

# Framework for Accelerating Action to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance in the Western Pacific Region





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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AMR</b>	antimicrobial resistance
<b>AWaRe</b>	Access, Watch, and Reserve
<b>DDD</b>	defined daily doses
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>MDR-TB</b>	multidrug-resistant TB
<b>MRSA</b>	methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
<b>NCD</b>	noncommunicable disease
<b>OIE</b>	World Organisation for Animal Health
<b>R&amp;D</b>	research and development
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>TB</b>	tuberculosis
<b>UHC</b>	universal health coverage
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# FOREWORD


**I am pleased to present the *Framework for Accelerating Action to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance in the Western Pacific Region*.**

As a serious threat to our health, economies and societies, antimicrobial resistance or AMR is a priority in our vision, *For the Future: Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region*, that guides the work of WHO with Member States in the Western Pacific. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the dangers of AMR and the need to address it urgently. Antibiotics are being misused in the treatment of COVID-19 patients, making some patients in intensive care who also have infections that are resistant to treatment much less likely to survive. If we do not act today, AMR will make the impact of disease outbreaks such as COVID-19 worse. Now more than ever, we need to stand together to stop antimicrobial resistance.

*The Framework for Accelerating Action to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance* calls for a united front. We must work together: to strengthen our systems for sustainable actions against AMR; to work beyond the health sector, across all sectors; to take actions today, guided by our vision *For the Future*; and to build solutions from the ground up, while ensuring country impact.

Under this Framework, we launched the *Stewards for the Future: One Region, One Movement to fight AMR* in November 2020. Every sector with its respective mandates, resources and influence has a role to play. We ask you to join us – whether you are a member of the public committed to do your part to ensure that infections can be treated today and in the future, or a health professional who practices good hygiene and only dispenses antimicrobials when necessary, or a farmer who keeps crops and animals healthy without antimicrobials, or a policy-maker who helps regulate the use of these vital tools for health and development. We all have a duty to help slow the spread of antimicrobial resistance.

Through this Framework, let us join hands beginning today to make the fight against AMR our enduring cause for the future. Your solidarity and support will help make the Western Pacific healthy and safe for the 1.9 billion people who call the Region home and for generations to come.



**Takeshi Kasai, MD, Ph. D.  
Regional Director**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**In 2014, the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific endorsed the *Action Agenda for Antimicrobial Resistance in the Western Pacific Region*, focusing on the development of national action plans, increasing awareness in other sectors, and strengthening health systems and surveillance.**

Progress has been made, but it has been uneven across countries in the Western Pacific Region. Many countries still face enormous challenges in tackling the multiple dimensions and systemic issues of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and its drivers, particularly in an environment of competing priorities and needs.

AMR is an ever-present threat to the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the security of populations. The complexity of the problem lies in its inherent nature and the characteristics and extent of its impact on health and development.

AMR is a natural process accelerated by human activity and practices, such as the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials, the spread and transmission of resistance and infections, and the contamination of the environment. Everyone is at risk of being affected by AMR. Everyone also contributes directly or indirectly to its development and emergence.

The already-serious impact of AMR is the result of past human activities and practices and the shortfall of sustained, grounded, future-oriented and broad societal action. This will become more pronounced as countries in the Region face multiple and complex challenges related to rising noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), ageing populations, health emergencies and the impact of climate change. Countries are unevenly placed in terms of capacity and resources to address AMR and these other competing challenges at the same time.

In 2018, a new vision, *For the Future: Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region*, was developed

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