



PHM and PSI Statement at the WHA78 – 17-29 May 2025

Agenda Item 15

Antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance is an impending catastrophe.

AMR contributes to 5 million deaths annually and could kill 50 million in the coming decades. Hospitals are on the frontlines, yet prevention is under-prioritized.

As antibiotics are overused to boost livestock growth, industrial agriculture is a major driver of AMR. The WHO's AMR strategy fails to challenge the commercial interests fuelling this, and ignores the attendant ecological damage.

In healthcare, a profit-driven system causes both antibiotic overuse and deadly access gaps. There's no plan to curb pharmaceutical marketing or to ensure accountability. Meanwhile, profit-driven R&D has failed to support the development of new antibiotics.

We call on the WHO and governments to protect health workers worldwide, and tackle the public health crisis of AMR at its roots:

- End industrial factory farming
- Shift to agroecology
- Defund factory farms
- Invest in public pharmaceutical R&D

Current action is woefully inadequate. Urgent change is needed. The future of our health depends on it.