Global Health Leaders join forces to ensure future UN High-Level Meetings on Health deliver on their promises

24 September 2019 | New York, USA – Global health leaders from the TB, AIDS, Malaria, UHC and NCD communities joined forces for the first time during the UN General Assembly to take stock of the impact of previous UN High-Level Meetings (UNHLM) on Health, unite our efforts under the umbrella of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and chart the way forward to ensure future UNHLMs on health deliver on their promises.

The Stop TB Partnership and UHC2030 led side event ‘UN High-Level Meetings on Health: Hitting the Targets Under UHC’ took place at UN Headquarters in New York on Tuesday, September 24, the day after the UNHLM on UHC, where global leaders agreed to take determined actions to establish UHC around the world.

While each of the previous UNHLMs have resulted in ambitious Political Declarations endorsed by Heads of State, domestic funding to follow through on their commitments has not materialized in most countries, and many of the Political Declarations have lacked clear accountability mechanisms to measure progress.

Dr. Luiz Henrique Mandetta, Minister of Health, Brazil and incoming Chair of the Stop TB Partnership Board and Dr. Ren Mingui, Assistant
Director-General for Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases & UHC, WHO, called for countries, leaders and partners to stay focussed on the commitments made in previous Political Declarations and deliver political backing necessary to turn words into real actions.

The session proved to be a significant moment for global health as the broader UHC movement and disease-specific programmes shared the same platform for the first time for the common goal of achieving UHC and discuss integrated action to improve accountability for each of the UNHLMs.

The ‘UN High-Level Meetings on Health: Hitting the Targets Under UHC’ side event was organized by the Stop TB Partnership, UHC2030, World Health Organization, UNAIDS, NCD Alliance, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, and the Permanent Missions of Japan, Thailand, Brazil and Zambia. The event was moderated by Dr. Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director of the Stop TB Partnership and Dr. Githinji Gitahi, CEO, Amref Health Africa and co-chair of UHC2030.