

***Global Coalition of Tuberculosis Activists***  
***March 24, 2013***

**Background**

The Stop TB Partnership is a unique international body with over 1000 partners, and strives to bring these diverse stakeholders from all over the world on a platform to unite in the fight against tuberculosis (TB).

An important part of The Partnership is involving communities and promoting Community Engagement through effective engagement, which is reflected in the initiative to have elected community representatives on the coordinating board and the working groups.

The Stop TB Partnership convened a meeting in February in Geneva, Switzerland with activists from the Community Task Force (CTF) present and former and community representatives of other Global Health Initiatives like Global Fund. The outcome of this meeting was the redefinition of the CTF into the Global Coalition of Tuberculosis Activists (GCTA).

***What is the Global Coalition of TB Activist?***

GCTA is an alliance of TB survivors and their representatives unifying their voices and ensuring that these voices are heard at all levels. The Coalition aims to bring together activists from diverse backgrounds and different geographical regions to ensure that affected communities are the center of decision making processes and their voices are heard and incorporated into policies, practices, research and funding decisions that concern the affected communities. GCTA aims to engage with other stakeholders at local, country and global levels in TB prevention and care.

***Why the Global Coalition of TB Activists?***

Experience throughout the world has proved that where TB patients, activists and communities are involved in TB prevention and care efforts, research, crucial issues of new case detection, community health services, regulatory affairs and provision of timely services are addressed effectively. In poor and middle income countries, TB patients and communities involvement is in initial phases and TB activism is often absent or insufficient at local or national level. For joint TB advocacy efforts by TB patients, activists, affected communities (including people living with HIV and people who use drugs or alcohol), governmental and non-governmental agencies and civil society organizations in a complementary manner, a global platform is needed. To close this gap, GCTA aims to develop its regional, national and local alliances for collaboration with tuberculosis programs, other related programs, ministries and others. The proposed semi structured volunteer body will liaise with TB advocacy movements with specified strategic direction to augment the efforts.

## **Vision, Mission and Objectives**

### **Vision:**

A World Free of Tuberculosis. Zero TB deaths, Zero TB new infection and Zero TB stigma and discrimination.

### **Mission**

To be a catalyst of change and represent and advocate for TB affected communities and influence global TB control agenda ensuring universal access where patients and patient groups are empowered and respected.

### **Objectives**

- Act as a community representation body at local, state, national and international levels. The Coalition will provide regular input to the two representatives of communities affected by TB of the Stop TB Partnership Board, and to community representatives on other Global Health Initiatives.
- Build capacity of activists and help in representation in global health initiatives.
- Establish TB advocacy forums at different levels
- Create a platform where different stakeholders such as affected communities, activists, civil society organizations and government allies can come together and lobby with policy makers to develop rights based and patient centered TB control policies and strategies.
- Build a pool of well informed and confident activists and advocates to share their experiences with other groups as and when the need arises.

### **Transparency and accountability**

As the GCTA is launched and formalized, transparency and accountability are a top priority for all members.

### **Contact**

*If you are a TB patient/survivor, a member of the affected communities or a TB activist, and you would like to join the Coalition please do so through this website:*

<http://groups.google.com/group/stbp-community-representatives/about?hl=en> (click on "join the group")