

# Civil Society Consultation on FAO's Global Campaign to Reduce the Need for Antimicrobials in Agri-Food Systems and the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform

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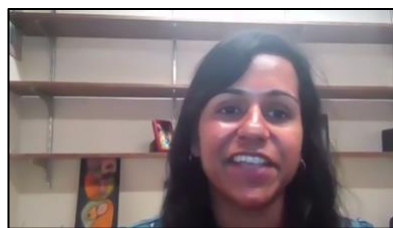
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## Background and Setting the Scene

### Reshma Ramachandran



On Monday, July 11, 2022, the Secretariat of the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition, based out of the ReAct Strategic Policy Program (RSPP) and Innovation + Design Enabling Access (IDEA) Initiative at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, organized a call between representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other Quadripartite agencies working on antimicrobial resistance and members and partner organizations of the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition (ARC). ARC is comprised of more than 25 civil society and intergovernmental organizations, and the Quadripartite agencies include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

Serving as moderator, Dr. Reshma Ramachandran welcomed participants to the teleconsultation and offered opening remarks framing the goals for the meeting. She noted that this consultation provided an opportunity to discuss the emerging plans of the FAO’s global campaign to reduce the need to use antimicrobials in food production<sup>1</sup> and for the launch of the Quadripartite AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (AMPP).

Dr. Ramachandran introduced the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition as well as the goals for the teleconsultation. These included: 1) learning about the emerging plans for the FAO’s global campaign to reduce the need to use antimicrobials and the plans for the launch of the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform; 2) providing civil society feedback for FAO and Quadripartite on both of these initiatives and learning how civil society and low- and middle-income countries could provide engagement and support; and 3) providing examples from the experience of ARC’s diverse members and partner organizations on how to effect system change.

### Antibiotic Resistance Coalition Newsletter

The Antibiotic Resistance Coalition (ARC) publishes a monthly newsletter covering ARC Activities, key policy updates, and research updates in the space of antimicrobial resistance. Past issues of this newsletter can be found [here](#) and interested individuals can sign up using the link [here](#).

### Meeting Participants

1. Amit Khurana, Centre for Science and the Environment
2. Andrea Caputo, ReAct Europe
3. Anthony D. So, ReAct Strategic Policy Program
4. Antonio Valcarce, Food and Agriculture Organization
5. Christina Pricop, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
6. CJ Cole, ReAct – Action on Antibiotic Resistance

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<sup>1</sup> FAO’s global campaign to reduce the need to use antimicrobials in food production has now been officially named as the “FAO Reduce the Need for Antimicrobials on Farms Initiative (RENOFAM).”

7. Coilin Nunan, Alliance to Save our Antibiotics
8. Diego Bravo, Oceana Chile
9. Emmanuel Kabali, Food and Agriculture Organization
10. Fallon Bwatu, Food and Agriculture Organization
11. Isabelle MC Mweemba, ReAct – Action on Antibiotic Resistance
12. Javiera Calisto, Oceana Chile
13. Jean-Yves Stenuick, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe
14. Joshua Woo, ReAct Strategic Policy Program
15. Junxia Song, Food and Agriculture Organization
16. Keith Sumption, Food and Agriculture Organization
17. Laetitia Lempereur, Food and Agriculture Organization
18. Magdalena Ackermann, Society for International Development
19. Matthew Stone, World Organisation for Animal Health
20. Mirza Alas, South Centre
21. Nelea Motriuc, Food and Agriculture Organization
22. Nicoletta Dentico, Society for International Development
23. Nikolai Pushkarev, European Public Health Alliance
24. Olafur Valsson, World Organisation for Animal Health
25. Pranab Chatterjee, ReAct Strategic Policy Program
26. Reshma Ramachandran, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, ReAct – Action on Antibiotic Resistance
27. Rosa Castro, European Public Health Alliance
28. Satya Sivaraman, ReAct Asia Pacific
29. Steve Roach, Food Animal Concerns Trust, Keep Antibiotics Working Coalition
30. Tapinawashe Kinjiga, PATAM
31. Tim Corrigan, World Health Organization
32. Viviana Munoz, South Centre
33. Yu Qiu, Food and Agriculture Organization

## Opening Remarks

### Keith Sumption, Chief Veterinary Officer, FAO



In his opening remarks, Dr. Keith Sumption emphasized the Quadripartite agencies' commitment to keep AMR and One Health front and center in efforts to help countries accelerate progress in developing and implementing the multisectoral National Action Plans on AMR (NAPs). He highlighted the critical role civil society organizations and academia play as

frontrunners in bringing innovative ideas bridging local and global knowledge and in fostering better intersectoral dialogue.

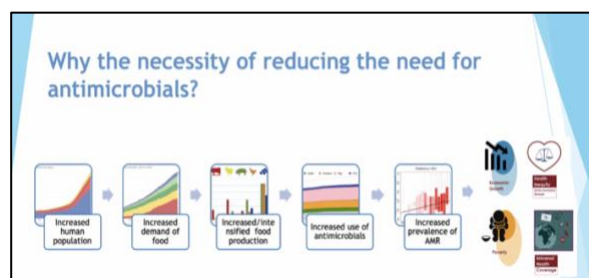
Dr. Sumption introduced the two initiatives that comprised the main agenda for this teleconference: the global campaign to reduce the need to use antimicrobials in food and agriculture and the launch of the Quadripartite AMR Multi-stakeholder Partnership Platform (AMPP). In planning the FAO global campaign, FAO recognized the significant usage of antimicrobials in the food production sector. He highlighted the need to explore the reasons behind such usage and to identify the best strategies to address the reasons for antimicrobial use in food production systems without compromising productivity or health in the agri-food systems.

Dr. Sumption also mentioned that the Quadripartite agencies were focusing efforts on building a bottom-up approach and addressing reasons for on-farm use of antimicrobials by tackling factors driving antimicrobial use at the farm level. He felt that this approach could be bolstered under the activities of the AMPP, which provided a platform to build partnerships between the livestock production industry and actors in civil society and academia, to further the goals of the FAO global campaign at the national and international levels. He emphasized the role of the AMPP in fostering multisectoral partnerships that could address questions on setting targets or developing strategies to reduce the need for antimicrobials based on stakeholder inputs. He noted the value of having Action Groups that truly represent the interests and aspirations of the stakeholders. This would be key to transforming these interests into action and enabling the participants to see the impact of their voices.

