

ASLM SPECIAL CONVENTION ON DIAGNOSTICS

NOV 25 - 27, 2025
NAIROBI, KENYA



Background

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) represents a growing global health threat that undermines decades of progress in controlling infectious diseases. In Africa, the challenge is exacerbated by limited diagnostic capacity, inadequate surveillance systems, and insufficient funding, which hinder timely detection and appropriate response to resistant infections.

The World Health Assembly (WHA) 2022 Declaration on Diagnostics and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 2024 Political Declaration on AMR underscore the critical role of diagnostics and surveillance in tackling AMR globally. These declarations call for increased investments, capacity building, and multi-sectoral collaboration.

The African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) stands at the forefront of strengthening laboratory systems across Africa. ASLM's initiatives, such as external quality assessment (EQA) programs, the AMR Knowledge Hub, the MAAP Store visualization platform, and workforce development through professional qualifications and fellowships, have been instrumental in advancing diagnostic services and AMR surveillance continent-wide.

In 2024, the African Union released its Landmark Report on AMR, articulating the continent's priorities and calling for accelerated action to safeguard health security. This Special Convention provides an opportunity to present this report to African stakeholders, align strategies, and mobilize resources toward achieving the goals set out in the political declarations.



Purpose

This three-day convention convenes policymakers, laboratory experts, industry partners, funders, health economists, and partner organizations to foster collaboration and drive impactful interventions in diagnostics and AMR surveillance.

The event aims to:



Strengthen the continental response to AMR through enhanced diagnostic and surveillance capacities.



Showcase ASLM's comprehensive portfolio of AMR tools and frameworks.



Facilitate dialogue on innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms, tailored to African contexts.



Mobilize the political and financial commitments necessary to implement national and regional AMR action plans effectively.

Objectives

- **Strengthen Diagnostic Capacity:**

Address gaps in diagnostic infrastructure, technology, and workforce to improve accuracy and timeliness of AMR detection across Africa.

- **Amplify African Voices and Priorities:**

Present and disseminate the African Union Landmark Report on AMR to galvanize a unified continental response aligned with global mandates.

- **Showcase ASLM's AMR Interventions:**

Highlight flagship initiatives such as the EQA business plan ensuring quality assurance, the AMR Knowledge Hub fostering data sharing and collaboration, the MAAP Store for visualization and analytics, and professional development programs enhancing the laboratory workforce.

- **Promote Sustainable Financing:**

Analyze current financing landscapes, explore innovative health financing models (e.g., blended finance, public-private partnerships), and build a business case for scaling AMR surveillance sustainably.

- **Mobilize Commitments:**

Engage governments, donors, and the private sector to pledge funds and political will towards achieving at least 60% of African countries with fully funded AMR plans by 2030, in line with the target of raising US\$100 million for catalytic investments.

- **Accelerate Access and Innovation:**

Address barriers and opportunities across the AMR diagnostics ecosystem, from R&D and manufacturing to access, uptake, and sustainability.



Program Overview

Day 1: Global Commitments and African Priorities

Opening Ceremony:

Formal inauguration featuring high-level African and international dignitaries reaffirming commitments to the AMR agenda.

Plenary Session 1:

Overview of global frameworks — the WHA Declaration on Diagnostics, the UNGA Political Declaration on AMR, and their implications for Africa.

Plenary Session 2:

- **African Union Landmark Report:** Presentation and discussion of the African Union Landmark Report on AMR, focusing on African priorities, challenges, and strategies to accelerate AMR response.
- **ASLM Portfolio Showcase:** Detailed presentation of ASLM's AMR initiatives including:
 - i. The External Quality Assessment (EQA) Business Plan ensuring laboratory testing quality and reliability.
 - ii. The AMR Knowledge Hub, a collaborative platform for sharing data, best practices, and innovations.
 - iii. The MAAP Store visualization tool for real-time AMR data analytics and surveillance.
 - iv. Workforce professional qualifications and fellowship programs strengthening laboratory expertise continent-wide.
- **Presentation of the AMR Surveillance Blueprint:** A step-by-step guidance document developed by ASLM for standardized data collection, management, and analysis of AMR, antimicrobial consumption, and use in Africa.
- **Presentation of Regional AMS Guideline:** ECSA-HC to showcase their regional stewardship guideline and implementation approaches,

Exhibition Hall Tour:

Special guests visit displays from diagnostic companies, research institutions, and implementing partners demonstrating innovations and tools advancing AMR surveillance and diagnostics.

