



**SOUTH AFRICA'S COUNTRY STATEMENT BY HEALTH MINISTER,
DR MOTSOLEDI ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE HIGH-
LEVEL MEETING ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)**

DATE: 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

Your Excellency, Chair of UN High Level Meeting on AMR,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this august meeting.

We are meeting here, as a collective force, committed to addressing one of the most pressing challenges of our time, united by a common mission: to safeguard global health and create a better future for all.

I stand before you with a sense of urgency and hope that as we join hands to tackle the of problem antimicrobial resistance (AMR), we have a full appreciation of the significant threat it poses to global health, food security, and development.

Building on the statement made by Uganda, I would like to state that AMR is a ticking time bomb that could return us to an era where common infections are untreatable, and routine surgeries become life-threatening.

South Africa is one of the high burden countries of Drug-resistant TB, where this makes up 2% of the TB burden. The WHO has identified DR-TB as one of the top AMR threats, however in responding to this threat, we continue to lag behind, especially on TB research, and global collaboration. This situation has the potential to reverse many decades of medical advancements.

The economic implications of AMR are profound, affecting healthcare costs, productivity, and overall economic growth. Addressing AMR is not just a

health imperative but also an economic necessity that requires coordinated global action.

We need to take specific actions to preserve our efforts and to ensure our collective action, which must turn the tide against the AMR.

First, we must embrace the power of education about the prudent use of antibiotics, so that we can curb the misuse and overuse that drive resistance in humans, plants and animals.

We must also ensure that we curb the practice of poli-pharmacy, especially as it relates to unnecessary utilisation of antibiotics. We also need an integrated national patient information system, so that the patients cannot be hopping between health facilities, thus collecting multiple prescriptions for the same condition.

Second, let us invest in research and innovation. This also requires some urgent intervention, through empowerment of research and development, through our academic and research institutions.

Third, we must strengthen our healthcare systems. Equipping our hospitals and clinics with the necessary tools and training will ensure that infections are identified and treated promptly and accurately.

Fourthly, let us champion policy and advocacy. Effective policies that promote antibiotic stewardship and infection prevention can safeguard our communities.

Lastly, we need to jointly tackle the challenges of human behaviour through the social and behaviour community communication, so that we can educate our people about the dangers of AMR. The AMR has greater potentials to also impact patient satisfaction, prolonged patient recovery, poor treatment success rate.

Together, we can turn this crisis into an opportunity - a chance to unite, innovate, and lead the world in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

Thank you.