He welcomed the ARC members and partner organizations and thanked the Coalition for organizing the meeting, stating how all stakeholders working together would shape the future of actions on AMR.

## **Reducing the Need of Antimicrobials: Innovation, technologies, and hand-in-hand partnerships to address antimicrobial resistance for healthier agrifood systems**

**Junxia Song, Senior Animal Health Officer, FAO**



Dr. Junxia Song began by highlighting FAO's key actions on AMR. She traced these back to FAO's contribution to the development of the Global Action Plan on AMR in 2014. In 2015, FAO affirmed their commitment to act against AMR through the adoption of the resolution on AMR, and since then has worked closely with the WHO, WOA and UNEP. FAO's new strategic

framework emphasizes the need for adopting a cross-cutting, One Health approach to address AMR. FAO has identified five intermediate outcomes in its One Health Priority Programme Areas:

1. Improved early warning systems
2. Better biosecurity for pest and disease management
3. More effective emergency preparedness and response
4. Heightened AMR risk management
5. Enhanced One Health systems, integrating environmental health

Dr. Song highlighted how antimicrobial overuse had pushed us to a point where the effectiveness of antimicrobials risked being compromised because of the emergence of AMR organisms. She mentioned that over 70% of antimicrobials sold globally were intended for use in food animals and that these drugs were also used widely in crops to counter bacterial and fungal diseases. With growing population and food demands, there would be greater food production. This development may open the door for more antimicrobial use and result in emergence of more AMR threats in the future. Thus, reducing the need to use antimicrobials was an imperative not only to counter the emergence of AMR, but also to leverage multiple positive knock-on effects across different

sectors, that would deliver direct or indirect beneficial effects for various actors along the agri-food system value chain.

The proposed global campaign is a 10-year effort structured along 4 pillars – political and advocacy, technical, partnership, and resources. The initiative would target producer level and provide tailor-made solutions for participating countries. It embraces a One Health approach and incorporates efforts at various levels of the value chain– the farm level, the national level, and the international level. At the farm level, the campaign focuses on improving biosecurity, vaccination and the use of alternatives to antimicrobials by encouraging good agricultural practices through behavioral change. At the national level, the campaign would work to strengthen coordination, legal frameworks, training and capacity building, and awareness and advocacy while bolstering the implementation of NAPs and surveillance systems. At the international level, strengthening existing support mechanisms, such as Integrated System for Surveillance on AMR and Antimicrobial Use (TISSA), the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) system, and WOAHA’s AMU data platform (ANIMUSE), were key activities.

Dr. Song highlighted the fact that the initiative’s workstreams were structured in a manner that allowed hosting of many different types of stakeholders across various sectors. The framework is flexible and may incorporate new workstreams if needs emerge in the future. Dr. Song focused on the inclusivity and flexibility of the approach as one of its key strengths. The expected achievements of the campaign include at least 100 countries implementing NAPs in the food and agriculture sectors; achieving 30-50% reduction in the total amount of population weighted antimicrobials used in food and agriculture sectors; reaching zero non-therapeutic agricultural use of critically important antimicrobials for human health; and training more than 50% of animal and plant health workers under the campaign.

Dr. Song indicated that the proposed campaign would be closely linked to the AMPP, and the initiative would be implemented through the action groups of the AMPP. Incorporating the campaign with the AMPP would enable cross-pollination of ideas, learnings, and experiences across global stakeholders with an interest in countering AMR.

## **AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (AMPP)** **Nelea Motriuc, Partnership Platform Specialist, FAO**



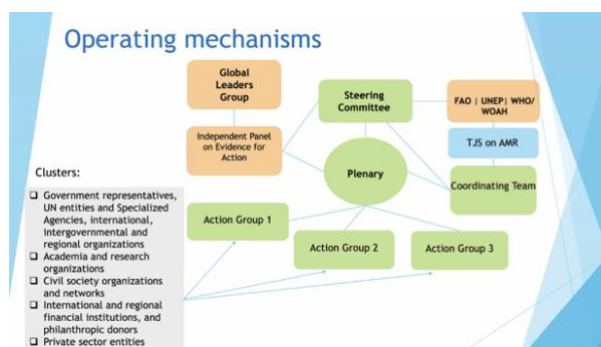
Ms. Nelea Motriuc began by discussing the report published by the UN’s Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on AMR in 2019 that recommended the establishment of a three-part, global governance structure on AMR. This would be comprised of the One Health

Global Leaders Group (GLG) on AMR, Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR (IPEA) and the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (AMPP). She highlighted the key features of the AMPP, noting the inclusive, multi-stakeholder nature of the platform; action-driven approach, placing country level at the center of the AMR response; and leveraging the One Health

approach focusing on cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary coordination across human, animal, food production, and environmental interfaces.

According to Ms. Motriuc, the platform is set to be launched around World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2022 (November 2022), and the Quadripartite agencies have been undertaking preparatory activities, such as the public consultation organized in September 2021. The public consultation informed the decisions with regards to the main elements of the proposed partnership platform. One of the key outcomes was to shape the objective of the AMPP in a manner that enables the preservation of the effectiveness of antimicrobials. The AMPP aims to achieve this by promoting a shared vision of action on AMR. The platform is intended to give space for all stakeholders to provide information, network, communicate and learn together while supporting concrete actions that sustain the progress in containing, combatting, and reversing AMR.

In discussing the operating mechanisms of the AMPP, Ms. Motriuc highlighted that the different stakeholders would be organized into clusters. These clusters would provide representation from a wide range of participants, from government representatives and civil society to private sector entities, ultimately meeting in plenary each year to influence the direction taken by the platform, but working on a daily basis within the Action Groups. The members would contribute to the platform through the action groups, which would focus on strategic priorities that are likely to be identified between the launch of the platform and the first meeting of the plenary. The platform would have a steering committee to guide its actions and support the vision of the platform in conjunction with the coordinating team comprised of representatives from the Quadripartite agencies. These mechanisms would be closely aligned and will work jointly with the GLG and IPEA as well as other instruments or mechanisms that may subsequently be put in place. This would ensure that the three governance bodies act in concert and applied the best available evidence and knowledge.



