### Template Advocacy Letter for Political Leaders

The below template advocacy letter may be adapted and contextualized to the country or regional level, as appropriate.

It may be adapted and issued to decision-makers in the government, parliament, National TB Program, or Ministries of Health, Education, Foreign Affairs, or Development, as appropriate.

Ideally, a paragraph on the specific country context should be added to highlight the relevance of the issue for the decision-maker.

[Date]

Dear,

On behalf of [Organization Name], I wish to draw attention to the need to urgently scale up efforts in the fight to end tuberculosis (TB). One of the world’s deadliest airborne infectious diseases, TB continues to cause unnecessary deaths and suffering although it is both preventable and curable.

In 2018, at the first-ever United Nations High Level Meeting 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. 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 that progress is too little and too slow and there is a divide between commitments that have been made and the realities experienced on the ground.

In parallel to the UNSG report, TB-affected communities and civil society produced [*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). The report and its accompanying [Call to Action](http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/communities/A%20Deadly%20Divide_%20TB%20Commitments%20vs.%20TB%20Realities_Call%20to%20Action.pdf) call on UN Member States to update, fund, and operationalize the TB response to reflect the priorities of those most affected by the disease. Governments should guarantee the meaningful engagement of TB-affected communities and civil society at every step in the process.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the entire world, and the international community has mobilized to meet the enormous challenge it presents. There is an opportunity to leverage COVID-19 infrastructure and investments to improve the TB response, integrate TB and COVID-19 testing and tracing, and strengthen efforts to overcome the barriers that people continue to face when accessing TB services.

In your capacity as [Minister of Health / National TB Program Manager / Member of Parliament], I kindly urge you to work closely with TB-affected communities and civil society to implement the 6 Action Areas from *A Deadly Divide* to:

* Reach all people with TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care with ambitious, timebound national targets for TB to fulfil the Political Declaration on TB by 2022;
* Invest the necessary funds to achieve 100% of the global targets for financial investment in the TB response, with funding for community-based and community-led TB interventions;
* Accelerate the development of, and increase access to, essential new tools to end TB, updating national TB policies in line with WHO recommendations before the next World TB Day on 24 March 2021;
* Make the TB response rights-based, equitable, and stigma-free, with communities at the centre, implementing national Community, Rights and Gender Action Plans and Stigma Reduction Strategies;
* Urgently implement an independent National Multi-Sectoral Accountability Framework for TB in every country, strengthen accountability through annual country and global progress reports, and hold a follow-up United Nations High Level Meeting on TB in 2023; and
* Leverage Covid-19 as a strategic opportunity to end TB by developing, funding, and implementing TB/COVID Catch-Up Plans.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about how we can work together to make TB curable for everyone and reduce the terrible toll of this deadly disease.

With kind regards,