

On the World TB Day 2008, the GAT (Portuguese AIDS Treatment Group) recalls all advocates and policy makers the links between TB and HIV/AIDS and the urgent need to turn agreed commitments into actions.

The universal access to prevention, prophylaxis and treatment is a matter of Human Rights and we are all responsible to respect, support and implement the right to health as a basic individual right.

All relevant partners should be involved in the implementation of the strategies and goals of the INTERIM POLICY ON COLLABORATIVE TB/HIV ACTIVITIES, from Stop TB Department of HIV/AIDS of WHO (2004) and the Berlin Declaration on TB from the 2007 Inter-ministerial Meeting of the WHO.

It is a shared responsibility of WHO, UNAIDS, Governments, Scientific Institutions and Pharmaceutical Companies to design and consistently fund basic research programmes and to develop new biomedical interventions for diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment of TB, HIV and TB/HIV co-infection.

There is a great need for an independent monitoring mechanism, involving the civil society as a partner and not only as a recipient, to evaluate the implementation of commitments and goals achievement.

In days like the TB World Day, we must remember that international strategies agreed for infections that kill millions of people all over the World have not yet been generalized, more cooperation between all partners is needed and that stronger efforts must be done to address specific financial issues.

*GAT –Grupo Português de Activistas sobre Tratamentos de VIH/SIDA is a Portuguese community-based NGO with approximately 50 members affected by HIV/AIDS and co-infections like HCV and TB*