



INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE FOR
**ANTIMICROBIAL
RESISTANCE**
SOLUTIONS

United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance

Intervention: Dr Sujith J Chandy, Executive Director, ICARS

“As we endorse the AMR declaration, the four pillars of equity, access, awareness, and innovation will be crucial towards optimal implementation of the key components of the declaration. Let me address each briefly:

- **Equity:** AMR is a cross-cutting issue impacting multiple dimensions of sustainable development, including health, agri-food, environment, economy and much more. Tackling AMR requires a holistic and collaborative approach integrating the Sustainable Development Goals. AMR has no boundaries whether geography, sector, or socioeconomic. Nevertheless, we know that infections have a great burden among in LMICs, for those whose livelihoods and health are at stake, the poor and the vulnerable. No one should be left behind. A sustained focus is therefore needed through preventive strategies, systems strengthening and cost-effective solutions towards AMR mitigation.
- **Access:** ‘Access’ and ‘excess’ are two very relevant issues in the AMR world. Continued efforts towards responsible antibiotic use through approaches such as antimicrobial stewardship, avoidance of antibiotics as growth promoters are important. Also important is improved access to basic antibiotics, diagnostics, healthcare, and other relevant resources are also important in many countries. If not addressed, infections will spiral out of control, once again impacting the vulnerable and related settings the most. A concerted effort is therefore needed towards improving systems so that healthcare is accessible, antibiotics are available and affordable, and that sustained efforts towards cost-effective and rapid diagnostics remain a priority.
- **Awareness:** Awareness of what is an infection, what are bacteria, what are antibiotics, how vaccines are important, how to prevent infections remains an enigma for many in this world. Basic aspects of hygiene, sanitation and safe drinking water remain elusive in many settings. Awareness building and relevant mitigation strategies is therefore paramount if we need to move from talk to action. In addition, contextual strategies are needed for healthcare workers, veterinarians, farmers, and others, for a relevant and impactful approach. The key to making an

impact, especially in regions with multidimensional challenges, is to lay the foundation of awareness whilst moving towards behaviour change.

- **Innovation:** AMR is not just about ‘bugs and drugs’ but also has other dimensions including that of behavioural science, economics, infrastructure, resource capacity and social dynamics. Encouraging a sustainable ecosystem of evidence and innovation generation is essential. This should be done through a holistic and multi-disciplinary approach mobilising a range of actors across sectors. Contextual innovations and solutions through intervention and implementation research are key to move forward the National Action Plans and facilitate action for sustainable impact. This would require strengthening the relevant research capabilities in-country.

Movement forward in these four pillars will provide the platform to move this declaration to implementation. However, this needs to be supplemented through concerted efforts in the following areas:

- **A one Health approach:** A multisectoral coordinated approach positioning AMR as a horizontal challenge and involving all sectors at different levels would be essential.
- **The science-policy dialogue and interface:** Closing the gap between evidence generation, policy development and implementation will be critical in LMICs.
- **Context specific country owned solutions:** Countries should define their priorities, own their AMR agenda as well as the focused solutions relevant to settings and sectors.
- **Global governance and leadership:** The global/national governance model and AMR leadership matrix should incorporate a clear accountability mechanism.
- **Sustained financing:** Financing models should address local & regional needs, build a stronger business case, and explore relevant financial instruments for sustainability.

In conclusion, we need to leave no one behind and ensure that equity, access, awareness, and innovation remain at the forefront of our efforts towards supporting & implementing national action plans through sustainable, cost effective, contextual models in one health.”

