of antimicrobial medicines in humans and animals, unethical promotion of medicines, the need for laws and regulatory agencies to ensure that medicines are safe, effective, good quality and accessible, and the need for R&D to mitigate the effects of resistance. However, the report misses out the importance of strong health systems to ensure continuity of and adequate treatment.

Promotion and advertising of antibiotics, including marketing for inappropriate uses or incentivising medical and veterinary personnel to prescribe, is harmful to health and should be prohibited. We urge MSs to include in Obj.5 the regulation and control of promotional practices by industry and explicitly state the principles that need to be met in this respect.

Health Ministries should urge their colleagues to refuse trade agreements which include ISDS provisions as they have the potential to limit government's capacity to regulate for antimicrobial stewardship.

Intensive industrial food production is a driver of the need for antibiotics. Farm practices such as use of antibiotics as growth enhancers, overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, inappropriate diets, and early weaning drive the routine antibiotic administration. We urge MS to include in Obj.3 phasing out of use of antibiotics for animal growth promotion and crop protection, and reduction in non-therapeutic use of antimicrobial medicines in animal health. Vaccination is no solution.

Environment pollution via livestock waste, sewage, industrial meat processing waste, and hospital disposal needs to be monitored and controlled. Obj.4 should include monitoring of hot spots for horizontal resistant gene transfer and be linked, under Obj.2, with monitoring and research of the risks associated with microbial mixing in water and sewage.

Thank you.

The statement will be delivered by Susana Barria

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