



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting New Investment Models in Health-related R&D – the Case of Antibiotic Resistance

Concept Note and Program

**Thursday, 5 October 2017
Room XXVII, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland**

Antibiotic resistance poses a serious challenge to public health, but also raises the important question about much-needed research and development (R&D), and the limitations of traditional models of investment and intellectual property (IP) rights. The reasons for antibiotic resistance are diverse, and its effects are felt by developed and developing countries alike. From the investment perspective, the main problem is a lack of incentives for the private sector to develop new classes of antibiotics. Today, the development of antibiotics is mainly limited to the modification of existing classes; very few new innovative treatments are in the clinical pipeline. From a health angle, the use of antibiotics should be limited to the greatest possible extent to avoid resistance. It also requires extensive stewardship programs to ensure the appropriate use of medicines. Simultaneously, in lower middle income countries lack of access to effective antibiotics is as serious a problem as resistance, thus requiring interventions to be carefully balanced between the public health goals of ensuring both access and conservation through appropriate use. At the same time, health-related regulatory hurdles affect the incentive for private sector engagement in R&D for new antibiotics. Thus, how to attract investment for the development of new antibiotics becomes the key question that requires an urgent and multisectoral response.

The 2016 Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines, to which UNCTAD contributed its expertise on IP and investment, calls upon UN member States and the private sector to increase investment in this area and to

develop new and additional models for financing related R&D.¹ This recommendation builds on the 2015 WHO global action plan on antimicrobial resistance² and is also a key element of the 2016 Political Declaration of the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance³ as well as the May 2017 Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers (*Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow*).⁴ The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3) also call for more efforts to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different persistent and emerging health issues. Some governments have reiterated the need to develop new investment models to address *inter alia* antibiotic resistance.⁵

This ad hoc expert group meeting will examine possible approaches to increase investment in combatting antibiotic resistance; the way governments and the private sector could cooperate under new R&D funding models, for instance the *Global Antibiotic and R&D Partnership* (GARDP)⁶; proposals to delink financing of drug R&D from volume sales and price (“delinkage”); and the role of the IP system and its implications for developing countries. The ad hoc expert group meeting is organized in part to contribute to the implementation of the mandate of UNCTAD received from member States under the Nairobi *Maafikiano* (July 2016),⁷ as well as in response to intergovernmental requests under the WIPO Development Agenda and the World Health Assembly's Resolution 61.21 on a Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.

¹ See at <http://www.unsgaccessmeds.org/final-report/>

² See <http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/publications/global-action-plan/en/>

³ See <http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/interagency-coordination-group/UNGA-AMR-RES-71-3-N1631065.pdf?ua=1>

⁴ See https://www.g20.org/Content/EN/Artikel/2017/05_en/2017-05-19-g20-gesundheitsministertreffen_en.html

⁵ For example at the 2017 Fair Pricing Forum in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. See the Meeting Report at http://www.who.int/medicines/access/fair_pricing/FairPricingForum2017MeetingReport.pdf

⁶ See <https://www.gardp.org/>

⁷ UNCTAD, 5 September 2016, Nairobi Maafikiano, Fourteenth session Nairobi 17–22 July 2016, TD/519/Add.2, para 55(s).

Program

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- 09:30 **Welcome Remarks**
Mr. James Zhan, Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD
- 09:40 **Overview: The current challenges for investing in R&D in antibiotics**
Mr. Christoph Spennemann, Officer-in-Charge, IP Unit, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD
- 09:55 **Comments**
Ms. Helle Aagaard
ReAct – Action on Antibiotic Resistance, Uppsala University, Sweden
- 10:10 **Questions and Answers / Discussion**
Facilitated by Mr. Christoph Spennemann, UNCTAD
- 10:30 **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 **The current R&D Pipeline for Antimicrobial Treatments and possible Ways to foster Innovation**
Dr. Peter Beyer, WHO
- 11:05 **Private-Public Partnerships: The WHO/DNDi Global Antibiotic R&D Partnership (GARDP)**
Mr. Jean-Pierre Paccaud, DNDi
- 11:25 **Questions and Answers / Discussion**
- 12:00 **Thailand's Approach to Combating Antibiotic Resistance**
Dr. Chanwit Tribuddharat, M.D., Vice President, International Collaboration, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand
- 12:15 **Portugal's Approach to Combating Antibiotic Resistance**
Ms. Ana Silva, Ministry of Health (INFARMED), Portugal

- 12:30 **Questions and Answers / Discussion**
- 13:15 **Lunch Break**
- 15:00 **A Civil Society Perspective on R&D and Investment Models for Antibiotic Resistance**
Mr. James Love, Director, Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)
- 15:20 **Questions and Answers / Discussion**
- 16:00 **Coffee Break**
- 16:15 **The Industry's Perspective on R&D and Investment Models for Antibiotic Resistance**
Mr. Thomas Cueni, Director-General, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA)
- 16:35 **Questions and Answers / Discussion**
- 16:50 **Panel Discussion: The Way Forward**
Additional panelist: Mr. Greg Perry, Executive Director, Medicines Patent Pool
Discussion facilitated by Mr. Kiyoshi Adachi, IP Unit, UNCTAD
- The discussion will seek to identify common ground between governments, the private sector and civil society to advance the debate on antibiotic resistance, and the concrete steps that could be taken to promote public and private sector investment. The discussions will be guided by the following questions:
1. Considering its urgency and the deficiencies in current incentives for R&D, do you think antibiotic resistance is an area where delinking financing of R&D from volume sales and price can work?
 2. What would be the role of IP in a delinkage model, and how do we ensure investment in R&D?
 3. Where do you see the main obstacles for public-private cooperation and how can UNCTAD contribute to facilitate such cooperation?
- 17:30 **Concluding Remarks:** Mr. James Zhan, UNCTAD