

How to Foster Innovation, Access and Appropriate Use of Antibiotics?

A Joint Technical Symposium by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO)

Geneva, 25 October 2016

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Panel 3 – Trade policy in support of antimicrobial access and stewardship

- It's just one month ago, that the UNGA adopted a resolution on AMR.
- The need for a multisectoral approach and tripartite collaboration was recognized by all and reflected by the development of common communication and awareness material.
- There is also now a global consensus to phase out the use of antimicrobials for growth promotion in the absence of risk assessment.
- But while good veterinary practices are key to ensure that animals are kept in good conditions, the access to effective and accessible antibiotics to be used under veterinary supervision and only when needed to control animal diseases, is as vital for protecting animal health and welfare, as it is for human health.
- In Animal health, the World Organisation for Animal Health has been working on this topic for a long time.
 - ✚ We have developed international standards, for the monitoring of use and resistance and the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials to control animal diseases under veterinary supervision.

- ✚ We have built a list of antibiotics that are important for veterinary medicines and recommend restrictions for use for several antimicrobial classes critically important for human health.
- ✚ We have defined adequate legislation to control their production, circulation and distribution.
- But we also develop standard for safe trade of animals to avoid spread of defined transmissible diseases and its part of Veterinary services tasks to issue certificates to ensure safe trade of animals and their products.
- This session is dedicated to "Trade policy in support of antimicrobial access and stewardship".
 - ✚ Trade policy is not restricted to animal diseases, but Veterinary Certificates include since long time food safety.
 - ✚ Indeed the use of antimicrobials follows international standards to make sure that animal products are safe for human consumption. Veterinarians are trained to provide advice to farmers for such use and veterinary services have to make sure they are implemented when signing certificates for trade.
- So, what is the issue of access to antibiotics for animals?
- It means access to quality assured products, it means trained veterinarians or paraprofessionals, and knowledge about good practices.
- We know that in many parts of the world low quality or counterfeit products are circulating.
- We know that in many parts of the world antimicrobials are freely available over the counter, on markets or via internet, with often unknown quality.

To get this under control, the OIE supports countries to strengthen their veterinary services and their legislation framework, to monitor the quantities of antimicrobials used in animals to get better understanding of their situation and enable them to react and we train national focal points on veterinary products on all issues related to AMR.

We are currently building a global database on the use of antimicrobials and collaborate with partners, WHO and FAO, but also others like the World Customs Organisation to get better border controls.

BUT while we combat over and misuse of antimicrobials and the circulation of non- quality products, we also need to find solutions and to support research for alternatives to antibiotics including vaccines in partnership with academia and the private sector.

In December we will host a scientific symposium on alternatives to antibiotics organized by the USDA with the support of OIE in Paris and explore new technologies.

Today's joint symposium comes very timely and working together towards innovation of new technologies and solutions will be part of the overall solution to control AMR.