



Message from

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on the occasion of

**WORLD
AMR AWARENESS
WEEK**

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Antimicrobial resistance undermines our ability to effectively treat infections and is a major threat to human and animal health.

Antimicrobial misuse and overuse increase the development and spread of drug-resistant infections.

Antibiotics have become a substitute for good hygiene, infection prevention and control, accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment. In many countries, they are often misused to treat coughs and colds, for which they are unnecessary and ineffective. This not only wastes money but also fuels resistance, posing a threat to public health. Our Region now has the highest and most rapidly growing levels of antibiotic use.

Urgent action is needed to tackle antimicrobial resistance. If it is not addressed now, we will create a huge problem for our children.

I call on all health care workers to promote responsible antimicrobial use and prescribe antibiotics only when necessary and in accordance with national guidelines and the

WHO AWaRe Antibiotic Book. And I strongly urge the public to take antibiotics only when prescribed by a health care professional.

Let us work together to strengthen health systems to prevent, diagnose and manage infections through appropriate use of antimicrobials. We must adopt a One Health approach, recognizing that as well as overuse and misuse in human health, we also face severe problems through overuse and misuse in animal health and food production, as well as environmental pollution.

I am happy to note that 16 countries in our Region have committed to the 2022 Muscat Manifesto targets to reduce antibiotic use in the animal and food-producing sectors and enhance appropriate use in human health.

Combating this global health threat is critical to achieve our regional vision of health for all by all.

Let's prevent antimicrobial resistance together!

