



*71st United Nations General Assembly*  
**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON  
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

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Address by Dr Monique Éloit, Director General of the World  
Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

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Your Excellencies, Ministers, dear Delegates

Dear Colleagues from International Organisations,

Honourable participants,

Superbugs. If someone had told me, when I was a young vet student, that one day, I would be standing in front of you talking about bugs as the major health threat of the century, I would not have believed it.

But here we are. Talking about bugs becoming resistant to our most precious medicines, antimicrobials.

Here we are, facing the hard reality: if we do not act now, protecting not only human health but also animal health and welfare, food safety and food security, this might become tremendously difficult.

However, this situation is not yet inevitable.

- We all know how prudent use and good practices could decrease the risk of antimicrobial resistance development.
- We all know that alternatives exist and are only waiting to be developed.
- **Here in this room**, we all know that research on new molecules needs to be boosted through private and public collaboration.

**But how can we turn this into action in the field?**

With solutions adapted to national specificities, sectors and activities? Without endangering human and animal health sectors and economic activities?



**In short: How can we drive sustainable change into our practices?**

In Animal health, the World Organisation for Animal Health has been working on this topic for a long time.

- We have developed international Standards aimed at defining responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials to control animal diseases under veterinary supervision.
- We have built a list of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance.
- We have defined adequate legislation to control their production, circulation and distribution.

And to help you implement these Standards at your national level, the OIE has developed a process for evaluation and performance improvement of veterinary services named the "[PVS Pathway](#)".

Tools also exist as far as "One Health" is concerned, with the adoption of the [WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial resistance](#), in which both OIE and FAO are closely collaborating, and which directly leads us here, to this High-level meeting.

But these tools, standards, recommendations and action plans, internationally built by you as UN or OIE Member Countries, can only be useful if they are reflected and implemented at the national level, and if they are the basis on which we create the necessary sustainable change in the way we use antibiotics.

To allow this sustainable change at national level, we – WHO, FAO and OIE - need your strong and long-term political commitment in order to:

- build tailor-made national action plans based on a systemic inter-sectorial and coordinated approach favoring cohesion and collaboration;
- invest in the long-term sustainability of health systems, including the strengthening of veterinary services;
- **And last but not least**, we need to gain support of stakeholders and populations, by raising awareness through education and communication.

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**In conclusion,**

- Much work has already been accomplished, but a great deal remains to be implemented in order to see tangible results.



**WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**

*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

- By endorsing the outcome document of this High Level meeting, I hope that you will show your strong commitment to continue in these efforts and command actions required to fight against antimicrobial resistance.
- We all share responsibility for the development of Antimicrobial Resistance. Consequently, if we successfully tackle this threat, we will share victory.

I thank you all for your attention.

Monique Éloit

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