Action groups would enable the participating members to contribute concrete ideas and actions to address AMR. These ideas would be reviewed by the steering committee and endorsed in the plenary by the members of the platform. The action groups would have an annual cycle, and each action group would have the ability to nominate a lead, design their workplan, and meet regularly to implement and monitor the actions they want to implement in specific areas, while reporting key performance indicators to the steering committee and plenary. The intention is to set between 5-6 Action Groups on strategic priorities.

Ms. Motriuc then highlighted the importance of civil society actors in this process. She mentioned that civil society actors were critical players in the dialogue around the AMPP, enabling the Quadripartite to strengthen intersectoral and systemic thinking, lift voices from the ground up, especially from low- and middle-income countries and under-represented groups, raise awareness, bring critical thinking, and galvanizing public opinion to create pressure on policymakers and bring change in strategic areas.

## **Q&A Session**

Civil society participants in the consultation placed several questions to the presenters from FAO. The first question enquired about the circumstances around the launch of the AMPP, and the next one, about how the three global governance bodies (GLG, IPEA and AMPP) would interact with one another. A third question asked for greater insight into the membership model for the AMPP.

### **Launch of the AMPP**

Ms. Motriuc responded that the launch of the AMPP has been tentatively planned around World Antimicrobial Awareness Week in November of 2022. This would likely help in generating and recruiting global interest in the AMPP's activities and creating momentum around the launch of the platform.

### **Interaction among the three global governance bodies**

Dr. Song confirmed that the Quadripartite had finalized the TOR for the IPEA and placed it forward to the UN Secretary General's office. Quadripartite Organizations, based on the feedback from the UN SG's office, will organize some further consultation with members/stakeholders on operational and budgetary mechanisms to support the activities of the IPEA.

Dr. Song highlighted that the role of the GLG would be advocacy and advisory, aimed at promoting the AMR agenda globally. The IPEA has been tasked with providing science-based evidence to identify the needs and gaps and to advise the members of the Quadripartite. The AMPP would bring together the stakeholders to translate the high-level policies and suggestions generated through other international mechanisms and instruments at the country level.

Ms. Motriuc emphasized that the three bodies would work together closely, and although they would share space within the same governance ecosystem, they would play different roles. She further highlighted IPEA's role in leveraging the benefits of the latest knowledge and evidence to bolster advocacy and action on AMR at different international forums.

### **Membership model for the AMPP**

Ms. Motriuc explained that the final membership policy would be published with the formal launch of the platform. She mentioned that the process would be very simple and administered online. Applications would be reviewed by the coordinating team, in close consultation with Quadripartite agency representatives, and those interested in being a member could apply to be part of the platform.

## Antibiotic Resistance Coalition and Partner Organization Interventions

### Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics

#### Ending Routine Farm Antibiotic Use and Reducing the Need for Antibiotics in Livestock

Colin Nunan, Scientific Advisor



Colin Nunan, speaking on behalf of Alliance to Save our Antibiotics, welcomed the FAO's initiatives, but stressed the need to move towards ending the routine preventative use of antibiotics in food production. He highlighted the fact that the IACG's report called for limited action on antibiotic use for growth

promotion and the "risk analysis" clause provided a loophole but had failed to recommend action on routine prophylaxis despite stating that such use contributed to the spread of antibiotic resistance. He called on the FAO to urge countries to ban all use of antibiotics for growth promotion and phase out routine prophylactic use of antibiotics over time. He highlighted the WHO's guidelines on banning routine prophylactic use of antibiotics in its 2017 guidelines on antibiotic use in food animals and exhorted the FAO to adopt a position consistent with WHO's guidelines. Mr. Nunan also highlighted the EU regulation 2019/6, which bans the routine use of antibiotics, preventative group treatments, and recommends that antibiotics should not be used to compensate for factors such as poor hygiene, inadequate animal husbandry, or poor farm management.

Drawing from a [report he had authored for EPHA](#), Mr. Nunan highlighted key actions which needed to be undertaken for strengthening the implementation of these regulations. On the antibiotic use and data collection side, he emphasized the need for achieving low levels of antibiotic use, with an initial target of no more than 30 mg active per kg of "population correction unit" (PCU) in each species. He also highlighted the need to collect antibiotic usage data by animal species and farming system, and called for the FAO to encourage countries to publish their sales/usage data. As far as antibiotic policy actions, Mr. Nunan noted that most antibiotic treatments should be for individual treatment, with group treatments being exceptional (except for poultry). Countries with the lowest percentage of treatments as group treatments tend to have the lowest level of total antibiotic use in animals, as usage is more targeted rather than being used as a management tool. As such, he said that countries should aim for group treatments to account for less than 30% of all farm antibiotic treatments, and eventually to just 15% or less. Moreover, restrictions are needed on the highest-priority critically important antibiotics. Modern cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones should only be used in individual sick animals where other treatments are unlikely to work—not in group treatments and never preventatively—and colistin should be completely banned from farm use.

Mr. Nunan also highlighted animal husbandry factors that could contribute to antibiotic use and key areas for action. While EU legislation currently allows for pigs to be weaned as early as 21 days, this early weaning may cause post-weaning diarrhoea and is a major cause of antibiotic use in the pig industry. As such, a new minimum weaning age of about 35 days should be adopted, as evidence shows this leads to far lower antibiotic use. In addition, given evidence that using slower-



growing breeds of broilers can drastically reduce the need for antibiotics, a new minimum slaughter age of 56 days should be introduced for broilers, and more resilient breeds should be used in all farm-animal species.

