



Animal Welfare.
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21 November 2022

FOUR PAWS calls for the inclusion of the environmental dimension and food systems in the National Action Plans on AMR. Recommendations for the Muscat Ministerial Manifesto on AMR.

Dear ministers, delegations and participants,

The Muscat Manifesto on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), to be adopted at the global ministerial conference on AMR, can add momentum to the fight against this silent pandemic. FOUR PAWS commends the reflection in the manifesto of One Health and the intention to strengthen the role of the entire Quadripartite in tackling AMR and to emphasise cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary collaboration that involves all stakeholders at the human, animal, plant and environment interface on a national, regional and global level.

While we welcome the acknowledgement that food systems, animal agriculture and the environment play a key role in the evolution of AMR, FOUR PAWS calls for more concrete steps that effectively slow down the development of AMR. Governments must tackle these drivers of AMR in National Action Plans. By dedicating financial resources and setting targets to transitioning to sustainable, diverse food systems, reliant on high animal welfare and agroecological principles, governments can reduce the need for antimicrobial treatments.

Furthermore, when committing to reducing the use of antimicrobials in agriculture by 30–50%, as stated in the manifesto, it is vital to commit to doing so effectively and sustainably by addressing the underlying production models that require high antimicrobial input. This calls for a multifaceted integrated approach that is adapted to local contexts and relies on improved husbandry and management procedures and rethinking livestock production systems to reduce inherent disease risk.¹ Improved animal welfare and a reduction of livestock numbers, particularly in high-intensity production countries, are paramount for achieving the desired results.

¹ EMA and EFSA (2017). EMA and EFSA Joint Scientific Opinion on measures to reduce the need to use antimicrobial agents in animal husbandry in the European Union, and the resulting impacts on food safety (RONAFA). Doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4666



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Ensuring support for tackling the root causes that accelerate the development and spread of multiresistant pathogens is essential for bolstering equity in the global fight against AMR. It is the only way in which we can enable the most vulnerable communities, who would be most affected by AMR, to access resources for implementing prevention measures. It is also the safest way to protect them from the devastating effects of this silent pandemic.

With this in mind, FOUR PAWS has shared with policymakers concrete recommendations for the text of the Muscat Manifesto, aimed at enshrining in the commitments critical components for limiting the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Sincerely,

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