Day 2: Financing Models and Sustainability

Plenary Session:

- What is the economic cost of implementing and establishing AMR surveillance systems? What are the cost drivers of AMR surveillance systems in Africa?
- Present promising financing models with a focus on laboratories and diagnostics, including case studies of successful country-level implementation.

ASLM Business Case Presentation:

- An evidence-based, compelling business case for AMR surveillance investment, aligned with the Political Declaration's target to mobilize US\$100 million to catalyze funded AMR plans by 2030.
- Strategy for leveraging this business case to secure funding and build partnerships.



Invitation for Funding Pledges:

Funders, governments, and private sector actors invited to commit resources towards closing the AMR financing gap.

Break-Away Sessions: :

Focused discussions to explore cross-cutting themes:

- Break-Away 1: Industry Forum.
- Break-Away 2: Workforce development and capacity building.
- Break-Away 3: Diagnostic innovations and implementation challenges.
- Break-Away 4: Health financing and resource mobilization strategies.

Exhibition Hall Tour:

Special guests visit displays from diagnostic companies, research institutions, informatics companies and implementing partners demonstrating innovations and tools advancing AMR surveillance and diagnostics

Day 3: Role of Civil Society in Diagnostics

Plenary Session

- Round table discussions with Civil Society on their role in Diagnostics with bias towards AMR

Break-Away Sessions:

- Break-Away 1: Lab Leadership.
- Break-Away 2: Workforce development and capacity building.
- Break-Away 3: Diagnostic innovations and implementation challenges.
- Break-Away 4: Health financing and resource mobilization strategies.

Expected Outcomes

- **Enhanced stakeholder awareness and commitment** to the AMR agenda, particularly related to diagnostics and surveillance.
- **Greater alignment of continental AMR priorities** with global mandates and African Union strategies.
- **Increased visibility and adoption of ASLM tools and resources** for quality-assured diagnostics and data-driven AMR surveillance.
- **Concrete financial commitments and partnership agreements** supporting the sustainability of AMR surveillance systems.
- **Actionable roadmaps and country-level strategies** for scaling up diagnostic capacity, data management, and workforce development.
- **Strengthened multi-sectoral collaboration** involving governments, laboratories, industry partners, funders, and civil society.
- **Accelerated access to innovative diagnostics** by addressing barriers and leveraging opportunities across the entire ecosystem - from R&D and manufacturing to availability, adoption, and long-term sustainability.



Target Audience

- African Union Commission and regional health entities (e.g., Africa CDC)
- Ministries of Health, Finance, and Planning from African countries
- Laboratory scientists, clinicians, and public health professionals
- International and African development partners, donor agencies, and private sector funders
- Academic and research institutions specializing in AMR and diagnostics
- Civil society and advocacy groups focused on health security and antimicrobial stewardship

