



PRIME
MINISTER

**Prime Minister's Statement at the High-Level Side Event on
Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**

**“Antimicrobial Resistance: Fostering an Equitable Global Response
to AMR”**

Co-Hosted High-Level Side Event by Barbados, Paraguay, Thailand,
Timor-Leste, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO), Pan
American Health Organization (PAHO), Wellcome Trust and UN
Foundation

(Delivered by the Minister of Health of Timor-Leste)

79th United Nations General Assembly, New York
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Y.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and Chair of the Global Leaders Group on AMR

Y.E. Santiago Peña, President of Paraguay

WHO Director General Dr Tedros

Regional Director Ms Saima, WHO SEARO and Dr Jarbas Barbosa, PAHO

Excellency Ministers and Esteemed Heads of the Partner Organisations

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege for Timor-Leste to co-host this vital discussion on the global health threat posed by antimicrobial resistance.

In less than a century, the overuse, misuse, and abuse of antimicrobials have set the stage for a looming public health crisis - the rise of antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

These superbugs, increasingly resistant to even our most powerful drugs, now pose one of the greatest global health threats of our time.

A first in-depth global analysis has predicted more than 39 million deaths from antibiotic-resistant infections between now and 2050.

And again, while we face a problem that has been largely caused by actions, policies, and practices of the rich and developed world, it will be Least Developed Countries that suffer the most.

Rich and developed countries have largely caused the antimicrobial resistance crisis through the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in healthcare and industrial agriculture, where antibiotics are often used unnecessarily.

And while developed nations have the capacity to invest in solutions - new antibiotics, alternative treatments, and stronger global health systems - there has been a lack of sufficient investment.

Sadly, it is a common story.

It will be people living in Least Developed Countries that will suffer most from antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

With fragile healthcare systems, limited financial resources, and the scarcity of diagnostic tools and proper medical care, the world's poorest people will be vulnerable to the devastating effects of AMR.

Without urgent international support, the rise of AMR could reverse decades of progress in public health and development, disproportionately harming those least equipped to fight it.

In Timor-Leste, we are doing what we can to combat this crisis. We have adopted a "Fundamentals First" approach, prioritizing essential improvements in water and sanitation.

Our National Action Plan has established clear guidelines for the responsible use of antimicrobials.

We are also raising awareness — among the public and professionals alike — about the sensible, responsible use of these life-saving medicines.

But there is still much more to do, and we cannot do it alone. Global solidarity is essential if we are to win this fight. And so, I make two calls to action.

First, we call on developed nations to honour their 'common but differentiated responsibilities' by supporting developing countries like ours in fulfilling our 'One Health' commitments.

Second, the pipeline for new antimicrobials is drying up, with only a few new antibiotics under research.

We need more. Countries in my region, and across the Global South — such as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and South Africa — have the potential to innovate and produce new medicines if given the support they need.

We need effective technology transfer and knowledge exchange with the pharmacies of the Global South so that we can all benefit from their innovation.

We must work together through effective partnerships to support the developing world.

Together, we must rise to this challenge and secure a healthier, safer future for our children and generations to come.

Thank you very much.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão