

EMPOWERING CSOs AND COMMUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT IN UN HLM

A practical guide to preparing for and participating in UN HLM, including as part of national delegations



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Acronyms

AMR	Antimicrobial resistance
EECA	Eastern Europe and Central Asia
WHO	World Health Organization
UHC	Universal health coverage
GA	General Assembly
MoH	Ministry of Health
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NTP	National Tuberculosis Program
CSO	Civil society organization
UN	United Nations
PD	Political Declaration
UN HLM	UN High-Level Meeting
TB	Tuberculosis



Introduction

Every year, a session of the UN General Assembly (GA) dedicated to discussion of the most important global issues is held in New York, USA. One of the formats for the meeting of the GA during such a session is UN High-Level Meeting (UN HLM).

When members of civil society or TB-affected communities learn about a planned UN HLM on TB or another related topic, they often do not know well why and how they should get involved in the processes concerning the meeting.

This guide will give you a clear idea about the goals of involvement of CSOs/communities in preparation for and participation in UN HLM, including as a part of your national delegation, and about specific advocacy steps that can be taken at each stage before or during UN HLM.

The purpose of this document is to demonstrate an algorithm for engaging civil society in UN HLM processes, define so-called entry points and potential results of CSO and community advocacy efforts, and to provide the activists with relevant advocacy tools prepared and used by TBEC. This information can be used in practical preparation for UN HLM 2028 on TB and other related topics. Also, it may be useful for advocacy work in preparation for any other high-level international events.

Practical recommendations and draft advocacy materials provided herein are based on many years of experience of the TB Europe Coalition in organizing engagement of EECA region civil society and communities in the processes before the UN High-Level Meetings on tuberculosis in 2018 and 2023, and the UN High-Level Meeting on antimicrobial resistance of 2024. Besides, while preparing the guide, we have analyzed the best consolidated experience of international, regional and country civil society organizations in preparation for and participation in UN HLM.



Section 1

ABOUT UN HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

1.1. What is a UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting?

UN General Assembly (GA) is the most representative UN body including all 193 UN member states. These states (and your state is definitely one of them) have the right to take part in UN activities and vote in the GA.

UN meetings take place annually in New York City (USA) and are dedicated to discuss the most important global issues. In 2024, when this guide was published, the 79th GA session was held.

To discuss specific urgent or globally relevant topics, GA convenes High-Level Meetings or Special Sessions. UN High-Level Meetings produce Political Declarations adopted by member states.



1.2. UN HLM Political Declaration is the key international strategic document

► It is important to keep in mind that despite the fact that the GA plays a key part in global policy making and facilitates interstate cooperation for resolving global problems and challenges, its resolutions on health (for the UN HLM those are the Political Declarations) have the status of soft law, i.e. they are advisory rather than mandatory.

Nevertheless, they outline strategic directions of global development in different areas and emphasize the willingness of UN member states to follow those directions. Thus, these Political Declarations form a strong advocacy basis that CSOs, communities or other stakeholders may use to demand that governments of UN member states perform on their commitments.

A UN HLM Political Declaration is an international strategic document covering a response to a problem and providing a list of specific targets and commitments the countries take for the next few years (until the next UN HLM dedicated to this topic) aiming to eliminate the problem. E.g., the first Political Declaration on TB was adopted by UN HLM on TB in 2018 for the term of five years; in 2023, the second UN HLM on TB was held which adopted another Political Declaration, also for five years; the third UN HLM on TB which will adopt the next Political Declaration is expected to convene in 2028.

▶ UN HLM Political Declarations are always translated into the six official UN languages: English, Russian, Spanish, German, French, Arabic, and Chinese. Sometimes, more translations are published, e.g. in German, Portuguese, etc.

We propose that you read the four health-related UN HLM Political Declarations adopted in 2023-2024 and published on the official web site of the UN:

**Political Declaration on TB
(2023)**



↓
DOWNLOAD

**Political Declaration on Universal
Health Care (UHC)
(2023)**



↓
DOWNLOAD

**Political Declaration on Pandemic
Prevention, Preparedness and
Response (PPPR) (2023)**



↓
DOWNLOAD

**Political Declaration
on Antimicrobial Resistance
(2024)**



↓
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1.3. How is UN HLM prepared and conducted?

A UN High-Level Meeting is held as a part of a UN General Assembly which usually begins on the third week of September in New York City (USA). For each UN HLM, several co-organizer states are selected, the missions (representative offices at the UN) perform the formalities related with the particular UN HLM and often play a key part in the preparations. For UN HLM on TB (2023) and UN HLM on AMR (2024), pairs of co-organizers were selected: Poland and Uzbekistan for the TB UN HLM, and Malta and Barbados – for the AMR UN HLM.

During the advocacy work, including offline meetings with representatives of the mission, written communication with the leadership of UNGA or missions on various UN HLM-related issues, CSOs/communities should communicate persistently with missions of the countries co-organizing the UN HLM.

