24 June 2019 Geneva, Switzerland – International and country experts, partners and donors, will discuss and debate concrete steps to reach the ambitious United Nations High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on Tuberculosis (TB) target of reaching 30 million people worldwide with preventive treatment from 2018 until 2022 at a three-day forum in Geneva, Switzerland from 1-3 July 2019.

This meeting will herald a new chapter in the global response to TB by bringing together the highest burden countries to discuss how to comprehensively test and treat people with latent TB infection (LTBI), focussing on those at the highest risk of developing active TB disease. Preventing active TB disease is essential for ending TB.

The interactive gathering of about 70 participants is convened by the Stop TB Partnership and its Board’s Private Sector Constituency, in collaboration with The Global Fund and the World Health Organization. It will bring together representatives of 20 countries with the most significant number of people targeted for preventive therapy* and representatives of development partners, international agencies, communities and the private sector.

The forum was designed to reach three main objectives:

• Mobilization for TB preventive therapy scale-up

• Technical Information and knowledge sharing
• Engaging partners, communities and people infected with TB

The meeting will have dedicated sections on commitments, science and engagement, in a symposium format, combining presentations, posters, exhibition and breakout discussions, leading to country plans and commitments for scale up.

The UNHLM on TB, held in September 2018, resulted in the Political Declaration on TB to accelerate the global response for ending the TB epidemic by 2030. Treating latent TB infection is one of the critical targets set in the Declaration. As much as one-fourth of the world’s population – over 1.8 billion people - have latent TB infection and carry a lifetime risk of getting sick with active TB disease. This risk can be substantially reduced by TB Preventive Treatment. To End TB it is essential not only to treat active TB when it happens but to prevent it from happening.

* Country share of the global UNHLM TB targets developed by the Stop TB Partnership and published online.