



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

**SPEECH BY H.E. AMB. DR. EMMANUEL JOHN NCHIMBI, VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
INTERCONTINENTAL WORLD ANTIMICROBIAL AWARENESS WEEK**

**HYATT HOTEL, DAR ES SALAAM
3RD DECEMBER, 2025**

- ***Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of Health;***
- ***Hon. Amb. Dr. Bashiru Ally Kakurwa, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries;***
- ***Hon. Albert Chalamila, Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner;***
- ***Dr. Seif Shekalaghe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health;***
- ***Prof. Mohamed Yakub Janabi, Regional Director – World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa;***
- ***Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, Sub–Regional Representative, World Organization for Animal Health for Southern Africa;***
- ***Dr. Grace Magembe, Chief Medical Officer and Chair of the AMR MCC;***
- ***Representatives of Africa CDC, UNEP, FAO, ECSA-HC;***
- ***Representatives of Development Partners, Implementing Partners & Non-State Actors;***
- ***Religious leaders;***
- ***Members of the Press;***
- ***Invited Guests;***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen.***

Good morning

On behalf of H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, I wish to convey fraternal greetings to all delegates of the Continental World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2025. H.E. the President had intended to personally officiate this event, but she has been unable to due to conflicting work schedules. I am, therefore, honored and privileged to represent her.

Distinguished Participants,

Globally, Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) stands as one of the leading causes of mortality. It is associated with 4.71 million deaths worldwide, with 1.14 million directly attributed to bacterial AMR. The consequences of this challenge are felt across all continents. Since the human, animal, agricultural, and environmental spheres are intimately interconnected, what occurs in one affects the others. Due to that interconnectivity, infection in one location has the potential to spread globally. Therefore, Tanzania has elevated AMR to the forefront of its national health priorities and is currently implementing the Second National Action Plan on AMR (2023–2028) using a multidisciplinary One-Health approach. Through the broad implementation of AMR interventions, Tanzania has made a remarkable contribution to the 2024 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR commitments by reducing AMR-associated deaths by 14%; decreasing national antibiotics consumption by 88%; sharing AMR data to regional and global platforms; and increasing domestic financing for the implementation of the National Action Plan on AMR.

Distinguished Participants,

Education and awareness are critical to AMR. In that regard, Tanzania has implemented several measures, including translating the term antimicrobial resistance (AMR) into Kiswahili as “Usugu wa Vimelea vya Magonjwa Dhidi ya Dawa (UVIDA),” since Kiswahili is easily understood by most Tanzanians. Additionally, multiple AMR awareness

campaigns have been conducted, including the unique campaign, "**Holelaholela Itakukosti**," which creatively combines science and art to deliver simple and clear educational messages to the public, reaching about 24.7 million community members. Due to its distinctiveness, the campaign has been recognized and documented in the Africa CDC AMR Landmark Report, published in August 2024. Tanzania has also formed a Parliamentary Alliance to promote integrated and coordinated efforts to combat AMR through legislative actions, policy advocacy, health promotion initiatives, and resource mobilization, thus enhancing collaboration among policymakers and stakeholders.

In terms of infection control, Tanzania has also worked to reduce infections, recognizing the critical role of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) alongside other programs such as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). This initiative has embodied mechanisms aimed at preventing, tracking, and reporting of Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs), both in healthcare settings and communities, with a 60% improvement in IPC compliance. In the animal sector, biosecurity measures have been strengthened, including the rollout of nationwide vaccination campaigns, which have helped to reduce the transmission of infectious pathogens to humans. Similarly, food safety has been enhanced through rigorous inspection of slaughtered animals and continuous monitoring of animal products in the marketplace. To a great extent, these efforts have significantly reduced infection risks, reinforced health systems, and advanced AMR containment in the country.

Distinguished Participants,

Other measures taken include ensuring the availability and accessibility of safe, quality, and efficacious antimicrobials to the community. This has been made possible through a centralized system (MSD) for ensuring procurement, storage, and distribution of medicines, including antimicrobials. Also, regulating all matters relating to Safety, Quality, and Efficacy of Medicines and Medical products through the Tanzania Medicines and Medical devices Authority (TMDA). Similarly, the adopted Universal Health Care Act ensures that everyone has equal access to high-quality healthcare services, complemented by the Standard Treatment Guidelines and the National Essential Medicines List. These efforts have substantially uplifted Tanzania's progress in implementing its National Action Plan on AMR, enabling it to move from Level 1 (no capacity) in 2016, to Levels 3 and 4 (well-developed and demonstrated capacities) by 2024.

Distinguished Participants,

Despite achievements gained so far, Tanzania is poised to step up efforts to address AMR through various initiatives, including: strengthening surveillance systems for antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use to guide evidence-based policies and interventions; scaling up infection prevention and control (IPC) measures across healthcare, farm and community settings to reduce the spread of resistant infections; promoting responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in both human and animal health sectors; enforcing robust regulatory frameworks and oversight to curb the misuse and overuse of

antimicrobials; and, fostering research, innovation, and alternative solutions to sustain the effectiveness of antimicrobials.

We are thankful to AMR partners who have supported Tanzania in several ways, including WHO, FAO, UNEP, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), Africa CDC, AU-IBAR, the Fleming Fund, East Central and Southern Africa - Health Community (ECSA-HC), American Society for Microbiology (ASM), African Society for Laboratory Medicines (ASLM), CDC, PATH, CIHEB, and many others.

Distinguished Participants,

Before I conclude, allow me to emphasize three key areas that I find important in containing AMR, as follows: **First**, enhancing regional and international cooperation, data sharing, and coordinated policy implementation in the fight against antimicrobial resistance. No country has ever succeeded by working in isolation. It requires collective regional and global actions since infections are not limited by geographical boundaries. **Second**, investment in innovation and research. We must invest adequately in this aspect with the aim of developing new diagnostic tools, vaccines, and alternative treatments that can reduce our dependence on traditional antimicrobials and be able to control epidemiological changes. **Third**, public awareness and community engagement. Rigorous community engagement is key in enabling community members to follow healthcare advice, complete prescribed medicines, and avoid misuse of antimicrobials and other medicines, and adhere to infection prevention and control standards. Further, adhere to biosecurity and biosafety standards, observe withdrawal periods, and comply with the advice of qualified professionals to ensure the responsible use of veterinary medicines.

Distinguished Participants,

Tanzania commits to safeguarding health, livelihoods, and the environment from the escalating threat of AMR by prioritizing health system strengthening, investing in scientific research, and promoting responsible use of medicines for the benefit of our people and our planet. Tanzania also calls upon African countries to join this global movement to support efforts to preserve the effectiveness of these life-saving medicines, through sharing knowledge, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that we keep the power of antimicrobials for generations to come.

With these remarks, on behalf of H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, it is now my singular honor and privilege to declare the 7th Continental World Antimicrobial Resistance Week officially opened.

Thank you for your kind attention