Survey on the activities of the World Health Organization (WHO) against antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

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OBJECTIVE
The aim of the project was to survey how experts working on AMR evaluate WHO’s efforts in combating AMR, and suggest how the organization should move forward when implementing the Global Action Plan.

METHODS
An anonymous internet survey was sent to international experts on AMR through formal and informal networks in the autumn of 2015 and winter of 2016.

Timeline of the most important AMR publications by the WHO:

- WHA54.14 Global Health Security: Pandemic Alert and Response
- WHA54.11 WHO Medicines Strategy
- WHA51.17 Emerging and Other Communicable Diseases: Antimicrobial Resistance
- WHA56.16 Progress on the Rational Use of Medicines
- WHA58.27 Improving the Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance
- WHA60.16 WHO World Health Day Policy Briefs
- WHA61.14 Global Health Security: Pandemic Alert and Response
- WHA61.17 WHO Global Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance
- WHA62.17 WHO Global Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance
- WHA66.17 WHO World Health Day Policy Briefs
- WHA67.25 Antimicrobial Resistance
- WHA67.27 Global Plan for Artemisinin Resistance Containment

RESULTS
Respondents (n= 193):

Education: clinical medicine (55%), microbiology (42%), public health (40%)
Employment: health care (48%), academia (46%), public health (31%)
WHO link: consultation/project (32%), formal link (14%), no link (52%)
More than one may apply

WHO role in AMR containment according to the 5C framework for assessment of collaboration needed for a successful policy:

- Collaborative action: 24%
- Collaborative decisions: 1%
- Coordination: 34%
- Communication: 16%
- Common norms, principles and goals: 25%

The future of AMR in global health:

CONCLUSIONS:
Our results indicate that:
- Previous WHO AMR control efforts are perceived as insufficient.
- WHO has an important role to play in combating AMR in the future both regarding the provision of norms and technical support.
- It is a challenge for WHO to have both a technical and a political/normative mandate at the same time.