



UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2018

Fostering investment in the development of new antibacterial treatments

UNCTAD-WHO Event on 23 October 2018, 14:30-17:30

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Objective: This event will discuss how to increase investment in the development of innovative products to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Innovative product developers, product development partnership funding schemes and policy makers will exchange views on the key features of needed new technologies, the capital required from early stage research to clinical proof-of-concept, the opportunities and risks related to AMR investment, and the need to make antimicrobials available at affordable prices. UNCTAD and WHO also intend to leverage the strength of the UNCTAD World Investment Forum (WIF) to seek to promote investment partnerships in AMR-related R&D. The WIF will represent a first step in this collaborative endeavor.

Background: AMR is an increasingly serious threat to global public health that requires action across all government sectors and society. For instance, without effective antibiotics, the success of major surgery and cancer chemotherapy would be compromised. Healthcare-associated infections, which are mainly caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria, are estimated to cause 37,000 deaths each year in the European Union¹ and 23,000 in the United States.² Estimates of economic losses caused by rising AMR range from 1.1 to 3.8 percent of global GDP by 2050, with low-income countries being more affected than high-income countries.³ This problem calls for solidary action and political commitment of governments in line with the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development*. Private sector R&D in AMR is very limited, and public funding currently available is insufficient to fully address the diverse medical needs. This requires better coordination. There is an important gap in terms of funding the development of traditional antibiotics as well as new treatments. This represents missed opportunities both from a public health, but also an investment perspective. Hence, the need to develop innovative investment models to tackle AMR has been acknowledged by a multitude of initiatives, such as the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, the 2017 G20 Leaders' commitment to a new Global R&D Collaboration Hub, the Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, and the UN High-Level Political Declaration. The specific AMR-investment nexus was also discussed at UNCTAD's October 2017 Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on *New Investment Models in Health-related R&D – the Case of Antibiotic Resistance*.

¹ <https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/who-we-are/disease-programmes/antimicrobial-resistance-and-healthcare-associated>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/index.html>

³ The World Bank, *Drug-Resistant Infections. A Threat to Our Economic Future*. March 2017, pp. 17/18 (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/323311493396993758/pdf/114679-REVISED-v2-Drug-Resistant-Infections-Final-Report.pdf>).

Event Program

Welcome: Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Key note addresses:

Hon. Dr. Alfred Madigele, Minister of Health and Wellness, Botswana (tba)

Ranieri Guerra, Assistant Director General for Special Initiatives, WHO

Moderator: Laura Piddock, Head of Scientific Affairs, Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP)

1. Funding mechanisms and investors: Scope and experience
 - a. Richard Lawson, Senior Project Manager, Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator (CARB-X)
 - b. Christopher Egerton-Warburton, Expert Advisory Board Chair, UK Global AMR Innovation Fund (UK GAMRIF)
 - c. Kees de Joncheere, Chairman Executive Board, Netherlands Antibiotic Development Platform (NADP)
 - d. Tomotaka Goji, Managing Partner, University of Tokyo Edge Capital (UTEC) Japan Fund
2. Researchers and industry: Capacities and challenges
 - a. Marc Gitzinger, CEO, Bioversys, Switzerland
 - b. Anand Anandkumar, CEO, Bugworks Research, India
 - c. Yoshinori Yamano, Chief Scientific Officer for Infectious Diseases, Shionogi, Japan
3. Civil society, governments and public entities: The need to reconcile innovation, access and stewardship
 - a. Andreas Sandgren, Policy Adviser, ReAct – Action on Antibiotic Resistance, Uppsala University, Sweden
 - b. Niresh Bhagwandin, Executive Manager of Strategic Research Initiatives, Medical Research Council, South Africa
 - c. Virander Paul, Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN
 - d. Clemens Martin Auer, Director-General, Federal Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection, Austria
 - e. Jenny Hellman, Public Health Agency of Sweden

For further information please contact: Christoph.Spennemann@unctad.org; 0041 22 917 59 99