Also at the farm level, he emphasized the need for improved hygiene to reduce intestinal and respiratory infections, greater access to the outdoors to reduce animal disease and antibiotic use, and the inclusion of some types of fiber in diets to promote good gut health. Fiber in diets can reduce animal stress and abnormal behaviors, such as tail biting in pigs, and increasing the fiber content of diets has been used successfully to reduce disease incidence and antibiotic use in both pigs and poultry. Finally, Mr. Nunan called for the ban of tail docking in pigs, unless clinically indicated. This could help avert long-term chronic pain and infections; moreover, in the absence of tail docking, farms would need to reduce animal stocking densities to prevent tail-biting, an abnormal behavior observed in pigs reared in intensive conditions, and this would then reduce the need for antibiotics.

### **ARC Coalition Secretariat, ReAct Strategic Policy Program**

#### **The Antibiotic Resistance Coalition Perspective on Engaging Civil Society and LMICs in the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform**

**Anthony D. So, MD, MPA, Professor of the Practice, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, ReAct Strategic Policy Program, Innovation+Design Enabling Access (IDEA) Initiative**

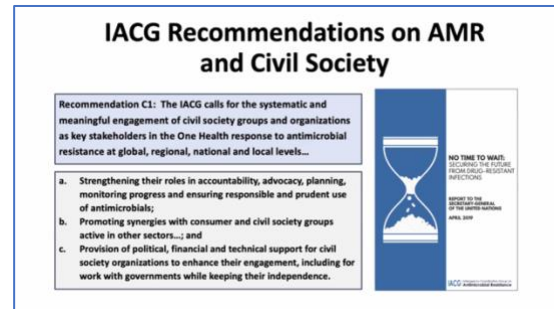


Professor Anthony So thanked the FAO and the members of the Quadripartite for providing an opportunity to have an exchange of ideas over the AMPP and FAO global campaign to reduce the need to use antimicrobials in agri-food systems. Dr. So introduced Antibiotic Resistance Coalition (ARC) as an intersectoral coalition of over 25 members, mostly civil society organizations, launched at the 2014 World Health Assembly, in the lead up to the efforts to lay the groundwork for the GAP AMR. The members do not receive industry funding that may pose conflict of interest in their work on AMR and are united by their commitment to the principles outlined in the Antibiotic Resistance Declaration. He highlighted the collective actions undertaken by the ARC, such as the briefing for WHO's evaluation team that conducted the Comprehensive Review of the GAP AMR, the final report of which carried much of ARC members' inputs into its findings. He highlighted some recent achievements of the Coalition, such as the 2021 UN High Level Political Forum side event on local production of health technologies, jointly hosted with South Centre. Noting that further examples would be shared in the interventions to follow, he also provided other examples of the work of ARC members, from providing [input on the Comprehensive Review of the WHO GAP on AMR](#) to producing consumer scorecards such as the [Chain Reaction reports](#).

He identified key questions for the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform, such as: Is there a way to get to shared goals and targets with civil society groups, like those among ARC's members and partner organizations? Are the strategies and tactics to get there consistent with

achieving these goals and targets, without compromise to special interests and without unnecessary delay?

In this session, Dr. So described several enabling conditions for engaging civil society groups within the AMPP. He raised the concerns around managing conflicts of interest across the AMPP, from the cluster group level to the steering committee. He gave instances of how industry-supported groups, often classified as civil society organizations, have pushed special interests at international forums. In order to engage civil society organizations, it would be essential to be transparent about such conflicts so that the platform does not end up undermining the individual strategic efforts of the civil society groups.



He stressed on the need to have dedicated resources to enable equity in voice and participation both for civil society groups and low- and middle-income countries, as well as a real promise of potential return on investment. He stressed on the need for the action groups to be action-oriented, so that they do not end up draining time and resources of the participants, as the key stakeholders in making change are tied up in consensus-building processing. He recommended that the action groups should be built as a coalition of the willing, fostering safe spaces for like-minded groups committed to clear targets and meaningful change.

He brought the IACG's recommendations on engaging civil society in the actions against AMR back into focus and suggested that these recommendations should form the foundations for FAO's efforts in building the AMPP. Dr. So concluded by hoping that the meeting would provide an opportunity for FAO and the ARC members to benefit from an exchange of ideas and experiences and enrich the efforts to shape the AMPP.

### **ARC's Input to the AMR MSPP Public Discussions**

In September of 2021, the [Antibiotic Resistance Coalition provided written comments to the Tripartite](#) for their consultation on the creation of a Multi-stakeholder Partnership Platform (MSPP). This public consultation response, co-signed by twelve civil society groups, flagged several concerns around the proposed MSPP's structure, governance system, and accountability. For example, while inclusivity was proposed as a guiding principle for the Platform, the MSPP would have to work harder to lift the voices of less well-resourced stakeholders (such as civil society and low- and middle-income countries) to ensure equity in participation. Meanwhile, the associated Action Groups might be paralyzed from taking decisive action if the process required consensus instead of collective action by a coalition of the willing.

### **European Public Health Alliance**

**Nikolai Pushkarev, Senior Policy Manager for Healthy Environments & EPHA Policy Coordinator**

Nikolai Pushkarev introduced the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), a civil society alliance based out of Brussels, and comprised of 80 public health NGOs, patient groups, health



professionals and disease groups. As a change agent in the public interest, EPHA is independent from commercial funding. AMR has been an important policy area for EPHA, and they have been hosting the European AMR Stakeholder Network and co-hosting with Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe an interest group of Members of European Parliament on AMR.

Mr. Pushkarev highlighted recent developments in the EU, with respect to the impending import restrictions for animal products produced with the use of antibiotics as growth promoters and produced with the use of antibiotics to be reserved for human use following a list to be approved very soon in the EU.

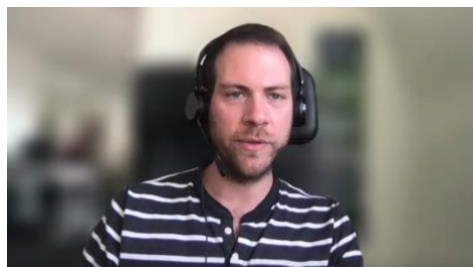
He emphasized the potential of such trade rules as tools to help improve global standards of antibiotics use in food production. Such rules can, for instance, provide a commercial incentive to accelerate the phasing out of antibiotics as growth promoters and, in the medium-term, to limit routine preventative use of antibiotics. In order to be WTO compliant any import rules need to be based on practices that the entity which introduces them also complies with internally, which allows the creation of an upward spiral in both policy and practice across the globe.

