Seventy Third Session of the WHO Regional Committee Meeting for the Eastern Mediterranean

Cairo, Egypt
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Organization Name : *Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF)*

Agenda item : *5(n) Promoting collaborative action to accelerate the response to antimicrobial resistance in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Document EM/RC73/INF.DOC.14)*

English version:

The Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF) welcomes this progress report and commends WHO and Member States for advancing the implementation of Resolution EM/RC71/R.4 through a people-centred approach to addressing antimicrobial resistance in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. In particular, we welcome the report's emphasis on:

- infection prevention and control;
- access to essential health services;
- antimicrobial stewardship; and
- the integration of AMR within broader health system strengthening efforts.

As a member of the private sector cluster of the UN Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform on AMR and the AMR Industry Alliance, GSCF remains committed to supporting collaborative, multisectoral action. We support the inclusion of responsible self-care as a complementary component of a comprehensive, people-centred response to AMR. In particular, GSCF supports the report's recognition that preventing infections is fundamental to reducing AMR. We therefore encourage continued investment in infection prevention and control, vaccination, water, sanitation and hygiene, health literacy, and other evidence-based self-care interventions that empower individuals and communities to prevent illness and reduce avoidable demand for antibiotics.

Responsible self-care can contribute to antimicrobial stewardship by helping reduce unnecessary antibiotic use. GSCF's EcoSoc 2.0 report highlights appropriate self-care for self-limiting conditions as a means of supporting responsible care-seeking behaviours and reducing unnecessary demand for antibiotics.

We welcome efforts to strengthen antimicrobial stewardship and encourage recognition of community-based health professionals, including pharmacists, in promoting responsible antibiotic use, patient education, and appropriate referral.

Efforts to optimize antimicrobial use should also distinguish between the inappropriate and illegal supply of prescription-only antimicrobials within an OTC setting and the well-regulated, evidence-based self-care interventions of non-prescription antimicrobial (NPA) products authorized by national regulatory authorities. This can support responsible stewardship while maintaining equitable, people-centred access to appropriate care.

Thank you.