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Folketingets Sundhedsudvalg

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To Folketingets Sundhedsudvalg

I write to you as medical doctor, specialist in Clinical Microbiology and member of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) to share information on the devastating effects of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the consequences of which I am confronted with on a daily basis.

AMR is not merely a theoretical concern; it is a tangible and pressing reality that demands much more urgent global attention. Each year, millions of lives are jeopardized due to infections that no longer respond to commonly available antimicrobial treatments. AMR is now the direct cause of 1.3 million deaths annually, with one in five of these occurring in children under the age of five, mainly in low- and middle-income countries. Left unchecked, AMR will reverse decades of progress in modern medicine, making routine medical procedures such as surgeries, chemotherapy, and organ transplants increasingly perilous. A recent report from the Global Leaders Group on AMR estimates that without greater action, the cost of treating resistant bacterial infections alone will reach US\$ 412 billion annually up to 2035, and increased morbidity and mortality from these infections will lead to lower workforce participation and productivity losses of US\$ 443 billion per year.

AMR is on the agenda at this year's United Nations General Assembly. We scientists at ESCMID **urge you to mobilize political attention at the highest level possible by helping to ensure the participation of the most senior representatives of your government at the High-Level Meeting on AMR on September 26 in New York**, and work together with your New York mission for a **strong resolution with ambitious commitments and concrete actions on AMR**. These actions must include:

- Prevention
- Equitable access and innovation
- Stronger global governance of the AMR response with technical input from the much needed Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR, similar to other panels on climate change, pollution and biodiversity, to advise Governments on future evidence-based targets
- Support countries to access funding from Development Banks to fund priority areas of their NAPs

Addressing AMR requires a cross-sectorial approach, encompassing actions in human and animal health and environmental stewardship in every country. The global north, including Europe, needs to support poorer countries to combat AMR by ensuring equitable access to essential resources, knowledge, and technologies to confront this shared threat and safeguard public health globally.

The development of new antibiotics is key for securing continued effective treatment options, but the present market and public health failure has shown the requirement for both push and pull incentives, with pull incentives ideally implemented as subscription models. However, the responsibility for this cannot be left to the pharmaceutical industry alone, as market forces have been unable to address the public health need for new and existing antibiotics. Public investment and collaboration between academia, non-profits, the public sector and industry are essential to incentivize research for novel antimicrobial agents and ensure their availability for current and future generations.

The consequences of inaction are too dire to ignore, and proactive measures are essential to safeguard public health, preserve antimicrobial efficacy, and ensure a sustainable future. We further encourage you to help ensure that AMR is prioritized on the political agenda in Denmark and the European region

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ESCMID stands ready to leverage its expertise in research, education and practice and network as an active partner in the fight against AMR. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I am hopeful that by working together, scientists, politicians and policy makers can address the challenge of AMR and protect the health and well-being of our citizens for generations to come.

Sincerely,

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