

## **Background FAQ: The UN High-Level Meeting on TB**

### **1. UN High-Level Meeting on TB**

#### **A. What is a United Nations High-Level Meeting?**

A United Nations High-Level Meeting (UN HLM) is convened by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the main decision-making body of the UN representing all 193 UN Member States, and governments. Agreement to hold a dedicated UN HLM on a specialized topic is taken in exceptional circumstances through a UN resolution and vote, with the purpose of reaching agreement on cooperation measures and solutions on important global issues among Heads of State and governments. The UN HLM on TB will be the fifth time the UN has called for a high-level meeting devoted to a health issue, the first being the 2001 Special Session on HIV/AIDS, followed by UN HLMs on Non-communicable Diseases, Ebola, and Antimicrobial Resistance.

#### **B. How was the UN HLM on TB Agreed?**

Following a campaign launched by the Stop TB Partnership Board and partners in September 2016 at its Coordinating Board Meeting in New York, the resolution calling for a UN HLM on TB was tabled in December 2016 by the Global Health and Foreign Policy Initiative, a UN country grouping which includes South Africa, Thailand, Brazil, France, Norway, Senegal, and Indonesia. The resolution, and specifically the text calling for the UN HLM on TB, was agreed unanimously by UN member states through a vote in the UN General Assembly.

#### **C. How is the Agenda Decided?**

The agenda, topics, date, and speakers will be agreed in a UN document called the 'modalities resolution' which will be negotiated and agreed by UN member states at UN headquarters in New York. The exact timeline for the negotiation and finalization of the modalities resolution will be agreed by UN member states. Based on previous HLMs, it will likely be finalized 6-8 months before the UN HLM on TB takes place.

#### **D. Why is the UN High-Level Meeting on TB important?**

The High-Level Meeting is the biggest and best opportunity to raise the political priority of TB. It is the most significant political meeting ever held on TB. The meeting will result in a Political Declaration on TB endorsed by Heads of State that will form the basis for the future TB response.

It should secure commitment from Heads of State and government for a coordinated global response, agree to substantially increase financial resources for TB, and lead to millions of lives saved from premature deaths from TB. It should endorse measurable targets and commitments from governments and key stakeholders for 2020 and 2025 on which they can be monitored and held accountable through regular reporting.

## **2. Organization and Participation of the UN HLM**

### **A. Where and When will the meeting take place?**

The meeting will take place at UN Headquarters in New York in 2018. The exact date has yet to be decided and will be agreed in the 'modalities resolution' which will be agreed by UN member states. The Stop TB Partnership and partners have requested the meeting take place in September 2018 over a period of two days to coincide with the UN General Assembly General Debate, in order to maximize the attendance of Heads of State and Ministers.

### **A. Who is it being organized by?**

The UN High-Level Meeting on TB will be organized under the direction of the UN General Assembly. The resolution agreeing to hold the UN HLM 'requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization and in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to propose options and modalities for the conduct of such a meeting, including potential deliverables, building on existing efforts in this regard'. The Stop TB Partnership already started working with all partners and WHO to ensure the organization of the meeting reflects the inputs and strengths of different partners in the TB community.

### **B. Who Participates in a UN HLM?**

Previous UN HLM have been attended by Heads of State, Government Ministers, UN Secretary General and other UN leaders, civil society, community representatives, private sector, UN Ambassadors, researchers, academics, parliamentarians, and other relevant partners. Non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) can register and attend all UN HLMs. As was the case with previous UN HLMs and their respective stakeholders, all TB organizations and stakeholders (regardless of UN ECOSOC status) should have the opportunity to register and attend the UN HLM on TB.

## **3. What are the potential outcomes of a UN HLM?**

The UN HLM on TB should result in an action orientated Political Declaration on TB endorsed at Heads of State level. The Political Declaration of the 2016 UN High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS contained over twenty time bound targets on HIV/AIDS which formed the basis for a major acceleration of resources and political will. The Political Declaration on TB should contain a set of political and technical TB targets to be achieved in the short term (2020) and medium term (2025). The Declaration should also outline the establishment of an accountability mechanism, with strong engagement of civil society and communities that will monitor progress towards the targets and include regular reporting to the UN General Assembly. The Declaration should also outline the financial resources required (globally and by region) to reach the targets and commit to measuring progress towards the financing targets.

#### **4. What is the role of Civil Society in the UN High-Level Meeting on TB?**

The Stop TB Partnership believes the central involvement of civil society in the lead up to and at the HLM itself is essential to its success and strong outcomes. This should include shaping the agenda, influencing the targets and outcomes, ensuring ambitious commitments, and having a strong representation and meaningful participation in the HLM on TB. To facilitate these objectives, The Stop TB Partnership is calling for:

- A Civil Society Taskforce reporting to the President of the UN General Assembly.
- National and Regional multi-stakeholder Regional Consultations on the UN HLM on TB to ensure the inputs of civil society feed into the meeting discussions and outputs.
- A UN Civil Society Consultation hosted by the President of the UN General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General, organized at least three months ahead of the UN HLM on TB to ensure the timeline allows civil society outputs to feed into the agenda and Political Declaration negotiations of the UN HLM on TB.
- An agreement to support civil society inclusion in national government delegations to the UN HLM on TB to ensure robust participation of civil society in the UN HLM on TB and the national consultations leading up to it.
- An accountability system to ensure civil society has a role in monitoring the target and outcomes agreed at the UN HLM on TB.