Proposed Agenda

Day 1		
	Session	Theme
09:00 - 13:00	Opening Ceremony	Invited Guests Remarks and official Opening
	Plenary Session 1	Taking stock of African progress on Global Commitments (WHA Declaration on Diagnostics, UNGA High level; Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance),
	Plenary Session 2 State of the AMR fight	• The African Union Land-Mark Report: Voicing African Priorities on the Active Pandemic. Accelerating the Continental Response to AMR NOTE: <i>The Landmark report was presented at the UNGA meeting 2024. Opportunity to present to African Audience</i> • The Blueprint: AMR Surveillance Guidance for the Africa Region NOTE: <i>Blueprint developed by ASLM to guide the Collection, Management and Analysis of Data for Antimicrobial Resistance, Consumption, and Use in Africa</i> • Presentation of Regional AMS Guideline: ECSA-HC to showcase their regional stewardship guideline and implementation approaches,
Tour of Exhibition Hall by Special Guests		
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 - 16:00	Plenary 3	• Cost of AMR Surveillance on the African Continent. What are the promising or fit for purpose Health Financing Models (with a bias towards labs/diagnostics/AMR). Here we can work on the findings of the Costs and outputs studies to Build a case for financing -



Proposed Agenda

Session	Theme
16:00 – 16:30	Health Break
14:30 – 16:00	Plenary 3 Cost of AMR Surveillance on the African Continent. What are the promising or fit for purpose Health Financing Models (with a bias towards labs/diagnostics/AMR). Here we can work on the findings of the Costs and outputs studies to Build a case for financing -
16:30 – 18:00	Exhibition, Posters, ASLM Membership Booth
18:00	End of Day and Adjourn
Day 2	
09:00 – 13:00	Plenary - ASLM Sustainability and Business case for AMR NOTE: ASLM will prepare a business case on implementation of the “Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance” and share this ahead of time to potential funders who will also be invited to the meeting with a call to contribute towards target “target of achieving US\$ 100 million to catalyse the achievement of at least 60 per cent of countries having achieved funded plans by 2030” - Invitation for Pledges/commitments by funders
14:00 – 16:00	Break-Away Session
	Break-Away 1: Industry Forum:- Co-Creating End-to-End Diagnostic Solutions for Africa in a Changing World: Session will extend to 18:00 Hrs - Role of the industry in achieving Global AMR and diagnostic access commitments - Addressing barriers in diagnostic product innovation, validation, and regulatory approvals Seizing procurement opportunities amid shifts in the global health landscape
	Break-Away 2: Workforce development and Networks capacity building. - From Training to Impact: Building a Skilled AMR Surveillance Workforce (QWARS and Tanzania Fellowship - - Bridging the Gap between Pre and in-service – Showcasing the ASLM Internship Program - Capacity Building of the Laboratory profession - Showcasing the ASLM Membership Program



Proposed Agenda

	Break-Away 3: Diagnostic innovations and implementation challenges Symposium - Integrated Genomic Sequencing in AMR countries)	
	Break-Away 4: Health financing and resource mobilization strategies. - Progress towards the UNGA 2024 Financing Commitments - Malawi o Nigeria o Senegal o Tanzania - What are the Global Commitments towards the UNGA 2024 Commitments - World Bank o Global Fund o Pfizer o ICAS	
16:00 – 16:30	Health Break	
17:00 – 18:00	Exhibition, Posters, ASLM Membership Booth	
Day 3		
09:00 – 10:30	Plenary	Role of Civil Society in Diagnostics NOTE: <i>Presentations, round table discussions with Civil Society on their role in Diagnostics with a focus on AMR</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Health Break to transition to Break-Away	
11:00 – 12:30	Laboratory Leadership LabDF Meeting	
	Workforce development and capacity building. - Abstracts Presentations - Uganda o Ghana o Gabon o Botswana	
	Diagnostic innovations and implementation challenges Symposium: Use of tNGS in National TB Programs. What is needed to implement tNGS in TB programs; How can we make tNGS cost-effective and meet multi-disease needs (within the AMR framework). How can we develop genomic strategies that incorporate broader needs for AMR surveillance	
	Health financing and resource mobilization strategies. - Global Investments in AMR in Africa - The Fleming Fund o Gates Foundation o Wellcome Trust	
12:30 – 13:00	Closing Ceremony	
09:00 – 13:00	Plenary	Awards and Recognitions Closing Remarks

For Enquiries, please contact

Dr Talkmore Maruta, Director of Programs, ASLM

E: tmaruta@aslm.org,

T: +263 771 320 736