Statement on the WHO European Antimicrobial Resistance Accountability Index

We, the undersigned organisations, welcome the development of the WHO European Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Accountability Index as an important step towards strengthening transparency, monitoring and accountability in addressing AMR.

AMR is a global health security threat, but addressing it is also fundamentally about **safeguarding the effectiveness of modern medicine and ensuring that patients continue to have access to safe and effective treatments.** Patients are particularly vulnerable to AMR, as they may spend significant time in healthcare facilities, have weakened immune systems or face an increased risk of infections, including those caused by resistant microorganisms. AMR can lead to longer hospital stays, more severe health outcomes, increased mortality and significant impacts on patients' trust in the healthcare system. **AMR threatens patients' access to safe and effective healthcare today, not only in the future.**

We therefore welcome the objective of the Accountability Index to support Member States in translating political commitments into concrete action and advancing the implementation of the Roadmap on AMR for the WHO European Region 2023–2030. With only 25% of countries in the WHO European Region having fully operational national action plans on AMR, more action is urgently needed. **By bringing together indicators covering key areas such as governance, surveillance, infection prevention and control, antimicrobial stewardship, access to medicines and health services, and community awareness, the Index can help identify gaps, share good practices and support countries in strengthening the implementation of their national action plans.**

Ultimately, monitoring progress should not be limited to assessing national policies and structures. **It should also help us understand and measure the impact of these policies on patients' lives. Patient-centred accountability should be an integral part of a wider One Health approach to AMR.**

In this context, **the meaningful involvement of patients and patient organisations is essential at every stage.** Patients must be part of decisions that affect them. Their lived experience can provide valuable insights into the consequences of resistant infections, barriers to appropriate treatment, quality of care and the effectiveness of infection prevention measures.

Patients and the wider public should be involved in setting research priorities. It is critical that the research and development of new treatments and technologies respond to real-world needs and contribute to improving patient outcomes.

Greater attention should be given to improving patients' and the public's health literacy and awareness of AMR. Communicating this complex issue in clear, accessible language and adapting awareness campaigns to different communities is essential. Patient organisations have an important role to play in sharing real-life experiences, countering misinformation and supporting informed conversations between patients and healthcare professionals. Shared decision-making, effective communication and trust are essential to promoting appropriate antimicrobial use. Awareness-raising efforts should go beyond disseminating information and actively involve patient communities in developing and implementing these initiatives.

Civil society organisations, including patient organisations, must also be meaningfully involved in the implementation, monitoring and assessment of national action plans and dedicated AMR policies. Their participation can help ensure that measures respond to the

needs and realities of different communities, identify gaps between policy commitments and implementation on the ground, and contribute to greater transparency and accountability.

Meaningful civil society engagement requires adequate support and investment. Many patient organisations recognise the importance of AMR but lack the resources and capacity-building opportunities needed to engage consistently in this area. Supporting their participation is essential to building a stronger and more coordinated patient voice on AMR.

The Accountability Index represents an opportunity not only to measure progress, but also to **ensure that progress translates into safer care, better health outcomes and improved quality of life for patients.**

The undersigned organisations urge Member States to accelerate their efforts to effectively address AMR as an urgent public health priority. We remain committed to working with WHO Europe, Member States and other stakeholders to ensure that **civil society organisations, including patient organisations, are recognised as essential partners in addressing AMR.**

Signatories:

European Patients' Forum (EPF)

European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA)

European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA)