

We, individuals from Civil Society Organizations gathered at the ‘Consultation Meeting to Strengthen the Active Engagement of Civil Society Organizations in the TB Area of Work of the World Health Organization’ held on September 30- October 1, 2010 recognize that:

- Despite the fact that the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Stop TB Strategy was broadened in 2006 to include empowerment of TB patients and their communities, and the WHO produced a document *Community Involvement in Tuberculosis Care and Prevention* in 2008, there has been lack of clear guidance on how to implement this component of the TB policy;
- Owing, in part to this lack of clear guidance, the TB programs at country level have not sufficiently planned, budgeted, nor devised strategies to engage civil society organizations (CSOs) as empowered partners in different components of TB control and care at the national level and monitor and evaluate those efforts;
- Therefore there is scant support for CSOs at the national level, either through active provision or facilitation of funds and capacity building to enable them to engage effectively in TB advocacy and program implementation, nor through having meaningful involvement in priority setting bodies on the national level that make TB program, research, or funding decisions;
- Though global structures such as the Stop TB Partnership and the WHO’s Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) for TB have been more proactive in engaging CSOs in their structures and decision making bodies, their support for CSOs has not been fully institutionalized.

To address this current situation, the CSOs gathered at this important meeting that will define how the WHO can work together with CSOs to strengthen their active engagement in TB area of work demand that the WHO provide:

- Clear policy guidance that highlights strategies that will create and strengthen the role of science and policy literate CSO and activists who can fully engage in policy, program, research, and funding priority setting at the national level; and include indicators to annually monitor the progress in this regard, to be reported annually in the WHO global TB reports;
- Support National TB Programs (NTPs) through guidance documents and technical assistance provided through TB TEAM and other mechanisms to ensure that the NTPs write sufficiently ambitious and strategic proposals to funders such as GFATM to increase resources for country-based advocacy and program strengthening efforts, as well as promoting domestic funding of TB literate and activist civil society organizations;
- Ensure that CSOs and activists on global policy bodies such as the Stop TB Partnership and the STAG-TB have sufficient orientation, financial, and capacity building support to enable them to participate meaningfully in these critical policy decision making bodies.

To contribute to the success of the above efforts, CSO and activists will fully:

- Partner with WHO and other relevant bodies on the global and national levels to strengthen CSO involvement in TB control efforts involving program implementation, policy formulation, funding, research, and monitoring and evaluation activities;
- Commit to using all opportunities provided by WHO to fully incorporate TB into its own programs and advocacy priorities at all levels;

- Commit to being ambassadors for TB care and control through building our capacity to contribute to TB and enable other CSO partners to do the same.
- Commit to ensuring that CSOs and WHO have consistent consultations both at national, regional, and international levels;
- Commit to defining a clear process that will ensure that the WHO and NTPs are able to track CSO engagement in TB care at all levels and that the data yielded by this monitoring exercise will inform ways to improve policy guidance and implementation strategy to strengthen the role of CSOs and activists in TB care.

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