

GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB: Terms of Reference

The present Terms of Reference set the framework for the establishment and operation of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB.

1 Background

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) has been recognized as a global threat to health security in different declarations by international fora such as the United Nations General Assembly, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), G7 and G20. It has been agreed that increased funding and incentives for research and development (R&D) is a fundamental pillar of a comprehensive strategy to address the global challenges of AMR for human health, animals and the environment in a One Health approach.

Building on statements from these groups, and particularly the Hamburg G20 Leaders' Declaration "Shaping an interconnected world" of July 7th, 2017, the G20 Focal Points of the G20 Health Working Group drafted a Joint Statement of Intent on 12 September 2017 for the set-up of a new, international R&D collaboration hub in the field of antimicrobial research and product development aimed at maximizing the impact of existing and new initiatives in antimicrobial basic and clinical research as well as product development.

2 Overarching vision and objectives

The vision of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB is to be a key actor having an integrating role in global R&D for AMR, by

- bringing together governments and foundations from different world regions, with different research potential and funding priorities, in order to combat the global health threat of AMR,
- setting the focus on addressing global R&D priorities while respecting domestic and organizational priorities,
- promoting high-level coordination and alignment of existing public and private funding and activities and leveraging much needed further monetary and other investments for AMR R&D initiatives on a national and/or international level.

The main objectives of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB are:

- to inform high-level decision makers on R&D pipelines and other relevant aspects of AMR R&D, in order to identify and prioritise R&D gaps and help focus high-level decision-making,
- to facilitate the efficient allocation of resources,
- to promote increased investments into push and pull incentives for AMR R&D in order to maximize the impact of national and international research activities,
- to foster international research collaboration among different partners globally, including industry and academia,
- to support the filling of product pipelines with priority candidates, using an appropriate mix of incentives, with a view to the development of deployable products, while recognizing the importance of access, prudent use, and stewardship,
- to inform policy makers on AMR R&D and keep attention on AMR at high political levels,
- to raise and maintain public awareness and visibility through communication of the work of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB and its results.

The GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB's scope is embedded in a comprehensive One Health Approach relating to R&D on AMR, comprising human and animal health as well as environmental aspects.

The GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB will seek to build on existing global initiatives and recommendations. It will avoid duplication of existing efforts and not act as a funding body itself.

The work of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB will be aligned to the priorities set by WHO, FAO and OIE, and will help inform the work of the United Nations Interagency Coordination Group (IACG).

The GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB will seek expert advice of, and cooperation with, relevant stakeholders, such as international organisations, existing R&D initiatives, industry, academia and NGOs.

3 Participation

Participants are expected to support the intention of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB. Participation in the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB can occur on two different levels:

- (1) Members,
- (2) Observers.

3.1 Members

Conditions for Membership:

- Membership is open to G20 and non-G20 countries as well as to non-governmental donor organisations investing in R&D on AMR (e.g. philanthropic foundations), inasmuch as they agree to the Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure and the commitments set out within them.
- Temporary membership will be offered to the country holding the pro tempore presidency of the G20, in the case that the country is not already a Member.
- Parties committed to the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB by the time of its official inauguration will be considered Members of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB.
- After the inauguration, interested countries or non-governmental donor organisations may express their interest of joining the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB in writing to the Board of Members. Membership may then be granted by decision of the Board of Members.
- All parties joining the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB as members, at and after its official inauguration, will be entitled to appoint one representative to the Board of Members.

Members commit:

- to take visible, significant and measurable action, according to national capacities, to strengthen R&D for AMR, alone and/or jointly with national or international partners;
- to take part in the activities of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB and to attend the Board meetings;
- to convey relevant information for the implementation of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB, as appropriate.

Members are expected:

- to be supporting, financially or otherwise, into AMR R&D projects and/or infrastructures immediately or over time alone and/or jointly with national or international partners;

- to advocate nationally and globally towards other countries and donor organisations for participation in the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB and increased investments in AMR R&D.

Termination of membership:

- Membership of the Hub is on an on-going basis. However, if a Member no longer wishes to participate in the Hub, the Member will inform the Board of Members in writing, subject to a one month notice, of the intended termination of their participation in the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB.
- Membership in the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB may be terminated by decision of the Board of Members (see Section 5 and the Rules of Procedure).