Mr. Pushkarev also acknowledged the role antibiotics play in propping up unsustainable production systems in several settings and highlighted the need to implement such measures accompanied by support for transition pathways in countries and for producers that are dependent on antibiotics and do not have the capacity to invest in improved methods themselves.

He expressed his interest in understanding how such windows of opportunity could be leveraged by the FAO's efforts in improving antibiotic use in food production systems globally.

## Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe

Jean-Yves Stenuick, Program Manager



In this intervention, Jean-Yves Stenuick focused on the role of hospitals and healthcare sector organizations in developing market signals affecting antibiotic use in the food production systems. He highlighted the purchasing power of hospitals and healthcare sector organization, given the millions of meals served through these institutions on a daily basis. He mentioned that in 2011, meals in UK healthcare facilities totaled over 130 million.

In Paris alone, 18 facilities belonging to the Assistance publique-Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP) provided 62,000 meals a day. He highlighted the work being done by HCWH Europe to develop [a set of criteria](#) to help healthcare procurers incentivize responsible antimicrobial consumption in food producers supplying these healthcare institutions.

These criteria covered actions across two broad categories. The first category addresses actions to rationalize the use of antimicrobials in food production, such as ensuring that the farm has a management protocol and there are facilities to isolate infected animals for individual treatment.

The protocol should be available to the purchaser on request. The second category of actions highlights several potential improvements in animal welfare practices that can promote responsible use of antimicrobials in food-producing farms, such as ensuring that farmed animals are not kept in cages. These criteria should be applied to the farm as a whole, since the use of such criteria on a lot-by-lot basis could result in double standards on product quality within the same farm.

Mr. Stenuick highlighted the role of healthcare workers, as trusted members of the community, in playing a central advocacy role for more stringent regulations on the veterinary use of antimicrobials. He acknowledged that the healthcare sector is the most visibly impacted by the emergence of AMR and highlighted the importance of engaging healthcare professionals to safeguard key last-resort antimicrobials, such as colistin.

He thanked the FAO for organizing these efforts and expressed his interest in learning how the FAO might shape the global campaign in an inclusive manner such that it would be supportive of the efforts of civil society organizations, such as the ones initiated by HCWH Europe. He also expressed an interest in understanding how the AMPP would best ensure enlisting and engaging the efforts of civil society groups, which often possess less resources than industry-funded groups.

## Centre for Science and Environment India

### Amit Khurana, Program Director, Sustainable Food Systems

Dr. Amit Khurana highlighted the role of FAO in moving towards long-term sustainable change and transformation of food systems; however, he noted the need to balance long-term AMR interventions with short-term and medium-term interventions, such as regulatory measures on non-therapeutic antibiotic use in food systems. For example, in conjunction with long-term interventions, actions such as limiting preventative antibiotic use and measuring usage data should continue to be a focus, especially for critically important antimicrobials for human health.



Dr. Khurana questioned the sustainability of intensive farming in the long-term and stressed on the need to explore the role backyard farming, small farming and less intensive models may have in feeding the expanding global population. He also highlighted the need to generate evidence on how common interventions – such as vaccinations and biosecurity measures – can play a role in thwarting the threat of AMR. He expressed his interest in learning more about the FAO’s strategies to convince member states of the utility of moving away from antibiotic-based prevention, and whether the member states were receptive or averse to such interventions.

At the same time, Dr. Khurana noted that global discussions on preventative antibiotic use has become a route to use more antibiotics. He identified the fact that the latest revised Codex guidelines seemed to condone the idea of using antibiotics for disease prevention, even when this involved the use of critically important antimicrobials for human health. This mixed messaging around the preventive use of antibiotics can be confusing for national-level stakeholders, who may end up interpreting these recommendations to their advantage. He also mentioned that the target of reducing antibiotic use for growth promotion, and eventually phasing out preventative use, has been further confounded by the conflicting positions taken by the slack Codex standards in

comparison to the more aggressive EU legislations. This also has the effect of discouraging investment by national stakeholders in research, documentation, and capacity building in promoting alternatives to antibiotic use. As Dr. Khurana highlighted, these also allowed the fast-food industry to follow double standards in different nations and renege on their commitment to reduce the use of antibiotics in their food supply chains.

In conclusion, Dr. Khurana gave several key action areas for FAO, such as seeking feedback directly from on-the-ground stakeholders (i.e., farmers) and not just focus on national-level stakeholders (i.e., government representatives and policymakers). To understand the magnitude of antibiotic use reduction due to any interventions, Dr. Khurana highlighted the importance of establishing baseline levels of antibiotic consumption in the food production sector. And he also identified concerns around agri-food interventions reaching the targeted end users given the resource and capacity constraints in low- and middle-income countries, stressed the need to ensure that interventions selected for implementation in such settings are simple and cost-effective.

## World Animal Protection

### Cameron Harsh, Programs Director

Cameron Harsh introduced World Animal Protection (WAP) as a global animal welfare organization headquartered in the UK, with offices in twelve different countries. A primary area of WAP's work is focused on building a global food system that is humane, sustainable, equitable, and just and that centers respect for animals and nature.



Mx. Harsh highlighted the fact that addressing overuse and unnecessary use of antibiotics in farm animals go hand in hand with initiatives that improve husbandry, shift away from current intensive models, and provide farmers with resources to meet husbandry standards. They mentioned that WAP, in partnership with Compassion in World Farming and Humane Society International, and in consultation with global experts and stakeholders, developed the Farm Animal Responsible Minimum Standards (FARMS), a set of species-specific standards that can form the baseline for animal care on farms and contribute to reducing the reliance on antibiotics by addressing key drivers such as overcrowding, lack of enrichment, fast-growth genetics, close confinement, early weaning, and painful physical alterations. These standards could be used by stakeholders as a benchmark to frame public reporting and identify effective strategies to shift to more humane and sustainable practices.

