

Motivation Letter

Nomination to the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

Amiran Gamkrelidze, MD, PhD, Professor

Georgia

It is my honour to be nominated Georgia toward the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. During my career, I was happy enough to contribute my knowledge, experience and devotion in evolving public health system in Georgia. Among others, under my leadership, Georgia made prominent steps in battling against antimicrobial resistance with One Health approach.

The most important step forward in this regard was elaboration of the National AMR Strategy, which was developed by national experts with the support of WHO consultants. Together with a number of other subjects, strategy also includes aspects related to agriculture. National AMR Strategy was approved by the Government of Georgia on January 11, 2017, in line with the One Health approach. AMR strategy is based on the guidelines and recommendations of WHO, CDC, international scientific literature and the data on the current situation in Georgia with regard to AMR. The national AMR strategy has been developed on the basis of coordination of evaluation activities carried out at the state level, though considering the lessons learned in the process of implementation, it presents the opportunities for further improvement and development.

Other key achievements, I was honored to contribute to, includes creation of the national AMR committee, where epidemiologists, veterinarians, infection diseases, public health and environmental experts are working together; infection prevention and control national legislation was updated with new guidelines, national plan for IPC monitoring and evaluation in health care settings were developed and implemented and the training programs of IPC modules for medical personnel developed and conducted.

As a Director General of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), I declared the AMR as one of the top priorities for the and for this purpose institutionalized this modern approach by creating a One Health Division in the structure of NCDC, which coordinates AMR-related efforts in the country.

The Lugar Center for Public Health Research – reference public health lab, part of NCDC with BSL-2 and BSL-3, is the international ISO 15189 accredited laboratory in microbiology/AMR), which assists the country with: standardization of laboratory diagnostic for AMR, development of technical guidelines, SOPs, procedures for laboratory methods/procedures; implementation of IQC/EQA program with appropriate technology, provision of reference services.

Georgia has joined the CAESAR network, the GLASS System and BARN; NCC; NAC and NRL had been established. Since 2015, National Microbiology Laboratory Network was established and working on AMR related subjects; Besides, collaboration with international institutions, such as WHO, US CDC and ECDC on topics related to One Health and AMR was strengthened. I am proud the through these actions, Georgia has become one of regional leaders in tackling AMR.

With my experience in the public health field and contribution in combating the AMR, together with prominent experience in advisory bodies and boards both in national and international levels, I could become a worthy member in Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and greatly contribute to the advisory work in order to address the challenge of AMR.