

## Recommendations for the G7 Hiroshima Summit

### **The Political Leadership and International Collaboration**

#### **Needed to Advance Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Countermeasures**

##### **Background**

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been continuously recognized as a public health threat of greatest concern both in Japan and abroad and concentrated efforts from various related parties around the world have resulted in steady progress in measures to combat AMR. In recent years, the G7 has recognized that achieving comprehensive innovation in all areas of diagnosis, treatment, and prevention will be crucial for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR). That perspective is in line with that of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in 2016 (the last time Japan served as G7 President) as well as those of Japan's Basic Policies for Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform every year since 2016. Aiming to utilize this momentum, Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) presents the following recommendations on promoting more comprehensive and effective measures for AMR control in preparation for the upcoming G7 Hiroshima Summit in 2023. HGPI has already generated various recommendations on AMR control, including those that focus on the utilization of pull incentives. To view our recommendations regarding this issue, please visit our website (<https://hgpi.org/>).

##### **Recommendation 1: Continue providing the political leadership needed to combat AMR.**

Every year since the 2016 G7 summit, the importance of taking action to combat AMR has been mentioned in statements from the Health Ministers' Meetings; the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meetings; the Agriculture Ministers' Meetings; the Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meetings; and even at Leaders' Summits. In February 2022, British medical journal *The Lancet* reported that in 2019, an estimated 1.27 million deaths worldwide were directly caused by AMR. This was higher than the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS and malaria. The annual number of global deaths due to AMR infections is projected to increase to about 10 million people by 2050, mostly in Asia and Africa. AMR is also a growing problem for the three major infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria). If appropriate measures to combat AMR had been in place among G7 members in 2019, a total of 500,000 lives may have been saved. G7 members should stand at the forefront of the international community and continue providing political leadership to advance AMR countermeasures.

##### **Recommendation 2: Establish opportunities to examine AMR countermeasures at discussions that span multiple fields like the Joint Conference of Foreign Ministers and Health Ministers.**

Beyond the G7 members, the international community has come to recognize the need to address emerging and reemerging infectious diseases including efforts to combat AMR. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted in 2015 at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit (UN Summit), provide a representative example of such efforts. SDG Target 3.3 reads, "End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases by 2030." The SDGs have also adopted "Percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms" as an indicator. In Japan, AMR was discussed as an independent item during the 2022 revision of the "Global Health Strategy," which emphasized the need for AMR countermeasures. International society has come together to meet the SDGs by 2030 and AMR countermeasures must be positioned as a global priority topic alongside climate change and similar issues that require international collaboration and a One Health approach. Joint conferences such as those with Foreign Ministers and Health Ministers or Health Ministers and Finance Ministers should be held and AMR measures should be discussed.

### **The international collaboration needed for AMR control and its significance**

As we enter the post-COVID-19 era, we must not overlook the role of antimicrobials as global public goods if we wish to continue enjoying peace, stability, and prosperity. For example, Ukraine is currently faced with the issue of AMR in the form of an epidemic of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). As discussions on international agreements regarding infectious diseases like the International Health Regulation (IHR) and the Pandemic Treaty continue to advance, it will be important to promote AMR countermeasures based on the concept of One Health, in which the health of humans, animals, and the environment are viewed as one. To this end, opportunities for discussions that cut across fields and advocate for that approach should be established at G7 Summits and other high-level meetings. As the next G7 President in 2023, it will be crucial for Japan to fulfill its commitments to the international community based on the fact that infectious disease control cannot be fully implemented by countries acting alone and that each country's interests are adjacent to those of the entire world.

### **About Health and Global Policy Institute**

Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) is a non-profit, independent, non-partisan health policy think tank established in 2004. In its capacity as a neutral think-tank, HGPI involves stakeholders from wide-ranging fields of expertise to provide policy options to the public to successfully create citizen-focused healthcare policies. Looking to the future, HGPI produces novel ideas and values from a standpoint that offers a wide perspective. It aims to realize a healthy and fair society while holding fast to its independence to avoid being bound to the specific interests of political parties and other organizations. HGPI intends for its policy options to be effective not only in Japan, but also in the wider world, and in this vein the institute will continue to be very active in creating policies for resolving global health challenges. HGPI's activities have received global recognition. It was ranked second in the "Domestic Health Policy Think Tanks" category and third in the "Global Health Policy Think Tanks" category in the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report presented by the University of Pennsylvania (as of January 2021, the most recent report).