Topics, format, timeframe and other details of a UN HLM are regulated by a special resolution published early in the year of the UN HLM (usually in late January or early February). This document is usually titled 'Scope, modalities, format and organization of the UN High-Level Meeting' and is preliminarily discussed with the representatives of all the country missions to the UN. After the preliminary discussion of this document, missions of the co-organizer countries submit the draft resolution on the terms of UN HLM to the President of the UNGA for approval. UNGA President elected for a year to preside over meetings, moderate discussions and represent the GA in various activities of the UN, upon the end of the special 'silent procedure' (the period when UN member states can still submit their remarks to the document after its approval, which leads to revision of the documents, after which the 'silent procedure' is announced again; this can be repeated several times) shall adopt and publish the resolution about the terms of the UN HLM. You can read such resolutions adopted for [UN HLM on TB \(2023\)](#) and [UN HLM on AMR \(2024\)](#).

The resolution about the terms of UN HLM contains, in addition to all factual information about the planned UN HLM required to get a clear understanding about its agenda, timing, preparation stages, participants, premises and objectives, it provides recommendations of the UNGA regarding the importance of inclusion of representatives of civil society and communities in the delegations to the UN HLM, which may be useful for advocacy in the countries.

Basically, after the publication of the resolution about the UN HLM, active advocacy work of civil society and communities at the national level begins. Its main stages and practical steps are presented in detail in [Section 2.1](#) of this guide. One of the key events for global advocacy that can be attended by representatives of CSOs/communities is Multi-stakeholder Hearings organized by UNGA in New York City usually in May or early June of the same year when UN HLM is to take place (please see the examples of [registration](#) for Multi-stakeholder Hearings before the UN HLM on TB and example of the [agenda](#) of Multi-stakeholder Hearings before UN HLM on TB, UN HLM on UHC and on PPPR). Such Multi-stakeholder Hearings are convened for the GA to collect primary requests from all stakeholders to the text of the future 'zero' draft of the Political Declaration. When financially viable, representatives of CSOs and communities may, individually or in groups organized by international organizations, get registered and attend the Hearings (see an example of [registration](#) for Multi-stakeholder Hearings before UN HLM on TB).

For example, before UN HLM on TB (2023) and UN HLM on AMR (2024), Stop TB Partnership formed delegations of representatives of CSOs/communities and organized their attendance of the Multi-stakeholder Hearings. Before the Multi-stakeholder Hearings, Stop TB Partnership and its partners produced and published the key asks of the community: for UN HLM on TB (2023) and for UN HLM on AMR (2024). These key asks became the basis for advocacy activities of the CSOs/communities in the course of work of missions of UN member states on the respective Political Declarations. See [Sections 2.2](#) and [2.3](#) to learn about the way this advocacy work was done and what necessary practical steps can be made by representatives of CSOs/communities.



To figure out how specifically representatives of civil society can influence the future text of the key international strategic document, one needs to have a good understanding of the established procedure for its drafting and approval. As has already been mentioned above, a 'zero draft' of a Political Declaration is prepared by the UNGA based on the results of Multi-stakeholder Hearings and internal consultations, situational reports on global problems, analysis of performance on the previous Political Declaration on this theme (if any), etc. (examples of 'zero drafts' of the [PD of UN HLM on TB](#) and the [PD of UN HLM on AMR](#)). This 'zero draft' of the PD is then submitted for review to country missions at the UN who later play the key part in working on the document. **This is why it is crucial that representatives of civil society and communities establish effective communication with members of their country mission at the UN and, wherever possible, with missions from other countries** ([contact data of the missions of all the UN member states](#)). The steps to be made to establish such cooperation are presented in detail in [Section 2.2](#). After receiving the 'zero draft' of the PD, a country mission shall formally refer this draft document to its Ministry of Foreign Affairs for consultations and collecting official asks from the country. It is the MFA that is usually the key national executive body responsible for participation of the country in a UN HLM and directly interacting with the country's mission to the UN. At the same time, with regard to health-related UN HLM, the MFA communicates with

the MoH on the issues of actual content of the documents, including representatives of the national healthcare system in the national delegations, etc.

The 'zero draft' of the PD submitted by the country mission to the MFA is often the only formal 'window of opportunities' for country's submission of national asks. So, at this stage, the role of CSOs/communities may be very important and helpful, because without their advocacy, the document may fail to attract proper attention from the MFA and MoH. At the same time, if the preparation work is planned and organized well, CSOs/communities may successfully promote national consultations on forming the key asks of the country to the PD draft and including those asks that are relevant for country's civil society and communities. National-level asks have to be formally submitted by the MoH to the MFA, which then submits them to country's mission to UN for possible inclusion in the text of the PD. See [Section 2.3](#) to learn more about the stages and practical steps to be taken by civil society and communities as a part of work with the PD text.

After completion of this stage within the time frame set by the GA, missions in New York City begin actual work on agreeing the PD text. Usually, this work involves multiple consultations and debates, and upon each round of those an updated version of the PD is made. Depending on whether certain key asks are getting included, CSOs/communities revise the emphasis of their advocacy and their messages in communications with the missions. This goes on until the final approval of the draft PD that is submitted to consideration of the participants of the UN HLM. As a rule, after the end of the UN HLM, text of the PD does not receive substantial changes compared to the final draft, but minor amendments following discussions during the UN HLM are still possible. That is why a Political Declaration is published on the UN web site a few weeks after the UN HLM. The full list of possible stages of CSO/community advocacy work aimed at improving the text of a PD is given in [Section 2.3](#).

For example, the work on the text of the Political Declaration on TB (2023) took place from May 15, 2023, when the 'zero draft' was presented, to late September; representatives of the country missions discussed the draft PD and submitted their proposals during eight rounds of the debates; despite the 'silence procedure' announced in August 2023, editions were introduced until a few days before the UN HLM on TB.

UN HLM itself is usually held throughout a whole day at the building of the UNGA. Usually, this event precisely follows the Concept Note published on the eve of the Meeting (see the examples of the Concept Notes for [UN HLM on TB](#) and [UN HLM on AMR](#)) and comprises of several segments:

- **Opening** (usually taking about 30 minutes) includes speeches by the President of the GA and/or his deputies, leaders of key international organizations/UN agencies, people affected by the problem that is the theme of the UN HLM.
- **Plenary session** (taking usually about seven hours) including speeches by representatives of UN member states and specialized UN agencies. A representative of a country is given three minutes, while a representative of a group of countries has five minutes to speak. Country representatives speak in a certain order: from higher-level officials to lower-level ones. Thus, the higher is the level of representation of a country at the UN HLM, i.e. the higher the position of the speaker, the closer to opening of the event they will speak. This is one of the reasons why it is recommended to do active advocacy in the countries to try and involve first persons or high officials of the state to represent the country at the UN HLM. For example, at the UN HLM on TB in 2023, the speakers of the plenary session were: a president, 61 ministers of health, and seven ministers of foreign affairs.

- Parallel **Multilateral panel discussions** dedicated to various aspects of the theme of the UN HLM (both the UN HLM on TB and the UN HLM on AMR included two such discussions each, taking place in separate rooms for two hours). Registered attendees of the UN HLM representing civil society and communities may prepare a message to deliver at such a panel discussion and submit it to UN HLM organizers in response to registration confirmation. However, this does not guarantee that these attendees will be given an opportunity to speak at a panel discussion. When too many attendees request a speech at the two-hour panel discussion, not all of them will be given an opportunity to speak. Though we do not know the algorithm for speaker selection, our observations show that representatives of state authorities or large and significant organizations are more likely to speak. Nevertheless, representatives of CSOs and communities also have a chance, and our colleagues from our region have delivered their messages at such panel discussions.
- **Closure** (usually taking about 30 minutes) dedicated to summing up the UN HLM, including summaries of the multilateral panel discussions, and adopting a Political Declaration.

Representatives of CSOs/communities who have financial opportunities may take immediate part in UN HLM, including as a part of their national delegation. See [Section 2.5](#) to learn how to organize participation of civil society and communities in UN HLM. See [Section 2.4](#) to learn more about advocacy work aimed at including CSO/community representatives in national delegations.

Please note that neither timely registration of CSO/community representatives for attending a UN HLM, nor inclusion in a national delegation mean funding of their travel to New York City. It is worth to include the potential travel expenses in organization's projects, such as ones funded by the Challenge Facility for Civil Society of the Stop TB Partnership/UNOPS.

As it has already been mentioned, a Political Declaration agreed upon by UN member states is the main product of a UN HLM. This resolatory document is the global guide on achieving targets in the respective area for all stakeholders on international, regional and national levels.

To get a clear picture of how civil society and communities can use this international strategic document in their work and establish a link between their current or planned activities and the targets in commitments set forth in, for example, the Political Declaration on TB, you may read the booklet developed by TBEC: "[UN HLM Political Declaration on TB 2023: Analysis of Opportunities for CSOs and TB-affected Communities Engagement in the Document Implementation and Recommendations on Application of Relevant Advocacy Tools](#)".

It is important to remember that representatives of civil society and communities may both



reasonably urge governments to meeting the commitments undertaken through the adopted PD and themselves actively take part in the process of implementation of many points of this strategic document, and make a significant contribution to drafting of the Political Declaration to ensure it includes key asks of the civil society. To learn more about the work of CSOs/communities aimed at improving the PD text, see [Section 2.3](#).

1.4. Accessing the materials of past UN HLM

At the [official UN web site](#) you can find Political Declarations of all the UNGA meetings and any other official documents you are interested in (voting results, speech transcriptions, etc.).

Besides, video records of all the UN HLM and pre-meeting multi-stakeholder hearings are publicly available. They are posted on the official channel of [UN Web TV](#).

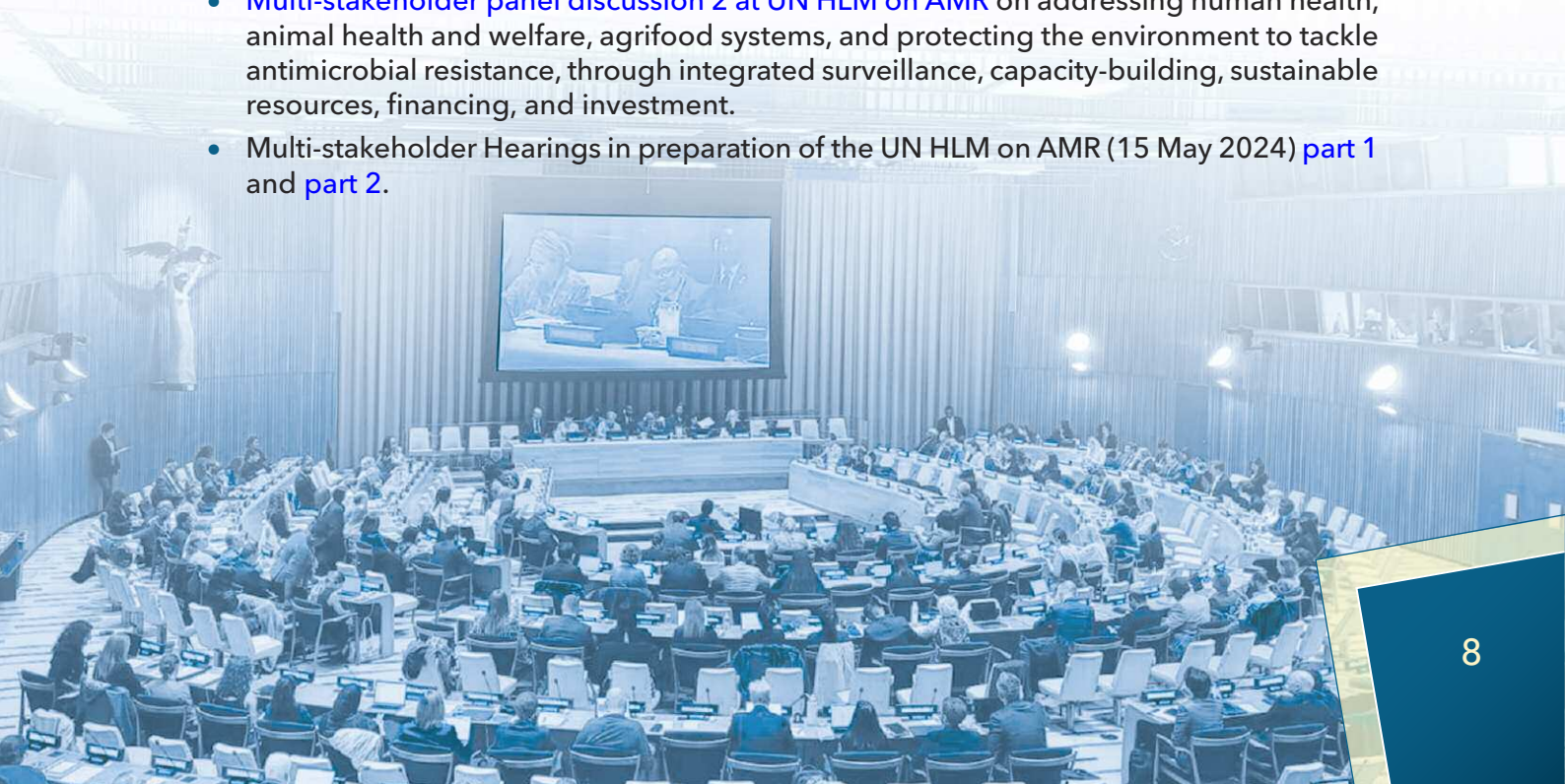
Please consider viewing the videos on:

UN HLM on TB (22 September 2023)

- [UN HLM on TB \(opening, plenary session, closure\)](#).
- [Multi-stakeholder panel discussion 1 at UN HLM on TB](#) on accelerating multisectoral actions and accountability to ensure equitable high quality people-centered tuberculosis care, and addressing determinants of tuberculosis in the context of universal health coverage.
- [Multi-stakeholder panel discussion 2 at UN HLM on TB](#) on scaling up adequate and sustainable national, regional and international financing to ensure equity in tuberculosis service delivery, innovative strategies, as well as for the research and development of new diagnostics, vaccines and medicines.
- [Multi-stakeholder Hearings in preparation of the UN HLM on TB](#) (8 May 2023).

UN HLM on AMR (26 September 2024)

- [UN HLM on AMR \(opening, plenary session, closure\)](#).
- [Multi-stakeholder panel discussion 1 at UN HLM on AMR](#) on addressing the urgent antimicrobial resistance crisis across the human, animal, plant, and environmental sectors through equity, access, building awareness, and innovation.
- [Multi-stakeholder panel discussion 2 at UN HLM on AMR](#) on addressing human health, animal health and welfare, agrifood systems, and protecting the environment to tackle antimicrobial resistance, through integrated surveillance, capacity-building, sustainable resources, financing, and investment.
- [Multi-stakeholder Hearings in preparation of the UN HLM on AMR \(15 May 2024\) part 1 and part 2](#).



Section 2

PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CSOs AND COMMUNITIES IN PREPARATION FOR AND CONDUCTING OF UN HLM: PRACTICAL STEPS AND ADVOCACY TOOLS

Civil society organizations and TB-affected communities traditionally play an important part in countries' preparations to UN High-Level Meetings and contribute significantly to improving the text of the Political Declarations.

Strong advocacy efforts of civil society members in preparation for UN HLM may be aimed at:

- Mainstreaming the issues of importance of participation in the UN HLM and working on the text of the Political Declaration at the national level, including among national decision makers, and promoting engagement of the head of the state and/or head of the government in the UN HLM;
- Informing representatives of country missions to UN about the specifics of the theme of the UN HLM and exposing them to the subject by explaining, in particular, the importance of key asks from civil society/communities in order to ensure effective work on the draft PD;
- Introducing targets and commitments important for the CSOs/communities into the text of the Political Declaration;
- Including representatives of CSOs and communities in the national delegations sent to the UN HLM;
- Involvement of a broad range of representatives of CSOs and communities in the plenary session and multi-stakeholder panel discussions at the UN HLM and the side events.

Each individual task or a set of these tasks as a comprehensive effort will require coordinated and well-thought actions on behalf of CSOs/communities; such actions are described in detail in this section of the guide.

It will also be interesting for you to learn about the barriers representatives of CSOs-communities have faced at each stage of preparation for and participation in the UN HLM on TB 2023, and how similar barriers could be overcome in future – detailed information about it is provided in the booklet [“The Role of Civil Society and TB-affected Communities in preparation for UN High-Level Meeting on TB: Lessons Learned and Practical Recommendations”](#) prepared by the Center for Health Policies and Studies (PAS Center) with the support from Stop TB Partnership.

And now let us discuss one by one the practical steps that can be made by CSOs/communities to fulfill each of the above objectives, and what advocacy tools can be used for that.

2.1. Mainstreaming the issues of importance of participation in the UN HLM and working on the text of the Political Declaration at the national level, including among national decision makers, and promoting engagement of the head of the state and/or head of the government in the UN HLM

► Sometimes decision makers and other national partners are not sufficiently informed about or interested in the theme of the UN HLM. Waiting for the MFA to provide some official information, relevant state authorities may lose precious time for preparation of key asks to the Political Declaration and miss the chance to fully include them in the draft document.

That is why representatives of CSOs and communities may initiate meetings/negotiations with the MoH, NTP, MFA and other stakeholders to explain the importance of UN HLM and the opportunities to influence the final text of the PD, and to agree upon a country plan for preparation and establishing the roles of all the stakeholders.


By getting actively involved in all the events conducted by regional and international organizations for the purpose of preparing CSOs and communities to UN HLM, and by using the materials provided herein, members of civil society and communities are well-placed to mainstream their country's preparation for UN HLM.




We suggest the following practical steps and advocacy tools for mainstreaming the issues of importance of participation in the UN HLM and working on the text of the Political Declaration at the national level, including among national decision makers, and promoting engagement of the head of the state and/or head of the government in the UN HLM.

<div>1</div> <div>Step</div>	<div>Practical steps of CSOs/communities</div> <div>Advocacy and informational tools that could be used</div>	<div>Familiarize yourself with the main information about the upcoming UN HLM.</div> <div>UNGA Resolution “Scope, modalities, format and organization of the UN high-level meeting” (see the examples of such resolutions on UN HLM on TB and UN HLM on AMR).</div> <div>Wherever possible, this document should be translated into the national language and used for advocacy efforts on the country level.</div> <div>January - March</div>
<div>2</div> <div>Step</div>	<div>Practical steps of CSOs/communities</div> <div>Advocacy and informational tools that could be used</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get a good understanding of the key steps of civil society and TB-affected communities in the process of preparation for the UN HLM.• At the country's platform of CSOs/communities, raise the issue of importance of preparation for the UN HLM and select the organization the CSOs/communities will authorize to take part in preparation for the UN HLM on their behalf.• Agree upon a tentative work plan.• Inform the NTP about the organization the CSOs/ communities have authorized to take part in preparation for the UN HLM on their behalf. Also, it is desirable to familiarize NTP with the tentative work plan adopted by the CSO/communities at their country platform in the context of preparation for the UN HLM.</div> <div>This guide.</div> <div>Attending international and informational events and subscribing to newsletters dedicated to the UN HLM.</div> <div>February - March</div>
<div>3</div> <div>Step</div>	<div>Practical steps of CSOs/communities</div> <div>Advocacy and informational tools that could be used</div>	<div>Prepare and send formal letters to the Ministry of Health and/or Head of the State/Head of the Government:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">> asking them to launch the processes of country's preparation for the UN HLM;> proposing to organize an intersectoral meeting to agree upon country's preparation plans;> asking the Head of the State/Head of the Government to personally attend the UN HLM.</div> <div>It is desirable to have these letters signed by as many national stakeholders as possible.</div> <div>You can also facilitate sending a letter encouraging the Head of the State/Head of the Government to attend the UN HLM from MPs.</div> <div>Besides, you can communicate with decision makers requesting them to ask the Head of the State/Head of the Government to personally attend the UN HLM.</div> <div>A sample advocacy letter to the MoH from CSOs/communities before the UN HLM on TB (2023) (Annex 1).</div> <div>A sample advocacy letter to first persons of the state before the UN HLM on TB (2023) (Annex 2).</div> <div>A sample advocacy letter to the MoH from CSOs/communities before the UN HLM on AMR (2024) (Annex 3).</div> <div>A sample advocacy letter to first persons of the state before the UN HLM on AMR (2024) (Annex 4).</div> <div>A sample advocacy letter to first persons of the state before the UN HLM on TB (2023) from MPs (Annex 5).</div> <div>February - May</div>

4 Step

Practical steps of CSOs/communities	Through social media and traditional media, raise the awareness of general public and stakeholders about the importance of the upcoming UN HLM, key asks of the communities to the draft Political Declaration and other important aspects of the UN HLM. This could be the theme for a World TB Day (March 24), World Health Day (April 7) or other socially significant dates – this will also help mainstreaming the topic of the upcoming UN HLM among decision makers.	
Advocacy and informational tools that could be used	Materials of informational campaigns produced by international or regional organizations. Develop and conduct national informational campaigns.	

5 Step

Practical steps of CSOs/communities	Hold personal or intersectoral meetings (incl. in partnership with the NTP) with decision makers (representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the Parliament, etc.) to mainstream the UN HLM-related issues, determine the roles of stakeholders and provide information about key asks of the communities.	
Advocacy and informational tools that could be used	Use the key asks of the communities developed at international level (please see examples of such key asks for UN HLM on TB and UN HLM on AMR) or adapted and agreed upon at the country level.	

2.2. Informing representatives of country missions to UN about the specifics of the theme of the UN HLM and exposing them to the subject by explaining, in particular, the importance of key asks from civil society/communities in order to ensure effective work on the draft PD

► The first opportunity to present key asks of the communities in order to get them included in the zero draft of the Political Declaration opens through participation in UNGA Multi-stakeholder Hearings usually held in May. Several weeks after the Hearings, UNGA issues a zero draft of the Political Declaration, which country missions to the UN then submit for consideration to their MFA to receive feedback in the form of country asks to the PD.

Having received that feedback, country missions to the UN continue negotiations to revise the text of the Political Declaration and advocate for inclusion of the country asks in it.

The practice of introductory meetings between representatives of CSOs and communities (including those from international and regional organizations) and members of country missions to the UN has proven to be a good method for explaining to the latter the rationale behind key asks of the country, including key asks of the TB-affected community, so that they are able to advance the inclusion of such asks in the Political Declaration with more effect. Such meetings are usually held offline in New York City on the eve of the UNGA Multi-stakeholder Hearings before a UN HLM; during these meetings, representatives of CSOs and communities can share information about the problems, main challenges in this area, and about the key asks of the country, including the asks of the communities.

Maintaining further communications with mission personnel helps to more effectively further inclusion of the asks into the text of the Political Declaration on TB.

We suggest the following practical steps and advocacy tools for the purpose of informing representatives of country missions to UN about the specifics of the theme of the UN HLM and exposing them to the subject by explaining, in particular, the importance of key asks from civil society/communities in order to ensure effective work on the draft PD:

<div>1</div> <div>Step</div>	<div>Practical steps of CSOs/communities</div> <div>Through personal or intersectoral meetings and official correspondence (should the meetings prove impossible) with representatives of the MFA, gain their support in establishing communication with the country mission to the UN. The necessity of such a direct communication with the mission can be explained by the need to hold consultations regarding the procedure of conducting the UN HLM and preparation for it, as well as actual work on the draft PD. Ideally, such a meeting/correspondence with the MFA should be conducted by a consolidated group of partners representing health sector (including, for example, representatives of the NTP, MoH, CSOs/communities, international organizations, etc.)</div> <div>March - May</div>
<div>Advocacy and informational tools that could be used</div>	<div>A sample of a letter to the MFA regarding communication with the country mission to the UN before UN HLM on TB (2023) (Annex 6).</div>
<div>2</div> <div>Step</div>	<div>Practical steps of CSOs/communities</div> <div>Hold personal meetings with representatives of country missions to the UN (your country, countries co-organizing the UN HLM, or other countries) before or right after the UNGA Multi-stakeholder Hearings before the UN HLM organized by the GA in New York City, usually in May. Health sector at such meetings may be represented by staff of relevant state authorities, representatives of CSOs/communities, international organizations, etc. During these meetings, you need to present to mission representatives the key asks of the community regarding the PD, as well as the national priorities regarding the theme of the UN HLM, and gain their support in furthering these asks and priorities during the work on the text of the PD. It is important, following such meetings, to establish live communication (by exchanging business cards/contact data) with the mission representative responsible for technical work on the draft PD, and maintain this communication throughout the whole duration of preparation for the UN HLM.</div> <div>May (before or right after the UNGA Multi-stakeholder Hearings before UN HLM)</div>
<div>Advocacy and informational tools that could be used</div>	<div>Use the key asks of the communities developed at international level (please see examples of such key asks for UN HLM on TB and UN HLM on AMR) or adapted and agreed upon at the country level.</div> <div>Use the contact data of the missions of all the UN member states.</div> <div>A sample letter to a country mission to the UN requesting an offline meeting on the eve of the UNGA Multi-stakeholder Hearings before the UN HLM on AMR (Annex 7).</div> <div>After the meetings with country missions to the UN, to ensure further communication with them, send to them letters of appreciation and repeat the key asks of the community once again. A sample of a letter of appreciation after meetings with the missions before the UNGA Multi-stakeholder Hearings before UN HLM on AMR (Annex 8).</div>
<div>3</div> <div>Step</div>	<div>Practical steps of CSOs/communities</div> <div>Maintain efficient communication with the representative of the mission to the UN (within an agreed format – via e-mail or messengers), which will allow you to: 1) obtain information on current changes to the draft PD following discussions at the GA, allowing you to timely adjust your advocacy efforts; 2) support mission staff with information right during their debates on the matters of contest in the PD text; 3) promptly inform them about consolidated country positions with regard to various points in the draft PD.</div> <div>May - September</div>
<div>Advocacy and informational tools that could be used</div>	<div>From the point of view of sensible communication, it would be good to assign one representative of the health sector partners for operative communication with the representative of the country mission to the UN to avoid overloading them with many</div>

Advocacy and informational tools that could be used

different contacts (it is important that this person could always be in touch to promptly respond despite possible time zone difference). Also, you can **create a common chat in any convenient messenger to enable quick communication between the representative of the country mission to the UN and representatives of key national stakeholders**, e.g. during debates.