3.2 Observers

Representatives of relevant intergovernmental organisations, such as WHO, FAO, OIE, UNEP and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), may join the Board of Members of the Global AMR R&D Hub as Observers.

Such organisations may express their interest of joining the Global AMR R&D Hub in writing to the Board of Members. Nomination as an Observer may be granted by the Board subject to approval by its Members as described in Section 5 and be reviewed and extended as appropriate to reflect the focus and priorities of the Global AMR R&D Hub.

4 Governance

The Board of Members, the only decision-making body, will be supported by a lean secretariat.

4.1 Board of Members

- The Board of Members shall be composed of one representative of each Member. It is in charge of the implementation and operation of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB. Board representatives should be mandated to act and to decide on behalf of their respective national authorities/ organisations or be able to reach decision of their respective national authorities/ organisations within one month.
- The Board of Members is the only decision making body of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB. While fully respecting the autonomy of the respective national authorities/ organisations, it will take decisions on questions central to the operation of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB, such as
 - The work plan of the Hub;
 - Approving reports, opinions and information to be released on behalf of the GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB on issues such as (but not limited to) possibilities for investments in AMR R&D, gaps, and opportunities for better cooperation and collaboration;
 - Decision on the creation and/or dissolution of Expert Advisory Groups, whenever deemed necessary;
 - Award of contracts to third parties;
 - Changes to the Terms of Reference, which should be reviewed at least every three years;
 - Decision on employment and dismissal of Secretariat Lead;
 - Initiating the evaluation and impact assessment.
- Observers and the Secretariat Lead participate in Board meetings without a vote with the right to express their views. They may be excluded from the Board meetings during sessions dealing with confidential subject matters.

4.2 Chair and Vice-Chair

The Board of Members will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair, preferably from different geographic areas.

The Chair and the Vice-Chair are elected for a term of two years and can be re-elected once. The Board of Members may, however, at any time during the term decide to change the Chair or the Vice-Chair. If the request to change the Chair or the Vice-Chair arises, a vote will be required by the Board of Members following the rules described in section 5. If the Chair is unable to preside over a Board meeting, the Vice Chair may serve in lieu of the Chair at meetings.

5 Voting

The Board of Members shall strive to decide by consensus.

If a vote is requested, each Board Member, including the Chair and Vice-Chair shall have one vote.

Decisions on the admission of new Members or termination of membership require a qualified majority of two thirds of the Members. Other decisions by the Board of Members require a simple majority of votes. In any case, a quorum of the majority (i.e. more than one-half) of the Board members must be observed. In case of absence, Board Members may nominate a proxy within the Board of Members or submit their position / vote to the Chair of the Board in writing before the meeting.

Decisions may be taken at the Board meetings or by a written circulation procedure.

6 Board meetings

The Board will annually convene a physical meeting and hold telephone/video conferences as required.

Whereas the dates of the Board meetings should be set as early as possible, the summons to Board meetings including an agenda and other relevant documents should be sent not less than 10 business days prior to the Board meeting.

7 Expert Advisory Groups and stakeholder engagement

The Board of Members will seek expert advice of and cooperation with relevant stakeholders (e.g. international organisations, existing R&D initiatives such as CARB-X, GARDP, JPIAMR, industry, academia, NGOs).

It may call on external expertise as needed on an ad-hoc basis and establish Expert Advisory Groups on demand.

Members of the Board and Observers may suggest suitable national and international experts for the Expert Advisory Groups. The final decision on the composition of the Expert Advisory Groups shall be taken by the Board of Members.

8 Secretariat

The Secretariat shall be responsible for the implementation of the work plan and the day-to-day running of the Global AMR R&D Hub under the direction of the Board of Members. It shall prepare the meetings of the Board of Members and of the Expert Advisory Groups. It shall report to the Board of Members through the Chair.

For a three year period, the Secretariat will be based in Berlin, Germany and financed by the Federal German Government. The Board of Members shall decide on the long-term

organisation, localisation and financing of the Secretariat in good time before the end of the first three years.

The Secretariat shall be led by a full-time Secretariat Lead and consist of 2-3 other expert staff and one administrative member.

9 Evaluation

The work of the Global AMR R&D Hub shall be subject to an adequate external evaluation to monitor progress towards the objectives of the Hub, and to inform and support any necessary changes to the Hub.