### Draft Press Release

The below draft press release may be adapted and contextualized to the country or regional level, as appropriate.

Ideally, a paragraph on the specific country context should be added to attract national press coverage.

***Communities call for urgent investment in TB prevention, diagnosis, and care***

New report by TB communities and civil society shows a ‘deadly divide’ between political promises and meaningful action

[City] [Date] – A significant report prepared by TB-affected communities and civil society worldwide demonstrates a major gap between global targets on tuberculosis (TB), that were agreed by world leaders in 2018, and the degree to which those political commitments have been translated into action.

[*A Deadly Divide: TB Commitments vs TB Realities*](http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/communities/The%20Deadly%20Divide_TB%20Commitments%20vs%20TB%20Realities%20FINAL%20HLM%20Report.pdf)is a communities’ report that documents how, two years on from the first-ever United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis, progress on achieving the targets has been too little and too slow to meet the 2022 deadline.

COVID-19 and related restrictions are exacerbating inequalities, making it even more difficult to reach people with life-saving TB prevention and treatment. This is causing needless deaths and suffering from a disease that is both preventable and curable.

Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the world’s deadliest airborne infectious diseases, killing at least 1.4 million people around the world every year. The latest diagnostic tests can rapidly and accurately diagnose TB. New medicines can quickly cure TB. But, in 2020, people are still dying from a disease that should have been eliminated decades ago.

Two years ago, at the UN High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on TB, world leaders agreed upon a political declaration, [*United to end tuberculosis: an urgent response to a global epidemic*](https://www.who.int/tb/unhlmonTBDeclaration.pdf), pledging to increase their efforts to fight TB. Heads of Government and State agreed on global targets, which provided the basis for [country-level targets](http://www.stoptb.org/global/advocacy/unhlm_targets.asp) developed by the Stop TB Partnership (STBP).

The 2022 deadline for achievement of this targets is fast approaching, but the UN Secretary General’s [2020 report](https://undocs.org/en/A/75/236) found efforts must be urgently scaled up and implemented if the targets are to be achieved. In *A Deadly Divide*, which was prepared to complement the UNSG report, those most affected by TB issue a [Call to Action](http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/communities/A%20Deadly%20Divide_%20TB%20Commitments%20vs.%20TB%20Realities_Call%20to%20Action.pdf) with a range of concrete recommendations on how governments, as the signatories to the political declaration, can improve their TB response and reduce the unnecessary burden of the disease on people and public health.

The report calls on government to implement the 6 Action Areas and to fund and operationalize the recommendations at all levels with the meaningful engagement of TB-affected communities and civil society at every step.