

The Kigali Civil Society Declaration on Tuberculosis

CIVIL SOCIETY DEMANDS MEANINGFUL INCLUSION IN THE UNION AFRICA REGION BOARD AND CONFERENCE

Statement from TB civil society representatives presented at the 19TH AFRICA UNION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS AND LUNG DISEASES Conference at Serena Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda.

We, the undersigned Tuberculosis (TB) civil society representatives, community members and our supporters, recognize the gesture of the Union Africa Region Board for the 50% waiver on registration given to enable us attend this conference. This gesture proves that communities and science can work together in trying to make it possible to end the TB epidemic in our lifetime.

We are however disappointed by the lack of visibility of civil society/affected communities in the planning, execution and total content of this conference.

We are aware and recognize the fact that ZERO TB deaths cannot be met without the full involvement of civil society that carry the voices of the patients and respective communities we represent.

Civil Society, most of us who work as volunteers with very little resources to sustain ourselves are already involved in DOTS support, tracing those lost to treatment, dispensing drugs at health facilities, giving psychosocial support to other patients and affected communities, caring for in-patients at health facilities, assisting governments in mobilizing resources from international communities and multi-national corporations, participation in health system strengthening and advocacy for policy change that favour patients and programs, participate in clinical trials in research and many other functions.

The African Region's non-recognition of the work of civil society has to come to an end if we are going to move together to end TB pandemic in every African country. We have the potential to reach ZERO TB deaths if we unite in the fight against TB. TB affects and

kills millions of people in our continent every year, and impoverishes and degrades the lives of many more. These sufferings and deaths occur despite the fact that TB is preventable and can be cured with access to lifesaving TB prevention strategies, diagnostic tools and treatments. We do not accept the deaths of countless adults and children due to TB in the 21st century, from a disease that has been preventable and curable since the late 1940's. Ending this pandemic and providing the health care needs of those affected by TB and TB/HIV is a core responsibility of governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, nongovernmental organizations and civil society representatives.

We must collectively commit to the goal of ZERO TB deaths and ZERO new TB infections NOW! In order to achieve this, we request for Civil Society recognition at all levels so that our potential is exploited in achieving the vision of the Stop TB Strategy as equal partners. At international level, we are fully recognized and engaged in global health initiatives such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, UNITAID, Stop TB Partnership, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, UNAIDS and Global Alliance for Vaccines (GAVI), just to name a few.

As civil society leaders in Africa, we will work together at regional, national and multilateral levels, on the efforts outlined below:

- **We will hold our political leaders and decision-makers accountable** (including those at WHO, Global Fund, PEPFAR, UNITAID, Ministries of Health, Ministers of Finance and National TB control programs) to immediately accelerate efforts to achieve ZERO TB deaths. We want to remind our African Governments to honour the Abuja Declaration and commit more money not only to health but to TB.
- **We demand the allocation of 2 seats to civil society** on each of the committees of the Union including the organizing committee to enable full TB civil society participation in the activities of the Union Africa Region Conference.
- We will accept nothing less **than the allocation of 2 seats to Civil Society on the Union Africa Region Board** so that the voices of the infected and affected communities are ably

represented. We insist on the active support and engagement of TB civil society representatives and affected community members, so that we can participate in discussions and decisions, fully communicate our goals and strategies to our grassroots and affected communities. We will no longer accept nor allow decision makers to take credit for our efforts and also make decisions on our behalf without engaging or consulting us which have previously led to the realization of partial goals, low achievements and inadequate strategies for reducing TB deaths in Africa.

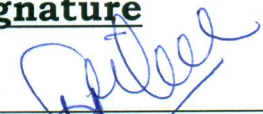
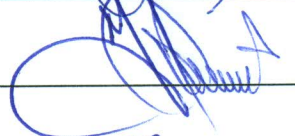

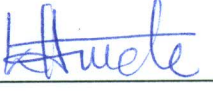
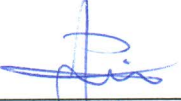
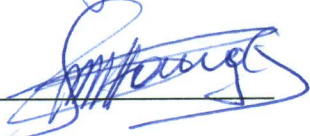


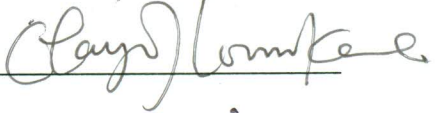


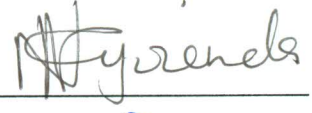

- **We demand that all future Union Africa Region Conferences have a Civil Society Track** where we can showcase the impact of the work we are doing as partners intent on mitigating the impact of TB on our people in this continent.
- **We demand free registration and scholarships to enable Civil Society to attend the Africa Union Regional Conferences** as equal partners to promote a people-centred care model that recognizes the right of every person to be informed and empowered about TB and ensured access to prevention, treatment and ethical care options with **ZERO stigma and suffering**. We will continue to work with other stakeholders that are addressing social-economic and structural factors that will end TB related suffering, poverty and improve people's lives.
- **We demand equal access to quality, affordable and integrated health care**
We will continue to amplify our voices for greater TB and TB/HIV funding from our bilateral, multilateral and national partners for programmatic and civil society advocacy initiatives as well as for increased investment in TB research and development for better diagnostics, faster and more tolerable therapies and a more effective vaccine.


We are committed to doing whatever it takes to lead the movement for ZERO TB deaths and this declaration codifies the values, principles and demands that will guide our civil society advocacy efforts as we progress towards our goal.


FOR IMPACTS IN SOCIAL HEALTH Cameroon

Organization

Signature

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Good Health Educators Initiative - Nigeria |  |
| 2) Wote Youth Development Projects - Kenya |  |
| 3) Citadel of Hope - Nigeria |  |
| 4) Family Fortress Organization - Nigeria |  |
| 5) African Young Positives Network (AY+) - Uganda |  |
| 6) Health Development Initiative (HDI) - Rwanda |  |
| 7) Mapambano Ya Kifua Kikuuna Ukimwi Temeke (Mikikute) - Tanzania |  |
| 8) Mkuta National TB Patient Network - Tanzania |  |
| 9) Hygiene Foundation - Nigeria |  |
| 10) Africa for Health Research Initiative - Uganda |  |
| 11) WEDNET Africa - Uganda |  |
| 12) Community Initiative for TB, HIV/AIDS & Malaria (CITAM+) - Zambia |  |
| 13) Plantation Positive Youth Forum - Nigeria |  |

14. Society for future health - 

15. Coalition of Zambia women living with HIV/AIDS - Zambia 

16. POSITIVE-GENERATION

CAMEROON

