

### **Statement by the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat**

The Stop TB Partnership Secretariat acknowledges a recent news report on allegations of racism and harassment in the Secretariat.

We are concerned by these allegations and welcome the Independent Review commissioned by the Stop TB Partnership Board, including a staff survey as well as a Diversity Initiative.

The Stop TB Partnership Secretariat looks forward to the findings and recommendations of this review and we are committed to identify and address any issues, so that all Secretariat staff feel safe, supported, and empowered.

We are continuously learning and building an organization driven by principles and values expected by our Board, donors, partners, and stakeholders and, most importantly, the countries, communities, and people affected by TB that we serve.

The Stop TB Partnership Secretariat recognizes the need to continuously improve and further create a culture in the Secretariat that promotes empathy and kindness for our colleagues, transparency and fairness, and increasing diversity and equity at all levels.

A work environment with zero tolerance for racism and harassment is critical in a partnership that serves people with a disease that disproportionately affects the most marginalized, the most disadvantaged, silenced, and socio-economically vulnerable sections of the population.

The Stop TB Partnership has been hosted by UNOPS since January 2015 and operates under UNOPS rules and regulations related to human resources, and maintain the highest standards for recruitment, promotion as well as addressing grievances.

In December 2019, owing to differences in regard to the future direction of the programme, UNOPS and the Stop TB Partnership Board agreed that UNOPS would cease to host the Stop TB Partnership as of 30 June 2021. Currently, the Stop TB Partnership Executive Committee is in the process of identifying a new host (decision to be taken during the next Stop TB Partnership Board meeting in November 2020).