



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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**MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT**

**STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, ON THE  
GLOBAL LEADERS GROUP (GLG) ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND  
NOMINATION OF HON. BEATRICE ATIM ODWONG TO SERVE AS A MEMBER  
ON THE GLOBAL LEADERS GROUP.**

**UGANDA MEDIA CENTER, KAMPALA**

**1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

**Fellow Ugandans,** I greet you all, and stand here to once again raise my voice on the matter of Antimicrobial Resistance.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when germs, including bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to antimicrobials – antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitic agents for example the high incidence of drug resistance ticks in the cattle corridor and HIV strains that are drug resistant thus making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.

**Fellow Ugandans:**

The Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, on 24–25 November 2022 observed that the environment plays a significant role in the development, spread and transmission of AMR. I stand here today to brief you on the same and subsequent developments in that regard.

**Fellow citizens:**

**Environmental Dimensions of Antimicrobial Resistance.**

Colleagues, the environmental impacts of AMR, and the causes of the development and spread of resistance in the environment are complex. However, there is evidence that both biological and chemical pollutants, which enter the environment, can fundamentally influence and change what is happening in the environment, especially AMR development, transmission and spread. Human activity and increasing populations are damaging the natural microbial world – the very foundation of global ecology.

Many human activities create pollution which promotes the emergence of AMR in the environment. For example; Pollution by chemicals with antimicrobial activity (e.g. pharmaceuticals, certain metals, biocides and other compounds) and Pollution

containing antimicrobial agents (e.g. waste streams from households, hospitals, agricultural and chemical manufacturing).

AMR in the environment can cause animal or plant diseases or soil biodiversity loss that can lead to further use of antimicrobials (negative feedback from initial use).

The world has not taken the threat of zoonotic diseases, pandemics and their environmental dimensions seriously enough. The COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call to better understand and improve all areas of preparedness for and prevention of infectious diseases, including their environmental dimensions (Pachauri et al. 2021)

Such lack of preparedness cannot be allowed to happen again.

**Fellow countrymen:**

Global efforts have been put in place to tackle AMR including the Global Leaders Groups to which the Hon Minister of State for Environment (Hon. Beatrice Atim Anywar Odwong) has been nominated.

Uganda has been offered an opportunity to participate on a global platform through the Minister of Environment to the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

**Fellow Citizens:**

**THE GLOBAL LEADERS GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

**Composition of the Group**

The Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance comprises the following: Serving or former Head of State to lead the Group; serving or former ministers and/or senior government officials serving in their individual capacities; representatives from foundations, civil society organizations and the private sector. The Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance also includes principal level membership of the Quadripartite [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United



Nations (FAO), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)] as Ex-officio.

### **Fellow citizens:**

### **Purpose of the Group**

Honourable colleagues, the role of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance will be to provide advocacy and advisory functions to ensure that action is taken to address the challenge of antimicrobial resistance.

### **Key Functions of the Group**

The Group aims to fulfil the following key functions:

- i. Maintain urgency, public support, political momentum and visibility of the antimicrobial resistance challenge on the global agenda;
- ii. Advocate for action, including support for the expanding work of the Quadripartite organizations (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA) and other international and regional entities;
- iii. Monitor and report on progress, gaps and accountability in the global response to antimicrobial resistance;
- iv. Advocate for multi-stakeholder engagement with the participation of Member States, UN agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations and regional entities, civil society, the private sector, researchers and other key stakeholders to develop and work towards a shared global vision, goals and coordinated action on antimicrobial resistance;
- v. Provide advice and guidance on reports of the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance (IACG recommendation E3);
- vi. Monitor and advocate for the inclusion of antimicrobial resistance and a One Health “lens” in investments and programmes of major financing instruments for agriculture, environment health, development, food and feed production and other relevant areas.

## **Benefits for Uganda having representation on the Global Leaders Group on AMR**

As you may know, membership to the Global Leaders Group is a strategic position that Uganda should rightly aspire to support the nominated Honorable since we stand to achieve the following benefits:

- i. Increase Uganda's global visibility as a leader on the global stage. It is an opportunity to globally project, present, and spearhead the environmental issues that Uganda cares about and wishes to offer global leadership on.
- ii. Enhance Uganda's access and networks with partners and donors to enable her attract possible multilateral and bilateral funding for environmental protection and climate change management.
- iii. Boost Uganda's leadership in environmental diplomacy and increase her access to global decision-making process on issues of Environment and Development.
- iv. Position Uganda better, to appreciate and advance her national interests and agenda on matters of environment at national, regional and international levels.
- v. Provide Uganda with a useful and strategic platform to promote issues and priorities of particular interest to Uganda, the African continent, and the rest of the developing countries.

Fellow Ugandans, all stakeholders and partners alike, I request for your support as Uganda takes up this opportunity to participate on a global stage to advance action both at home and internationally in the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**

Hon. Beatrice Atim Anywar Odwong  
**MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT**