

Joint Statement of Community, Developing Country and Developed Country NGO Delegations

36th Meeting of the Stop TB Partnership Board

24th March 2023 – Varanasi, India –

The Community, Developing Country NGO and Developed Country NGO Delegations are thrilled to launch *The Accountability Report of TB-affected Communities & Civil Society: Priorities to Close the Deadly Divide*. It is heartening to note that over 1000 representatives of TB-affected communities and civil society organizations from 92 countries engaged in the development of the accountability report, which not only brings TB realities on the ground to the forefront, but also highlights the powerful solutions and coping strategies. The report is guided by principles of human rights and social justice and emphasizes the importance of raising political will, scaling up domestic and external financing, and community empowerment.

This Accountability Report features 36 case studies and 6 Calls to Action which ground the report in the lived experience of TB-affected communities. We look forward to elevating the Calls to Action during the upcoming UN Multi-Stakeholder Hearing in May and UNHLM on TB in September and encourage other stakeholders to do the same. We look forward to widespread national dissemination of the Calls to Action and implore partners to adopt the ambition that is needed to end TB. The report also reiterates the importance of ensuring access to a new TB vaccine by 2025 and the strategic value of transitioning to systems of real time data. We urge that the Accountability Report become a regular bi-annual report of civil society and community on what has been promised and what has been reached.

We are incredibly grateful and welcome the support of the Government of France for announcing their contribution to the Challenge Facility for Civil Society as was called for in the 2020 *A Deadly Divide: TB Commitments vs TB Realities*. Challenge Facility for Civil Society continues to be the only mechanism that ensures grassroots funding and technical support to TB affected communities and civil society. We thank the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Global Fund for their direct and ongoing support of this mechanism and we call on other donors who are at this Board Meeting to also directly support TB-affected communities through this existing, impactful mechanism that is driving the change we need to see.

We want to specially recognize and appreciate the support provided to the Community Delegation and Developing Country NGO Delegation by the USAID, and the Private Sector Constituency of Stop TB Partnership Board. We know that effective advocacy, engagement, visibility and political will requires investment in global and national TB advocacy agendas and call on donors to ensure that the Community, Developing Country NGO and Developed Country NGO Delegations are fully funded in support of this work. Consistent, reliable and sufficient support to all three delegations for meaningful engagement in the Board operations is an essential element of inclusive participation of all TB stakeholders.

The growth of the Challenge Facility for Civil Society is something the entire TB community should celebrate. In November 2022, the Stop TB Partnership was able to leverage this to host the first-ever Community Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand. We have been calling for this strategic mobilization and coordination for so long - and we congratulate the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat and partners for making this happen. It was great to see more than 160 participants representing grantees of the Challenge Facility for Civil Society and country-level Stop TB platforms from over 35 countries joining forces and strategizing, capacity building and coordinating on how to end TB. We call for support to sustain and scale up the summit in future years to drive progress toward ending TB by 2030.

In the spirit of meaningful engagement of communities and civil society constituencies in the governance of the Stop TB Partnership we call on the Board to accommodate specific provisions in its operating manual that ensures a fully resourced participation of communities and civil society delegations.

We highly commend the efforts of Stop TB Partnership towards the 2023 United Nations High Level Meeting on TB, especially the support for the creation of the Civil Society & Community Coordination Hub. We know this initiative will contribute to an informed, engaged and coordinated TB advocacy campaign.

Based on the principle of “Nothing about us without us”, we remind the Board, Secretariat, governments, donors and development partners to ensure inclusion and active participation of TB-affected community and civil society organizations in all aspects of the UNHLM.

We recognize and appreciate the leadership and all the support of His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi to end TB in India before the global target of 2030. Following the lead of India’s TB Champions in the *Varanasi Statement*, we call on PM Modi to continue his exemplary efforts, attend the UNHLM on TB later this year and use political

platforms – such as the G20 he is leading – to secure not only high-level participation but also ambitious plans from other Heads of State and Heads of Government from TB high-burden countries and to speak with donors to similarly make strong commitments so that we reach our goals to end TB by 2030.

The Community, Developing Country NGO and Developed Country NGO Delegations would like to extend our significant appreciation to the Board and Secretariat of Stop TB Partnership in the preparation for this meeting, and for facilitating a meaningful space for the Community and NGO Delegations to strategize and coordinate in advance of the Stop TB Partnership Board Meeting. Finally, we applaud our colleagues and our peers from India and the thousands of TB champions who are making a change in people's lives and as a network continue to grow and thrive. They embody community leadership and a community movement. They welcomed us and shared their vision for a way forward with the release of the *Varanasi Statement*. We congratulate them and look forward to our continuing partnership.

From Varanasi, India - Together we can end this epidemic. Together we can realize a world without TB. Yes, We Can End TB!!

Community Delegation to STP Board

Developing Country NGO Delegation to STP Board

Developed Country NGO Delegation to STP Board