

Concept note

3rd High Level Technical Consultation and Meeting on Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance and Use for Concerted Actions

The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden and the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea is hosting the 3rd High Level Technical Consultation and Meeting on Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance and Use for Concerted Actions, co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Objectives of the consultation and meeting

- Obtain continued and sustained high level commitment to build capacities needed for national and global surveillance of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and use
- Discuss and agree on modifications to the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS)¹ methodology and the additional methods proposed for the revision of GLASS
- Discuss and agree on principles for sharing additional formats of AMR surveillance data, including digital sequencing information
- Identify strategies to support countries in strengthening their national surveillance systems, including One Health AMR surveillance and surveillance of antimicrobial use.

Participants

- High level officers in the Ministries of Health (Director² or Team lead³ level) with responsibility for the implementation of national antimicrobial resistance policy
- Senior officers from the Ministries of Health, Public Health Agencies or other bodies with technical experience and responsibility related to antimicrobial resistance or use/consumption surveillance, such as GLASS national focal points
- Representatives from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other selected organisations and networks
- Staff from the WHO
- Representatives from the WHO AMR Surveillance and Quality Assessment Collaborating Centres Network
- Representatives from the Government of Sweden and the Government of the Republic of Korea.

¹ <https://www.who.int/glass/en/>

² Director refers to the manager who oversees several teams lead by the Team lead.

³ Team lead refers to the manager who leads a small team consisting of about 10 employees, with no sub-group underneath.

Consultation of technical documents

The online consultation will only be open for participants designated by the invited countries. Therefore, it is necessary that participants are confirmed and registered before the online consultation starts in September 2020. To continue with work on AMR containment, the consultation will proceed notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Provisionally, the following documents will be included in the consultation:

- GLASS Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Manual (final draft)
- GLASS development and consolidation roadmap 2020–2024 (final draft)
- GLASS early implementation protocol for the inclusion of *Candida* spp.⁴
- GLASS methodology for estimating the attributable mortality of AMR bloodstream infections⁴
- GLASS guide on monitoring antimicrobial consumption at hospital level (final draft)
- GLASS protocol for monitoring antimicrobial consumption at hospital level (final draft)
- GLASS technical note on whole genome sequencing (WGS) for AMR surveillance⁴.

Structure of the Meeting

- The meeting will be a two-day event in April 2021, in Stockholm, Sweden, should the global situation related to COVID-19 allow for a physical event.
- The meeting will consist of plenary sessions and breakout sessions. The breakout sessions will discuss key issues of the GLASS revision in detail and deal with any related issues in each WHO region.
- A dedicated registration link for the meeting will be shared with those who register for the consultation.

Outputs of the meeting

- Meeting conclusions indicating a continued and sustained commitment to address surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and use through national actions and to the further development and implementation of GLASS
- A strategy to support countries in addressing the strengthening of their national surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and use
- An updated roadmap for the coordination and implementation of global surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and use and ways of addressing gaps in GLASS.

⁴ <https://www.who.int/glass/resources/en/>

Background

In response to the Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance endorsed by WHO Member States in 2015 and WHA resolution 68.7⁵, the WHO launched GLASS in October 2015 to foster harmonised antimicrobial resistance and use surveillance in all countries and thus inform strategies to contain AMR.

GLASS has been developed through active participation and consultations with countries. Two consultations have been hosted by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden and the Public Health Agency of Sweden and co-sponsored by the WHO. In December 2014, the first consultation⁶ was held in Stockholm which resulted in key advice on the establishment of GLASS⁷, the first global AMR surveillance system. At the second consultation, held in April 2017 in Stockholm, countries provided feedback on the early implementation of GLASS.

GLASS was designed to be implemented in 5-year cycles followed by revision and further development based on the lessons learnt during these periods. The first cycle covered the period 2015–2019. During this period, several GLASS tools and publications were developed, including: an IT platform for global data reporting; standards and tools for surveillance of priority bacterial infections in humans and antimicrobial use⁸; two global reports on GLASS implementation progress and AMR rates⁹; and a global report on antimicrobial consumption¹⁰. As of May 2020, 91 countries and two territories have enrolled in GLASS.

During 2019, as defined by the GLASS implementation roadmap⁷ and based on knowledge generated during the first phase with support from the WHO AMR Surveillance and Quality Assessment Collaborating Centres Network, work commenced to identify necessary methodological steps to secure better quality, robustness, and representativeness of results. This will enhance global monitoring of antimicrobial resistance and use patterns over time, generate reliable estimates of the magnitude of the problem, and inform control strategies.

⁵ http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA68/A68_R7-en.pdf

⁶ <https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/events/SwedenMeeting/en/>

⁷ <https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/publications/surveillance-system-manual/en/>

⁸ <https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/global-action-plan/optimize-use/surveillance/en/>

⁹ <https://www.who.int/glass/reports/en/>

¹⁰ https://www.who.int/medicines/areas/rational_use/oms-amr-amc-report-2016-2018/en/