Statement by Brazil, national, regional and international pharmacopoeias on the occasion of the 8th international meeting of the world pharmacopoeias

Brasilia, Brazil, 21 August 2017

National, regional and international pharmacopoeias emphasize the important contribution public quality control standards can play in fighting Antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Antimicrobial resistance is a complex problem that affects all of society. It threatens the very core of modern medicine and the sustainability of an effective global public health response to the enduring threat from infectious diseases.

AMR containment efforts tend to focus on innovation to develop new medicines, access to affordable medicines, and stewardship of existing antimicrobials. Product quality surveillance and other quality assurance measures should be thoroughly addressed in efforts to contain AMR. Including such measures in comprehensive manner in action plans and key normative guidance documents is a critical step in the right direction.

Pharmacopoeias offer the necessary tools to test and confirm the quality of medicines close to patients. This is an important contribution to reducing the potential for resistance and supporting the safe use of antibiotics - the correct measurement of potency and bioactivity of antibiotics is critical. Pharmacopoeias constantly develop new methodologies and keep existing ones up to date as science evolves. This ensures that the measures used to determine the potency of antibiotics provide the correct results and are adequate.

The world pharmacopoeias who just met in Brasilia voiced their commitment to public health in assisting regulatory authorities, manufacturers and users in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

Background

A pharmacopoeia is a legally binding collection, prepared by a national or regional authority, of standards and quality specifications for medicines used in that country or region. A quality specification is composed of a set of appropriate tests that will confirm the identity and purity of the product and ascertain the strength (or amount) of the active substance.

References:

1. WHO Factsheet on AMR
http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en/

2. WHO's Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance
http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/publications/global-action-plan/en/

3. Article: “Antimicrobial Resistance: What Does Medicine Quality Have to Do with It?” http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/en/m/abstract/Js22186en/