

Communities and Civil Society Communiqué on the draft multi-sectoral framework to accelerate progress to end Tuberculosis

Noting the commitments made in the Moscow Declaration to End TB (2017)¹ and to support the development of the multi-sectoral accountability framework, the Seventy-first World Health Assembly requested the Director-General to continue to develop, in consultation with Member States, the draft multi-sectoral accountability framework,² working in close collaboration with all relevant international, regional and national partners as recommended in the Moscow Declaration to End TB (2017). The Director-General was further mandated to provide technical support to a range of stakeholders as appropriate to ensure the use of the framework accelerates progress to end tuberculosis.

The global TB community envisages a United Nations high level meeting (UNHLM) TB Political Declaration that is inclusive, ambitious and contains specific targets as described in the UNHLM Key Asks.³ An equally ambitious, transparent, multi-sectoral accountability mechanism, guided by the draft World Health Organization (WHO) Accountability Framework,⁴ must be developed to help ensure achievement of commitments and targets in the Political Declaration by individual Member States, as well as the global community.

Representatives of communities affected by TB and civil society organizations met in Bangkok on 24 June, 2018 to formulate a civil society position on TB accountability, guided by the draft WHO Accountability Framework. The meeting identified challenges, opportunities and gaps in the existing draft accountability framework and developed recommendations on what accountability mechanism(s) are needed to ensure effective implementation of the UNHLM Political Declaration at the international, regional and national levels.

TB affected communities and civil society support an Accountability Framework guided by the following principles:

1. Effectiveness: A high level body with high level expertise and political freedom and weight to carry the work that needs to be done
2. Integrity: Has the ability, and exercises such ability to speak honestly, both positively and negatively, about countries' and other stakeholders' performance
3. Inclusive of TB Community and civil society in all aspects: to framework development, selection of members, representation and others.
4. Accountable and transparent.

The following recommendations were made:

At the International Level:

- The creation of an independent accountability panel comprising of no more than nine distinguished panellists from diverse regions and backgrounds to provide an independent and transparent review of progress and challenges on the

¹ http://www.who.int/tb/features_archive/Moscow_Declaration_to_End_TB_final_ENGLISH.pdf?ua=1

² http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA71/A71_16-en.pdf

³ http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/global/advocacy/unhlm/KEYASKS_WEB.pdf

⁴ http://www.who.int/tb/MultisectoralAccountabilityFramework_Tuberculosis_Draftforpublicreview_20180409.pdf?ua=1

implementation of the End TB strategy and goals set out in the Political Declaration of the 2018 UN high-level meeting on tuberculosis. The panel shall be led by an eminent individual, include membership from civil society and specifically TB-affected communities, work closely with WHO but to have an administrative arrangement that allows for a degree of separation from the WHO family (ideally, hosted by such a multi-stakeholder platform as the Stop TB Partnership).

- The strengthening and continued use of the already existing reporting mechanisms, including UN mechanisms, such as the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) and treaty bodies, to review global, regional and national progress towards agreed goals related to tuberculosis and status of implementation of the UNHLM Political Declaration.
- A high level meeting to review of progress in 2023.

At the Regional Level:

- The need to strengthen and make continued use of the already existing reporting mechanisms, including reviews during country grouping meetings and regional meetings of heads of state such as the African Union (AU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and G20 on regional and national progress towards agreed goals related to tuberculosis in line with the UNHLM Political Declaration.
- Regional high level meetings to review progress and to contribute to the global high level meeting review in 2023.

At the National Level:

- A reporting mechanism ensuring broad participation of all partners, including representatives of all relevant government agencies, private sector, donor community, technical agencies, civil society and affected communities, should be put in place in every country to ensure periodic review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the UNHLM Political Declaration.
- The need to strengthen and make continued use of the already existing reporting mechanisms, including the Cabinet meetings, Parliamentary health committee meetings, Human rights Commissions, Judicial bodies and Country Coordinating Mechanisms, on national progress towards agreed tuberculosis goals in line with the adopted UNHLM Political Declaration.
- Country review processes to contribute to the review and global high level meeting reviews in 2023.

Most importantly, to ensure effective accountability, there is need for investment in the formation and strengthening of networks of people affected by TB at the national, regional and global levels. Towards our joint vision of ending TB, we urge Member States to commit to supporting this, including through reflecting such commitment in the 2018 Political Declaration.

Signatories

1. APCASO
2. Botswana Network on Ethics Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA)

3. Civil Society Sustainability Network (CSSN)
4. Global Coalition of TB Activists (GCTA)
5. ICASO
6. The International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD)
7. Kenya Légal & Ethical Issues Network on HIV & AIDS (KELIN)
8. Lean on Me
9. TB People