

## GLOBAL INVESTOR STATEMENT ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

This statement is supported by 78 institutional investors & stakeholders with over \$569 billion AUM

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21 September 2016

We, the undersigned investors and stakeholders including 76 organizations representing over \$569 billion in assets under management, welcome today's UN High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance ('AMR') and support the attention afforded to this issue, including recommendations advanced by the World Health Organization, the European Medicines Agency, the U. S. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and the UK Review on AMR. We commend the 'One Health' approach to generate an effective response to this multi-faceted crisis.

As shareholders we urge animal health and food companies, including meat producers, restaurants and retailers, to end the use of antibiotics important to human medicine in their operations and global supply chains. Given the overuse of antibiotics' contribution to AMR, we view this meeting as a potential watershed moment for concerned stakeholders and for the industry. As part of achieving the objective of the High-Level Meeting, we believe it is important to highlight the impact of livestock production on rising antibiotic resistance. And in particular, shine a light on the role and responsibility of businesses – across the agricultural supply chain – to address the practices that are contributing to antimicrobial resistance.

Over the past decade, investors have been working with companies to tackle the practices that are leading to overuse of antibiotics and creating growing risks to human health and the environment.<sup>i</sup> Most recently, 60 institutional investors with \$1.3 trillion AUM called on nine leading fast-food and restaurant brands to prohibit the misuse of medically important antibiotics in global livestock supply chains.<sup>ii</sup>

As world-leading businesses with significant market shares and global supply chains, these companies are well placed to seize urgently needed opportunities for change by adopting policies and practices that prohibit prophylactic use of medically important antibiotics in livestock supply chains. At McDonald's recent annual general meeting, a shareholder proposal to phase-out the practice of giving antibiotics to healthy animals was supported by over 26% of shares.

Resulting from consumer pressure, localized regulatory action<sup>iii</sup> <sup>iv</sup> and the potential export implications due to country-level restrictions,<sup>v</sup> both the animal health industry and the food industry have demonstrated an awareness and, to varying degrees, a level of progress in addressing this issue. However, strong action from global policy makers towards more sustainable business practices would help accelerate company progress toward judicious antibiotic use.

We urge that the role of the animal health, food and agriculture industry is not overlooked and encourage the private sector to take critical action.

This Statement calls on UN member states to bring clarity to antibiotic use recommendations currently in place through the implementation of stringent national and regional regulations, which will ensure that public health sits firmly at the heart of the food system.

***Developed by the following groups:***

**About ICCR:** Celebrating its 45th year, ICCR is the pioneer coalition of shareholder advocates who view the management of their investments as a catalyst for social change. Its 300 member organizations comprise faith communities, socially responsible asset managers, unions, pensions, NGOs and other socially responsible investors with combined assets of over \$200 billion. ICCR members engage hundreds of corporations annually in an effort to foster greater corporate accountability on questions such as climate change, corporate water stewardship, sustainable food production, human trafficking and slavery in global supply chains and increased access to financial and health care services for communities in need. [www.iccr.org](http://www.iccr.org)

**About ShareAction:** ShareAction (Fairshare Educational Foundation) is a registered charity that promotes responsible investment. ShareAction believes that responsible investment helps to safeguard investments as well as securing environmental and social benefits. [www.shareaction.org](http://www.shareaction.org)

**About FAIRR:** FAIRR (Farm Animal Investment Risk & Return) is an investor network addressing the material investment risks presented by the intensive animal farming industry. FAIRR publishes research and guidance to help investors understand the issues and incorporate them into their investment decision-making and engagement processes. Since launching in December 2016, investors with over \$1 trillion combined assets under management have joined the network. [www.fairr.org](http://www.fairr.org)

**About As You Sow:** As You Sow is the nation's leading non-profit organization practicing direct shareholder engagement on environmental, social, and governance issues. Founded in 1992, we believe that corporations must be willing participants in solutions to most of today's pressing issues; and we believe that shareholders are the single most powerful force for motivating that participation. We use that power to protect health and the environment and to create positive, lasting change in corporate behavior for the long term benefit of humanity. [www.asyousow.org](http://www.asyousow.org)

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.iccr.org/our-issues/food-safety-and-sustainability/antibiotics-meat-production>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.fairr.org/wp-content/uploads/Investor-coalition-demands-corporate-action-on-systemic-overuse-of-antibiotics-FAIRR.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/GuidanceComplianceEnforcement/GuidanceforIndustry/ucm216939.htm>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.bcmj.org/council-health-promotion/lessons-europe-reducing-antibiotic-use-livestock>

<sup>v</sup> <https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1744-8603-9-48>

*Endorsed on behalf of 77 signatories:*

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