International acclaimed Afghan human rights activist & former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Sudan; Dr.Sima Samar joins Stop TB Afghanistan

Kabul. Dr. Sima Samar, well known human rights activist, politician and women rights supporter has joined Stop TB partnership Afghanistan as Chair person of its Coordinating Board. Sima Samar born 4 February 1957 is also the chairperson of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). Sima served since 2005, as United Nations Special Rapporteur on situation of human rights in Sudan until June 2009. She is a medical doctor and obtained her degree in medicine in 1982 from Kabul University. She remained a Deputy President and Women Affairs in Afghan Government.

After living in refuge for nearly two decades because of conflict in Afghanistan, Samar returned to her home land in 2001 to assume a cabinet post in the Afghan Transitional Administration led by Hamid Karzai. In the interim government, she served as Deputy President and then as Minister for Women's Affairs. In 2008, on the eve of International Human Rights Day, Dr. Sima Samar received the Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award (ADHRA); this was in addition to numerous other awards received from around the world.

In 1984, after the communist regime arrested her husband, Samar and her young son fled to the safety of nearby Pakistan. Distressed by the total lack of health care facilities for Afghan refugee women, she established in 1989 the Shuhada Organization and Shuhada Clinic in Quetta, Pakistan. Her NGOs also ran hospitals, schools, literacy courses for women and men and income generation projects out side and inside Afghanistan.

After Joining Stop TB Partnership Afghanistan, while addressing a national gathering on World TB Day, Sima stressed on the need to address high proportion of women TB cases in the country. She also vowed to continue fighting for the rights of women and improving access to TB care for marginalized women of Afghanistan.