Practical steps of CSOs/communities

In the interval between debates on the draft PD, send official letters to missions of countries to the UN reminding them that it is important to incorporate key asks of the communities in the document.



4

Step

Advocacy and informational tools that could be used

A sample letter to the missions of countries to the UN providing information on key asks of the community before UN HLM on TB (2023) ([Annex 9](#)).

Use the [contact data of the missions of all the UN member states](#)



2.3. Introducing targets and commitments important for the CSOs/communities into the text of the Political Declaration

► Being the main product of a UN HLM, Political Declaration is the advocacy target that should be the focus of heightened attention of all the stakeholders, including CSOs and communities. Systemic, methodical and persistent work of representatives of civil society and communities aimed at including important key asks in the text of the PD is what determines the final content of this main strategic international document, the guide for the countries on the national, regional and global levels for all the following years until the next UN HLM dedicated to the same theme.

We suggest the following practical steps and advocacy tool to promote inclusion of key asks of CSOs/communities into the final text of the PD:

<div>1</div> <div>Step</div>	<div>Practical steps of CSOs/communities</div> <div><p>Hold a meeting with a wide range of representatives of CSOs/communities to discuss key asks of the communities and select several asks that are of the utmost relevance for the country for further discussion with the relevant state authorities and other stakeholders with the aim of including these points in the consolidated country asks to the Political Declaration.</p><p>In case there are no key asks shaped at the regional/global levels and the zero draft of the Political declaration is also not available, you can analyze the Political Declaration of the previous UN HLM on the relevant theme and identify the provisions that would be important for CSOs/communities in the country, but were not included in that PD; discuss them at this meeting.</p><p>If the zero draft of the PD is expected to have already been published and possibly submitted to the state authorities through official channels, but representatives of civil society do not have access to it, you can send a request to the MoH, NTP or MFA asking them to share the document.</p></div> <div><div>March - May</div></div>
<div>Advocacy and informational tools that could be used</div>	<div>Use the key asks of the communities developed at international level (please see examples of such key asks for UN HLM on TB and UN HLM on AMR) by adapting them at the country level. If possible, translate them into your national language.</div>

<div>2</div> <div>Step</div>	<div>Practical steps of CSOs/communities</div> <div><p>In the format of intersectoral meeting (or any other acceptable format), get the agreement of relevant state authorities (Ministry of Health, NTP, etc.) and other national stakeholders regarding the key asks identified during the meeting of the CSOs/communities or developed by international organizations, so that those asks could be included in country's asks. Also, if you need to jointly process other asks that are important for your country and agree upon a list of consolidated country asks to the Political Declaration (if the zero draft of the PD has already been published by then, you can list the asks as edits to this draft) to be formally submitted to the MFA and/or country's mission to the UN.</p></div> <div><div>March - June</div></div>
<div>Advocacy and informational tools that could be used</div>	<div><p>Use the key asks of the communities developed at international level (please see examples of such key asks for UN HLM on TB and UN HLM on AMR) by adapting them at the country level. If possible, translate them into your national language.</p><p>Sample letter from NTP to MFA on the importance of taking into account the key asks to the PD before the UN HLM on AMR (2024) (Annex 10).</p><p>Zero draft of the Political Declaration (an example of the zero draft of the PD on TB (2023) and zero draft of the PD on AMR (2024)).</p></div>

3 Step

Practical steps of CSOs/communities

Take part in the Multi-stakeholder Hearings of the GA before the UN HLM offline or online (broadcast on the official channel – [UN Web TV](#)) and prepare/make a statement on the key asks of the community to the Political Declaration. For that purpose, when you attend the Hearings, one day in advance you need to submit to the moderator information about yourself and the region you represent – as there are no preliminary list of speakers, this will not guarantee that you will be given to floor to make your statement, but your chances may increase. You can also submit it online by completing the form at the [web site](#).



Advocacy and informational tools that could be used

Timely find the **information about registration** for the current Multi-stakeholder Hearings before the UN HLM and get registered (see the example of [registration](#) for UNGA Multi-stakeholder Hearings before the UN HLM on TB), **and submit your statement of key asks of the community during the online registration**.

Use the key asks of the communities developed at international level (please see examples of such key asks for [UN HLM on TB](#) and [UN HLM on AMR](#)) and **produced consolidated national asks** to be included in the statement.

For better preparedness and awareness about the procedure for participation in the Multi-stakeholder Hearings and statement submission, you need to **get engaged in regional and international events dedicated to preparation for the UN HLM**.

4 Step

Practical steps of CSOs/communities

In partnership with the NTP, establish regular communication with the country mission to the UN to ensure inclusion of the agreed country asks and asks of the community in the draft Political Declaration. If you succeed in establishing an effective process of supporting iterative debates over the text of the PD, the mission representative will further the agreed country asks, and that is why it is important to keep in touch during this period to provide necessary consultations or clarifications.



Advocacy and informational tools that could be used

A sample of a letter to the MFA regarding communication with the country mission to the UN before UN HLM on TB (2023) ([Annex 6](#)).

A sample letter to the missions of countries to the UN providing information on key asks of the community before UN HLM on TB (2023) ([Annex 9](#)).

Use the [contact data of the missions of all the UN member states](#)

Use the key asks of the communities developed at international level (please see examples of such key asks for [UN HLM on TB](#) and [UN HLM on AMR](#)) and consolidated national asks for the PD.

