

MEDIA ADVISORY

High level Press Briefing on World Antimicrobial Awareness Week INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

- **WHAT:** The following partnership will engage with the media in observance of the 2nd Africa Continental World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), with discussions focusing on Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa and One Health Multi-sectoral Collaboration.
- African Union
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

SPEAKERS:



H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko
Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission



Mr Serge Nakouzi
Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa, FAO



Dr Juliette Biao-Koudenoukpo
Director and Regional Representative for Africa, UNEP



Dr John Nkengasong
Director, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention



Dr Karim Tounkara
Representative, Regional Representation for Africa, OIE



Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari
Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, WHO



Dr Abebe Haile-Gabriel
Assistant Director-General & Regional Representative for Africa, FAO



Dr Matshidiso Moeti
Regional Director for Africa, WHO



MODERATOR
Dr Yewande Alimi
AMR Programme Coordinator, Africa CDC

WHEN: Wednesday, 18 November 2020

TIME: 12.00–1.00 pm East Africa Time

WHERE: Online through ZOOM, please register in advance to join the Meeting

Register in advance for this webinar using the below link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4ynv6K8SRsGjTanKDiMI6Q

For Livestream: <https://livestream.com/africanunion/events/9033858>

Background Information

Antimicrobial agents, including antibiotics, have saved millions of lives, substantially reduced the burden of diseases in people and animals, improved quality of life, contributed to improved food security and safety, and helped increase life expectancy. However, the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in several microorganisms, is reversing these benefits and further complicating the management of many infectious diseases. AMR is a major threat to human development and the fight against infectious diseases, hence, it requires a collective and practical response in order to mitigate AMR risks.

Leveraging on said holistic approach to raise awareness on AMR issues, members of the Africa regional tripartite (FAO, OIE, & WHO) in collaboration with two technical agencies of the AU, Africa CDC and AU-IBAR and UNEP are organizing the **region's second joint WAAW** campaign. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event will be hosted virtually from 18-24 November 2020.

Journalists are invited to connect and attend the press briefing on Wednesday, 18 November 2020, at 11.00 a.m. East Africa Time.

Kindly note that the briefings will cover 3 AU working languages (English, French and Portuguese) through interpretation.

Below are basic things to consider during the briefing.

- Journalists will be allowed to ask questions directly online. If you have a question send your name and the name of your media house to WhatsApp # (+251 945 502 310), the following emails (GwehN@africa-union.org, molalett@africa-union.org) and they will be taken by the moderator.
- Colleagues who cannot ask questions directly online should send their questions to the same number or email addresses.

Media inquiries:

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Name, Tel, email, Organization

About the African Union

The African Union spearheads Africa's development and integration in close collaboration with African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and African citizens. AU Vision: to accelerate progress towards an integrated, prosperous and inclusive Africa, at peace with itself, playing a dynamic role in the continental and global arena, effectively driven by an accountable, efficient and responsive Commission. Learn more at: <http://www.au.int/en>

About Africa CDC

Africa CDC is a specialized technical institution of the African Union which supports Member States in their efforts to strengthen health systems and improve surveillance, emergency response, prevention and control of diseases. Learn more at: <http://www.africacdc.org>

About the Africa Regional Tripartite Plus

The Tripartite (FAO, OIE, and WHO), in partnership with UNEP, have globally allied addressing the rising threat of AMR. As the cause and impact of AMR overarch all sectors – human health, animal health, plant health, and environmental health – it requires a holistic and multisectoral One Health Approach. At the Africa Regional level, the Regional Tripartite Plus is working in close collaboration with the African Union to join forces to mitigate AMR risk in the continent.

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week in Africa

The week of 18-24 November 2020 will be full of events, carefully curated under a wide range of topics. For journalists who are interested in attending the rest of the events planned for the week, please register at: <https://bit.ly/waawafrika2020>

For further information: Directorate of Information and Communication | African Union Commission | E-mail: DIC@africa-union.org | Website: www.au.int | Addis Ababa | Ethiopia. **Follow us** Face book: <https://www.facebook.com/AfricanUnionCommission>; Twitter: https://twitter.com/_AfricanUnion_; YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/AUCommission>; Learn more at: <http://www.au.int>