In addition to advancing higher standards of welfare, Mx. Harsh mentioned that WAP is driving public awareness and concern for overuse of antibiotics through a robust set of field-testing projects documenting the presence of resistance in food system and the environment connected to intensive meat production and sharing the results with local governments and agencies, media, and supporters of WAP. In 2018 and 2019, WAP tested pork products purchased at grocery stores in Brazil, Australia, Thailand, Spain, and the U.S., finding that resistant bacteria were documented in products in all markets, with resistance to highest priority critically important human medicines documented in all countries except Australia. Among *E. coli* isolated in markets, MDR was identified in 21% of US isolates, 33% of Brazilian, 64% of Spanish, and 97% of Thai isolates. Meanwhile, water and soil samples tested in 2020 across the U.S., Canada, Spain, and Thailand

found antibiotic resistance genes (ARGs), with 92% of U.S. samples returning positive samples for 3+ resistance genes. In 2021, WAP tested pork and chicken meat in Kenya, finding that more than a third of bacterial isolates showed resistance to more than three antibiotics, including to ciprofloxacin, vancomycin, and erythromycin. And in Australia, tests of beef and salmon in regional grocery stores resulted in more than half of bacteria being found to be resistant.

Mx. Harsh stressed on the importance of regulatory bodies and expert agencies taking on such monitoring activities, which should include current levels and purposes of antimicrobial use on farms, as well as the fate of residues and resistance in the environment and food system attributable to this use, and it should provide a transparent picture of how improved husbandry and shifting away from intensive practices correlate with reduced antibiotics use over time. Mx. Harsh mentioned that food systems transformation is key to unlocking large-scale reductions in antibiotics use and addressing the risk of AMR. Given the projections of growth in demand for meat, they predicted exacerbations of AMR and its drivers in the food system. The solution, they noted, existed in reducing the overall numbers of animals raised for food by encouraging the production and consumption of plant-based proteins while also ensuring that animals remaining in production meet or exceed responsible minimum animal welfare standards.

## Oceana Chile

### Javiera Calisto, Campaign Director

In this session, Javiera Calisto spoke about Oceana's campaign to reduce the amount of antibiotics used in the salmon farming industry. She spoke about the high levels of antibiotics used in Chilean salmon farming production, stating that between 1998 and 2015, 95% of tetracyclines, phenicols and quinolones imported by Chile were intended for use in the veterinarian sector, mainly for salmon farming production. In 2020, Chile used 2,500 times more antibiotics than Norway to produce a ton of salmon.



Oceana has pushed for a reduction of antibiotics by campaigning for increased transparency and accountability in the Chilean salmon farming industry. She stressed that transparency would enable the dissemination of disaggregated information on antibiotic use. This would enable national and international consumers to make informed decisions based on available data. It would increase competition between producers, encouraging them to reduce the use of antibiotics to enter newer markets. Ms. Calisto emphasized that such campaigns would also enable the civil society actors to oversee the work of the authorities in the reduction of antibiotics while allowing academia to develop evidence-informed policy recommendations.

She highlighted that currently, the Fisheries Services, the administrative body that oversees the industry, is mandated to publish broad information on the number and type of antibiotics being used in the industry. However, in order to access disaggregated data from each company, a special request needs to be made, and historically, companies have denied this information. Oceana has challenged this denial of access to information, and the Courts in Chile have ruled in favor of transparency. However, this has been a hard-fought victory as it took over four years to reach this verdict.

In order to bypass this problem, Ms. Calisto informed that Oceana has pushed the Congress of Chile to approve a provision mandating the Fisheries Services to put the information on antibiotic use, disaggregated by company, in the public domain. Encouragingly, the legislative process has progressed well and gained the support of legislators across the political divide.

She thanked the FAO for undertaking these critical initiatives and urged them to ensure that the principles of transparency and access to disaggregated data be incorporated into the operating mechanisms of the AMPP.

### **Food Animals Concerns Trust (FACT), Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) Coalition** **Steve Roach, Safe and Healthy Food Program Director at FACT**

Steve Roach introduced the work of KAW, a U.S. coalition of civil society organizations working to reduce the contribution of the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture to the public health crisis of antibiotic resistance. KAW has consistently pushed for federal policies to reduce the amount of antibiotics used in food production. They have advocated for the collection of data on the amount



and reasons for antibiotic use in food production. He highlighted the importance of civil society groups such as KAW in ensuring that governments are held accountable and provide inputs to counter industry's pressure to maintain the status quo. The work of the KAW was central in achieving the prohibition of the use of medically important antibiotics for growth promotion in 2017 in the US. Mr. Roach also introduced the

Antibiotics Off the Menu Coalition, which, for the last six years, has published a score card ranking the leading US restaurant chains on their policies with respect to antibiotic use in the supply chain. The group has consistently called for the chains to require their meat suppliers to reduce antibiotic use and, since 2017, has asked that they follow the WHO's Guidelines on the Use of Medically Important Antimicrobials in Food-Producing Animals. Their efforts have resulted in most restaurants in the US serving chicken raised without medically important antibiotics.

He spoke about his participation at the meetings of Codex Alimentarius Task Force on Antibiotics Resistance and his activities as a member of the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antibiotics Resistance, where he identified that many governments participate in these venues primarily to protect domestic agricultural industries with little regard for public health.

He criticized the lack of resources which was a hurdle for civil society groups in engaging with other stakeholders in international venues such as the WOAHO/OIE and FAO around agricultural use of antibiotics. He highlighted that when civil society organizations are unable to participate in the activities of these decision-making bodies there is a direct loss of their voices on these platforms. This then translates into an inability of civil society groups to advocate with the respective national governments, leaving the better-funded industry groups to control the discussion. He warned against a conservative membership-based approach in structuring the platform, which could limit participation and lead to their capture by economic interests. He

mentioned that in order to increase civil society participation, there must be some expectation that their participation can lead to better outcomes.

As a first step in engaging with civil society, he felt that the platforms should consider those who are impacted by agriculture, including farm workers and rural residents, not only those who

## Consumer Scorecards among ARC Members

The [Chain Reaction scorecard](#), organized annually by ARC members such as US PIRG, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT), and Consumer Reports, ranks the top twenty fast food and fast casual U.S. restaurant chains on the policies and actions related to antibiotic use in their food supplies. The [latest Chain Reaction scorecard](#) focuses on restaurants serving beef, due to previous scorecards successfully prompting changes in how most of the top twenty restaurant chains procured chicken. In this latest scorecard, Chipotle and Panera both received “A’s” while 12 out of the 20 chains scored earned “F” grades for taking no public action to reduce antibiotic overuse in their beef supplies.

