

DECLARATION

# One Health – Strengthened Nordic Cooperation on **Antimicrobial Resistance**





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## The Nordic Council of Ministers recalls

That human health, animal health and the environment are interlinked and that the increased development and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a global threat to human and animal health.

The importance of the One Health approach to the growing problem of AMR through cooperation between sectors spanning human and animal health, food, agriculture, research and development, aquaculture and the environment, in order to ensure consistent and effective prevention and treatment of infection whilst minimizing and containing the low level of resistance in all relevant sectors.

The importance of biosecurity in the agriculture and aquaculture sectors and infection prevention and control measures in humans, animals and plants.

That the consequences of infections caused by resistant microorganisms can be severe for both animal and human health and include prolonged illness and hospital stays, increased mortality rates and risk of infection during surgery or medical treatment. AMR can also cause production losses within food production, leading to increased use of natural resources and higher costs, thereby decreasing food production resilience in the Nordic countries.

The need to maintain low levels of AMR in the Nordic countries by promoting prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials, ensuring access to essential antimicrobials and health care services in general, and increasing awareness among the public and relevant professions.

The need to influence and support other countries to promote prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials, improve prevention and control of infections, and prevent the further spread of resistant bacteria in humans, animals and the environment globally. Acknowledging that for successful implementation, countries need support in their attempts to develop sustainable and context-specific interventions.

That antimicrobials are a global common good and that shortages constitute a major threat to human and animal health.

The importance of the EU One Health Action Plan from 2017, the Council Recommendation on stepping up EU actions to combat AMR with a One Health approach adopted by the Council of the European Union 2023, the United Nations' Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance, the work progressing in EU-JAMRAI-2 and other relevant forums. Cooperation within the Nordic countries aims to strengthen cooperation, but not to duplicate work taking place elsewhere.



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## The Nordic Council of Ministers agrees to

**Strengthen Nordic collaboration** in supporting each other to:

- minimize and contain the current low level of AMR;
- promote prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials;
- ensure access to effective antimicrobials;
- strengthen infection prevention and control;
- reinforce the use of correct and fast diagnostics;
- foster research and development;
- increase involvement from the environmental sector where relevant and work on ways to lower the presence of antimicrobial residues and resistant genes in the environment.

This reinforced collaboration will be accomplished by continuing the work in relevant settings for Nordic experts and officials with the One Health perspective, based on the setup that provides best value and without duplicating the work.



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## The Nordic Council of Ministers agrees to

### **Share best practices** and thereby stress the importance of:

- Implementing national action plans which incorporate the One Health perspective, intersectoral coordination mechanisms to ensure effective coordination of initiatives across the areas of human health, animal health and the environment.
- The need for effective hygiene, sanitation and prevention guidelines.
- Support mechanisms that stimulate prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials.
- Identifying and eliminating economic incentives in all sectors that encourage inappropriate use of antimicrobials.
- Introducing incentives to contain and reduce the use of antimicrobials.
- Improving public awareness and understanding of AMR in society at large.
- Surveillance of AMR and the use of antimicrobials in humans and animals.
- Surveillance of antimicrobials in the environment and other indicators for antimicrobial resistance evolution and/or transmission in the environment and relevant wastewater, and methods to address the decontamination of prioritised microbes.
- The development of preventive and alternative countermeasures to reduce the need for antimicrobials.

**Support stronger collaboration and potential joint activities across the Nordic countries to:**

- Address the issue of transparency regarding shortages and supply of antimicrobials, especially the reduced access to narrow-spectrum penicillin.
- Explore possible joint measures to make the Nordic markets for antimicrobials more predictable and stable.
- Make use of Nordic cooperation and encourage a common approach in areas related to access such as mapping out production capacity, procurement, push and pull incentives, formulation strengths, common packages, electronic leaflets, and labelling.
- Work together towards establishing a Nordic revenue guarantee model.
- Identify necessary research and development and support possible Nordic mechanisms to strengthen the development of new antimicrobials.
- Encourage cooperation and common approaches to treatment guidelines where antimicrobials are used.
- Encourage cooperation and common approaches to infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines and trainings in order to prevent the spread of AMR within health care and long-term care facilities.
- Encourage aligning surveillance programmes in the Nordic countries where appropriate.



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## Adopted by

### **Nordic Council of Ministers for Health and Social Affairs**

- Jakob Forssmed, Minister for Social Affairs and Public Health, Sweden
- Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of Social Security, Finland
- Sophie Løhde, Minister for the Interior and Health, Denmark
- Jan Christian Vestre, Minister of Health and Care Services, Norway
- Willum Þór Þórsson, Minister of Health, Iceland
- Súanna Bertholdsen, Minister of Health, Faroe Islands
- Arsim Zekaj, Minister of Health and Social Affairs, Åland

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# About this publication

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### Nordic co-operation

*Nordic co-operation* is one of the world's most extensive forms of regional collaboration, involving Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland.

*Nordic co-operation* has firm traditions in politics, economics and culture and plays an important role in European and international forums. The Nordic community strives for a strong Nordic Region in a strong Europe.

*Nordic co-operation* promotes regional interests and values in a global world. The values shared by the Nordic countries help make the region one of the most innovative and competitive in the world.

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