

Address by Dr. Andreas Baum on the  
Launch of the Call for Action for Responsible Antibiotics Manufacturing Platform  
(RAMP)

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11th February 2020

Excellencies, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be part of the launch of the Responsible Antibiotics Manufacturing Platform (RAMP). I am glad to see so many of you, gathered to address the critical issue of Antimicrobial resistance (AMR). As we know, rising levels of AMR will undermine progress towards the SDGs on health, poverty, water, food security and economic growth.

While attention has been accorded to AMR related health aspects, to focus on environmental pollution of soil and water is equally urgent. Fortunately, there is growing awareness that manufacturing practices have to be improved.

India is both the world's largest producer and consumer of antibiotics. It also faces one of the highest antibiotic resistance rates. We appreciate the Government of India's commitment towards combating this challenge. I think of several recent steps, including the notification of standards for antibiotics residues.

Switzerland, through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has been working on issues related to climate change, environment, water and health across the world for the past several decades. To address these challenges, it strives to bring governments, private players and experts to the table. Last year, SDC signed a MoU with the Indian Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, wherein the two parties agreed to collaborate on climate change and environment topics. Adding to our current engagement in air pollution or sustainable mountain ecosystems, we are glad to broaden the partnership with the Ministry to the topic of health and environment.

Over the past few months, SDC has supported efforts towards building a public private partnership in order to tackle the AMR challenge from a manufacturing perspective. Together with the AMR Industry Alliance based in Geneva, Centrient, GSK and Shawview consulting, contacts have been established with local Indian companies, as well as the State governments of Telangana and Karnataka, to identify partners

interested in implementing good practices in sustainable antibiotic production. The complementary coordination with SIWI and UNDP has resulted in the constitution of the Responsible Antibiotics Manufacturing Platform.

Switzerland is proud to be part of today's launch. This joint initiative, comes at a time of growing global concerns. Through this initiative, we wish to co-shape the global dialogue on water pollution through strategic partnerships with global alliances and local partners. Tangible water stewardship actions at the local suppliers' level, together with sustainable procurement incentives and an enabling environment, all these will contribute to a more responsible supply chain in antibiotics production. We look forward to many other agencies and stakeholders joining hands.

Let me add our voice to the Responsible Antibiotics Manufacturing Platform initiative and all its partners in jointly calling for action. I look forward to a strong partnership and continued commitment. Thank you.