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), another ARC member, published their [“Double Standards” report in 2018 to highlight antibiotic misuse by fast food companies in India](#). Like the Chain Reaction scorecard, this report aims to hold companies responsible for their failure to follow-through with commitments to eliminate the use of antibiotics. Of the nine multinational brands that were included, only three responded, and none of these companies shared an India-specific time-bound commitment to reduce or eliminate antibiotics in the supply chain. When asked to share relevant audit reports and test results, only one of the companies (Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd.) complied, sharing laboratory reports.

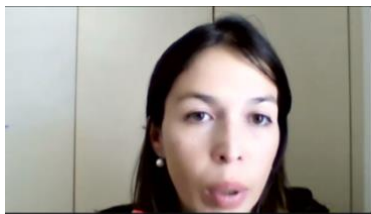
The [Alliance to Save our Antibiotics UK grocery chain report card](#), released in November of 2021, is another example of ARC members using scorecards to effect change. In this report, the Alliance to Save our Antibiotics scored ten of the leading supermarket chains in the U.S., finding that only a handful publish comprehensive up-to-date data on the total antibiotic use in their supply chains while only two (M&S and Morrisons) have banned the use of colistin, a last-resort antibiotic. Very little data are available at the farming system level, and only two chains (M&S and Iceland) were found to have antibiotic policies covering all their suppliers of animal-derived foods. Of note though, all supermarkets were found to have a ban on most or all of their UK own-brand suppliers from using antibiotics for routine disease prevention—an improvement from just five supermarkets having such a ban in place in 2019. These findings resulted in a [petition signed by over 30,000 people](#) delivered to UK supermarkets to be clear and consistent on their antibiotic policies for all meat products.

economically benefit from agriculture such as landowners and food companies. He also reiterated the need to focus on transparency. He highlighted the KAW’s efforts in developing tools to provide an estimate of the amount of antibiotics used in agriculture; this tool eventually led to US FDA reporting sales data annually. He stated that data on antibiotic use in food production is a primary public accountability measure for policies aimed at curbing antibiotic overuse, criticizing the data system supported by WOAHO/OIE, which is blind at the country level. Such lack of transparency undercuts civil society’s ability to push the agri-food industry in their countries to move towards reduction of antibiotic use.

## South Centre

Viviana Muñoz, Coordinator, Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity Programme





Dr. Viviana Muñoz introduced the South Centre as an intergovernmental organization that works closely with developing countries and is comprised of 54 member states. As a think-tank for the south, the South Centre aims to leverage south-south cooperation to support development efforts. The South Centre has worked in collaboration with several civil society organizations in the realm of AMR prevention and control. She stressed the importance of linking the local to the global, supporting civil society groups, and building local expertise to support action on AMR.

Dr. Muñoz highlighted the need to clarify the definition of civil society organizations that would participate in the action groups of the AMPP. This would especially be important in avoiding conflicts of interest when it came to the interests of the various stakeholders participating within the action groups. While engaging stakeholders, she felt it would be prudent to consider a wide spectrum of actors, especially considering actors from the global south, to ensure inclusivity, adequate representation, and ensure equity. She further highlighted the value in reaching out to find adequate stakeholders and going beyond just sending invitations.

She further emphasized the need to achieve a minimum expectation and not just settle for consensus. She also reiterated the need for having verifiable, transparent data reporting systems by building on existing self-reporting mechanisms by national governments. According to Dr. Muñoz, another essential aspect of transparency would be to ensure access to the information coming out of the deliberations of the AMPP and its action groups. She also reflected on the need for identifying resources – both technical and financial – to not only ensure there was participation by civil society actors from the global south, but also to showcase and highlight how they were affecting change at the country level.

Dr. Muñoz stressed that the South Centre supports the fact that actions on AMR should be linked to the transition to more sustainable food systems and in this regard, the FAO had to take a key role in pushing for leadership from high-income countries to move towards less intensive production systems, in alignment with SDGs, climate change and biodiversity conservation targets.

## Reflections

Following these interventions, Dr. Ramachandran opened up a period of reflections from participants, including questions and clarifications for the interventions shared by ARC members and partner organizations.

## Junxia Song, FAO

Dr. Song began by reflecting on the rationale of focusing on reducing the need for antimicrobials as opposed to reducing the use of antimicrobials in food production. She stated that if there were a need for use, farmers would end up using antimicrobials, so it was more important to address the factors that led to antimicrobial use in order to mitigate antimicrobial use in food production.

She highlighted the importance of a bottom-up structure, providing a voice to the farmers and other stakeholders on the ground. She acknowledged the merit of various interventions discussed in the prior session and mentioned that the core workstreams of the campaign focused on providing farm-

level solutions, such as biosecurity, vaccination, and behavior change, that would enable farmers to explore alternatives to antimicrobial use. However, she also clarified that the campaign was not just focusing on the farm-level factors but was also committed to providing support to low- and middle-income countries at the national level. She mentioned the potential of the hand-in-hand initiative and acknowledged the role of regulatory changes in EU in encouraging broader change beyond Europe.

She thanked the participants for their interventions and welcomed their inputs, which would help in refining the initiatives and making them more pragmatic and effective. She reiterated the commitment of FAO to supporting low- and middle-income countries, especially in overcoming resource and capacity constraints, which limit the action against AMR.

She also informed the audience that the FAO has already undertaken a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify the key stakeholders and the roles they are expected to play in order to ensure an inclusive and representative AMPP.

### **Emmanuel Kabali, FAO**

Dr. Kabali reflected on the importance of effective implementation of legal instruments as a key determinant ensuring the success of efforts to curb antimicrobial use in food production. He stated that if food production standards were not improved to reduce reliance on antimicrobials,



legislative mandates would have limited effectiveness in reducing antimicrobial use as there would be no economic imperative to limit such use. Once the need to use antimicrobials was reduced, such legislative tools were likely to be more effective in reducing antimicrobial use. He also highlighted the access versus excess concerns, stating that stringent legislation may sometimes

prevent access to healthy outcomes.

