



To the President of the United Nations General Assembly,  
H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi

Copy to: The Ambassador of Poland to the United Nations  
H.E. Mr. Krzysztof Szczerski

Copy to: The Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the United Nations  
H.E. Mr. Bakhtiyor Ibragimov

Your Excellency Mr. President,

We, the signatories of this letter, are addressing you on behalf of people with and affected by TB and civil society involved in TB response from Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region. We met last week in Dushanbe, Tajikistan and wanted to share with you our deliberations concerning the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration for the upcoming United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis (UN HLM on TB).

Noticing the good collaboration among TB affected communities, civil society, governmental bodies such as National TB Programmes, Parliamentarians, that EECA region is known for; as well as being already meaningfully involved in the provision of feedback in our home countries at the invitation of governmental stakeholders and permanent missions of member states to the UN, we would like to take this opportunity and present our suggestions for improvement so it could fully meet the ambitions and commitments needed for an effective fight against the global TB epidemic.

We believe that the Declaration will gain in its strength if informed and aligned to the six [UNHLM Key Asks from TB Stakeholders](#) released in April 2023, which was developed through a global consultation process involving nearly 400 organizations overseen by the Stop TB Partnership hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services. We firmly support that it is vital to strengthen the political declaration to ensure it adequately addresses the persistent challenges faced by those affected by TB and national TB programmes and further builds on the commitments outlined in the 2018 declaration.

This position is also supported by over 260 TB stakeholders from 19 countries of European and Central Asian region – representatives of people with and affected by TB, civil society organizations, National TB Programmes, Parliaments, media and activists who support the common goal to end TB by 2030 and signed the "Dushanbe Statement: Eastern Europe and Central Asia TB Summit, 16 - 18 May 2023" attached herewith.

By leveraging your influence, we trust that you can play a pivotal role in urging for revisions that reflect the urgency and ambition required to confront the tuberculosis epidemic head-on. Together, we can work towards a more comprehensive and ambitious declaration that prioritises timely access to affordable prevention, diagnostics, treatment and care, adequately recognizes the needs, rights and voices of key and vulnerable populations and has clear, measurable targets for those; includes commitments that explicitly support the human rights of people affected by TB, within national TB responses that are equitable, inclusive, gender-sensitive, rights-based and people-centered, and that include funded action-oriented efforts to



address stigma and discrimination and overcome barriers to accessing care and prevention; includes clear financial targets for TB response and for research and highlight the responsibility of each country to deliver its fair share of the global funding need, also through implementation of new funding mechanisms.

We would like to thank once again the General Assembly of the United Nations for recognizing that tuberculosis continues to be one of the world's deadliest and most discriminating infectious diseases and the leading killer of people with HIV and convening the second United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis, on 22 of September 2023. We would greatly appreciate your support in taking into consideration the proposed suggestions for a stronger Zero Draft of the Political Declaration for the UNHLM on TB, that would be fully supported by TB stakeholders globally.

With sincere regards,

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Annex: Signed Dushanbe Statement: Eastern Europe and Central Asia TB Summit, 16  
- 18 May 2023