



Statement on UN Political Declaration on AMR

13 September 2024

As the Association representing the majority of veterinary medicine suppliers in South Africa, the South African Animal Health Association NPC welcomes the [final draft of the United Nations Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance](#) (AMR).

We applaud the broad consensus reached by nations in addressing AMR through a One Health approach. The UN's commitment to combating AMR is crucial to ensuring both animal and human health through the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials.

The Declaration acknowledges the importance of national ownership and political leadership across sectors to tackle AMR in a unified approach. Strengthened multisectoral national and regional governance frameworks, with effective coordination, accountability, and regulatory systems, are essential for ensuring the responsible use of veterinary medicines.

Additionally, improving access to antimicrobials, vaccines, diagnostics, and strengthening infection prevention and control measures is vital to the fight against AMR.

The Declaration highlights several key areas critical to addressing the challenge of AMR from a South African animal health perspective, including:

- Reduced global antimicrobial use through investment in animal health, alternatives to antimicrobials, and stewardship programs.
- Promoting the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in line with Codex Alimentarius and World Organisation for Animal Health standards.
- Establishing animal vaccination strategies by 2030 to reduce antimicrobial use, incorporating international cooperation and scientific evidence.
- Investing in animal health systems to ensure equitable access to veterinary services, improve infection control, and enhance veterinary oversight of antimicrobial use.

The South African Animal Health Association NPC remains fully committed to supporting the global effort to combat AMR. We stand ready to collaborate with national and international stakeholders to ensure that the necessary measures and investments are made to safeguard animal health, protect livelihoods, and promote sustainable agriculture in South Africa.