



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

[United Nations High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

The purpose of the event was to have multi-sectoral national action plans in place by the 2017 World Health Assembly. This event was a collaborative effort of the World Health Organization and the United Nations to tackle antimicrobial resistance at the political level.

The event was held on 21 September 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York City, New York, United States.

Report Submitted by Constance Sobon Sensor, STTI United Nations Liaison

Five outstanding themes, reflective of a global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2015 that were presented are:

- Improving awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance through effective communication, education, and training
- Strengthening the knowledge and evidence base through surveillance and research
- Reducing the incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene, and infection prevention measures
- Optimizing the use of antimicrobial medicines in human and animal health
- Developing the economic case for sustainable investment that takes account of the needs of all countries and to increase investment in new medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines, and other interventions

One of the most interesting ideas presented by Norway was the idea of vaccinating baby salmon fish so that antibiotics were not needed to protect the food supply. This was one idea that surfaced multiple times in the panel discussion that involved agriculture, livestock, and medicine: developing vaccines is an alternative to using antibiotics. The prediction was that if the use of antibiotics continues in the present way, this class of drugs will be useless against infections by 2050. In addition, a new class of antibiotics has not been developed since the 1980s, so there is little recourse for superinfections. The CEO of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) revealed that there is a new antibiotic being developed that may be available for use in three years. The discussion of a major health concern at a high level meeting at the UN is a new direction for the focus of a high-level meeting. The discussion brought together the significant relationship between economics, environment, education, politics, science, and health.