

Press Release

The Global AMR Youth Summit

20th, 21st and 22nd November 2020

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a formidable challenge to achieving Universal Health Coverage and threatens progress against many of the Sustainable Development Goals. AMR is estimated to cause 10 million deaths globally per year by 2050 if no action is taken.¹ To tackle this, WHO, OIE, FAO and other UN agencies celebrate the World Antimicrobials Awareness Week every year from November 18th to 24th for the world to unite against AMR.

This year, young students worldwide came together for the fight against AMR. The World Healthcare Students' Alliance which includes [IADS](#), [IFMSA](#), [IPSE](#), and [IVSA](#), along with [IAAS](#) came together representing 1.9 million dentistry, medical, pharmaceutical, veterinary, and agriculture students from 155 countries, and held the first-ever virtual AMR Youth Summit on November 20th-22nd.

Under the theme of WAAW 2020: 'United to preserve antimicrobials²', the summit brought together more than 2500 students and youth across 25 disciplines from more than 120 countries. The summit highlighted the crucial role of youth and the importance of a coordinated approach against AMR. It also addressed all aspects of AMR from animals to the environment, from the impact of COVID on the use of antimicrobials to advocacy and policy making, research and innovation.

Speakers included young AMR activists, worldwide experts, and high-level keynotes from

- Dr. Hanan Balkhy, WHO Assistant DG on AMR
- Dr. Matthew Stone, OIE Deputy DG
- Mr. Satya Tripathi UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP New York office
- Dr. Haileyesus Getahun, The Director of the Joint Tripartite (FAO/OIE/WHO) Secretariat on AMR
- Ms. Junxia Song FAO AMR focal point
- Prof. Dame Sally Davies AMR UN IACG co-convener and member of the new UN AMR Global Leaders Group
- Prof. Anthony So from ReACT and the AMR UN IACG co-convener

The summit had other speakers from UNICEF UNEP, ECDC, and other organizations.

Besides the valuable learning experience, the summit provided a space for youth to engage, interact and collaborate with each other. The summit linked youth from different disciplines and provided them with the skills and tools to start AMR actions locally. Youth also had a space to share their actions, experiences, innovations and creativity on AMR by submitting their work in the global AMR Youth competition. Submissions were shared amongst youth in the [open AMR youth action library](#), to get inspired and engage with each other.

The summit also provided a space for youth to share their visions, policy recommendations and calls for action to different stakeholders and actors on AMR. These recommendations were positively received by UN agencies' keynote representatives, who shared their commitment and support during the closing ceremony. Following the summit these recommendations will be shared as a global youth declaration on AMR to relevant stakeholders and decision-makers.

The AMR Youth Summit was the first of its kind with a vision to unite, empower and inspire youth worldwide, allowing them to connect, share their voice and work with experts. Creating a new generation of AMR activists who will educate other youth, raise awareness and advocate to implement change and innovations against AMR. The consequences of decisions made today will impact the future generations of tomorrow.

It is time to stop waiting and take action.

¹https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/interagency-coordination-group/IACG_final_report_EN.pdf?ua=1

²<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2020/11/18/default-calendar/world-antimicrobial-awareness-week-2020#:~:text=The%20theme%20for%20the%20human,Health%20Assembly%20in%20May%202015.>