### **Keith Sumption, FAO**

Dr. Sumption appreciated the richness of the discussions and reflected on the need to move the accountability to appropriate levels. He stated that one of the major technical challenges was in supporting low- and middle-income countries to move toward production methods that are not reliant on antimicrobials, thus eventually reducing antimicrobial use in food production.

He appreciated the role played by demand-side pressure, which works its way through the food production supply chain and compels the producer to modify their actions. These market forces not only enabled the supply chains to reinforce the consumer demands and adhere to better production practices, but also had the additional benefit of producing value for the food producers, who would be able to generate animal health and welfare without resorting to the use of chemicals.

He appreciated the reality of the situation where, in some settings, policy tools are likely to be more effective when the systems have the right levels of maturity and within certain regulatory and enforcement cultures, whereas in other settings, a different package of incentives may be needed to achieve the same level of change.

### **Olafur Valsson, WOA**

Dr. Valsson appreciated the insights presented during the meeting and reinforced the fact that in order to reduce the use, there is a need to strengthen animal health systems, with a special focus on disease prevention. He acknowledged the important role the AMPP is likely to play in engaging a wide range of stakeholders in driving change by providing an opportunity for building multistakeholder partnerships.

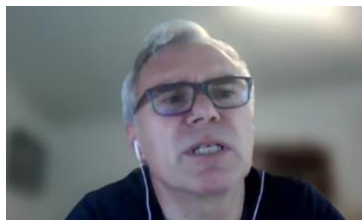


### **Coilin Nunan, Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics**

In anticipation of the launch of the EU regulation, there have been significant improvements in antimicrobial use in food production in several countries in the region. Despite the stringency of the regulations, the standards can be met, and several European nations are close to achieving them. However, there are some contradictions that still exist in the EU, in that they have legalized some practices, which are known to increase the need for certain antibiotics. At the same time, the regulations prevent the use of antimicrobials to compensate for inadequate animal husbandry conditions. This implies the need to develop better standards of animal husbandry, which may be associated with slightly higher prices and lowering levels of consumption in EU. The role of behavior change is also quite important, because in many situations, antibiotic use has become deeply ingrained in the process of animal rearing through decades of reinforcement that such additives in animal feed are important for the health and welfare of animals. In conclusion, legislative tools such as those implemented in the EU are necessary, but there is also a need to look at inadequate husbandry standards, which is, sometimes, the most important driver of antimicrobial use in food production.

### **Matthew Stone, WOAHA**

Responding to Dr. So's comments, Dr. Stone noted the potential differences in conflicts of interest among various stakeholders. In the livestock sector, for example, he highlighted that there are international associations that transparently represent their sector interests while also serving as critical stakeholders engaging with the AMPP; their conflict of interest regarding the representation of their sector is readily recognizable, and such transparency should be sufficient.



On the other hand, he noted Dr. So's comments were more applicable regarding potential involvement of lobbyists with non-transparent and unclear funding arrangements.

### **Anthony So, ReAct Strategic Policy Program**

In response to Dr. Stone's question, Dr. So highlighted the complexity of the issue, mentioning the need to limit the role vested interests from industry may play in policy decision-making, but noted there was a difference between taking part in policy decision-making and providing policy inputs to such a group. The operating principles of the AMPP would need to clarify how the policy process would be protected from such vested interests. The progress for an Action Group might be waylaid, paralyzed by the requirement of consensus to move forward, as opposed to creating a coalition of willing partners that might be part of a vanguard effort to tackle AMR. It would likely be really challenging for civil society to partner in such situations because their limited resources may be drained in addressing distractors rather than the real issues. The platform would need to shape its operational principles in a way that would enable the AMPP to be an effective engine for meaningful change.

## Closing Remarks:

### Keith Sumption

In his closing remarks, Dr. Sumption thanked the participants for the insightful deliberations and acknowledged the need to learn from the experiences and inputs discussed during the teleconference. The discussions inspired care, concern, interest, and the necessity to ensure an inclusive process while framing the operating principles of the AMPP. He highlighted the need to move forward, involve the key stakeholders in the process and keep the dialogue moving.

### Anthony So

Dr. So thanked the presenters for the rich exchanges and acknowledged that it provided a better understanding of how different stakeholders have tackled AMR. He appreciated FAO for sharing its plans for a global campaign—and the promising One Health elements—to address AMR in the food system and the shape that the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform is beginning to take. He expressed appreciation to the FAO team for taking the time to learn about the efforts of the various members and partner organizations of ARC. For those organizations participating, this was a unique opportunity to hear what the FAO was planning and to relate to FAO what they have been doing to tackle AMR. He thanked the members of the Quadripartite, particularly colleagues from the World Organisation for Animal Health, for joining and sharing reflections. He noted the impressive diversity of approaches adopted by ARC members and partner organizations in order to mobilize and motivate policy action; and hoped that these exchanges would help inform the Quadripartite of what it would take to enlist and engage civil society support for both FAO's global campaign and the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform.

Dr. So stated that many of the ARC members target strategically not just farmers in the supply chain, but where key actors in the value chain hold responsibility and could effect changes. Some of this work might be joined where positions, goals and targets, and tactics converge. Even where these diverge, FAO can take steps that better enable the work of public interest civil society organizations and low- and middle-income countries. For example, for starters, FAO could help ensure that:

- Country-level data on AMU and AMR are made publicly transparent for civil society organizations to act on
- The evidence and normative standards for setting goals and targets, both ending routine farm antibiotic use and reducing the need for antibiotics in livestock, are in place
- Adaptation of interventions, so that they are simple and feasible in resource-limited settings
- Key stakeholders in the food value chain are made more receptive to supporting civil society actions
- Support for CSO and LMIC participation is made available, and
- The rules of these AMR governance structures allow for transparency and equity of voice

He thanked the ARC members for their participation and hoped that their perspectives and work would invite all to envision a better way forward.