



## **Tackling the Rise of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria**

*WHO (World Health Organization) HS*

### **I. Introduction**

Antibiotic resistance represents one of the gravest threats to modern medicine. Bacteria that were once easily treatable now pose significant health risks as they evolve to resist antibiotics. This crisis is undermining the effectiveness of everything from routine surgeries to chemotherapy and childbirth. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified this issue as a priority global health emergency.

### **II. Historical Context**

Since penicillin's discovery in 1928, antibiotics have revolutionized public health. Yet misuse began almost immediately. Overuse in healthcare and agriculture, especially in low-regulation regions, accelerated resistance. Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*), and resistant gonorrhea highlight how even common infections are becoming untreatable. In 2015, the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance called for global surveillance, regulation, and innovation.

### **III. International Response**

The WHO, in partnership with the FAO, OIE, and UNEP, developed the One Health approach, integrating human, animal, and environmental health in AMR response. The Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) tracks AMR globally, but many countries lack resources to contribute. International donors have launched initiatives to fund new drug development, yet pharmaceutical investment remains low due to poor market incentives. The EU and some high-income countries have implemented tighter prescription controls.



#### **IV. Committee Mission**

Delegates must explore both preventative and responsive strategies. WHO encourages the establishment of stricter prescription practices, incentives for pharmaceutical R&D, and better sanitation and hygiene infrastructure. Delegates should also explore equitable access to effective antibiotics, especially in LMICs, and support global cooperation in monitoring AMR trends.

#### **V. Questions to Consider**

- What incentives could encourage the development of new antibiotics?
- How can LMICs improve stewardship of antibiotics with limited infrastructure?
- Should global treaties regulate antibiotic use in agriculture?
- How can public education campaigns address misuse?
- What international mechanisms can monitor antibiotic use and resistance trends?

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## **Guadalajara Model United Nations**

American School Foundation of Guadalajara



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