5 Step

Practical steps of CSOs/communities

Prepare and submit to the UNGA President, missions of the countries co-organizing the UN HLM, and missions of other countries the regional advocacy statement requesting including key asks of the communities in the draft Political Declaration.



Advocacy and informational tools that could be used

Use the [contact data of the missions of all the UN member states](#)

Use the key asks of the communities developed at international level (please see examples of such key asks for [UN HLM on TB](#) and [UN HLM on AMR](#)).

An example of the **[regional advocacy statement of the civil society and communities](#)** of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries for the UN HLM on TB (2023) sent as a **collective letter to the President of the General Assembly**.

6 Step

Practical steps of CSOs/communities	Reach to the MFA and MoH of your country asking them to inform the members of the national delegation about the key asks to the PD of the UN HLM and recommend them to include, as much as possible, the relevant country asks in their official statements made at the UN HLM.	June - September
Advocacy and informational tools that could be used	An example of advocacy letter to the MFA and MoH on including key asks in the speech of the delegation representative at the UN HLM on AMR (2024) (Annex 11)	

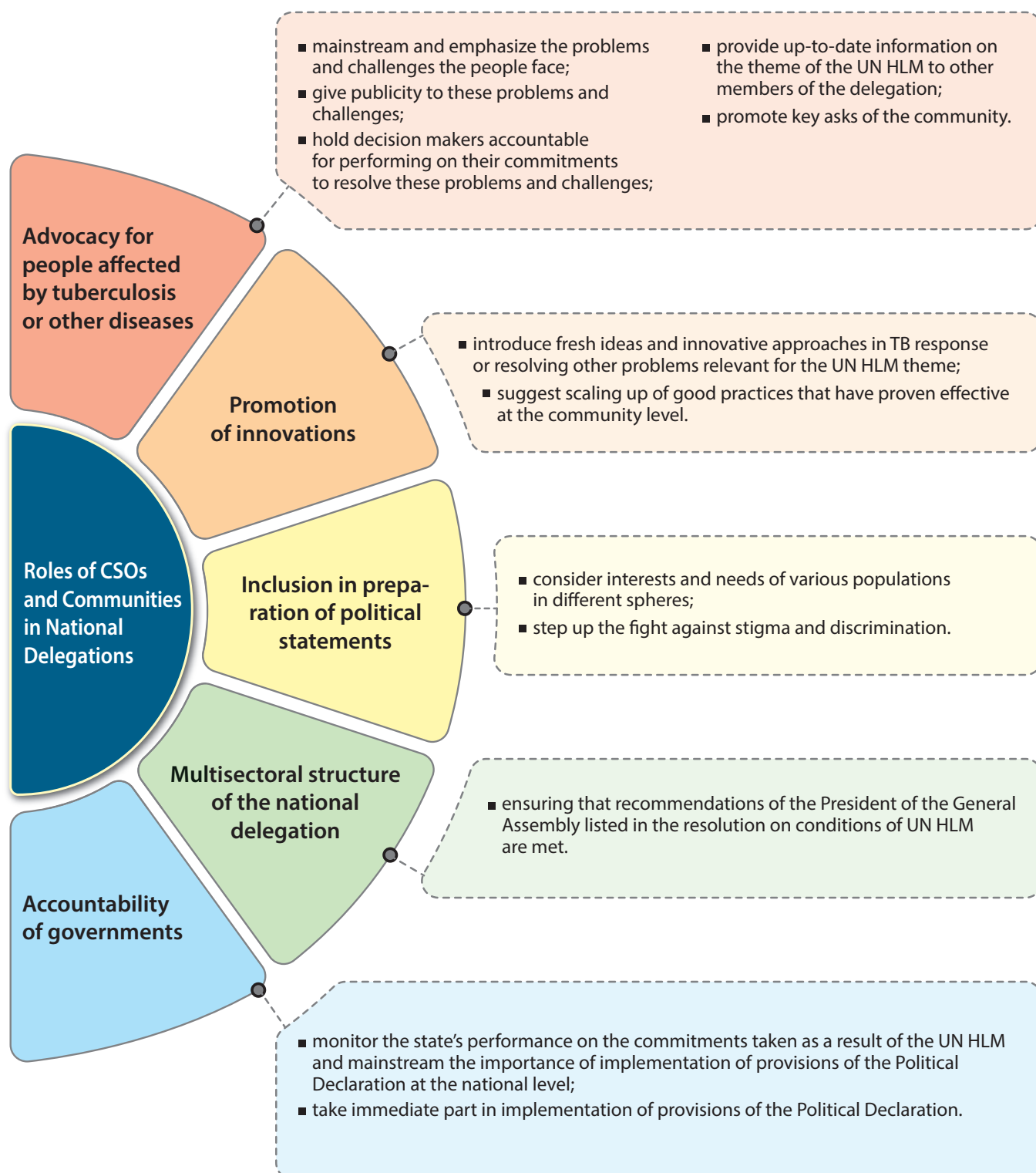
7 Step

Practical steps of CSOs/communities	For offline attendees of the UN HLM, it is important to prepare a statement about the key asks to the PD and submit it in advance in response to accreditation confirmation, and then, if possible, make this statement during the UN HLM.	June (accreditation) - September (the time of the UN HLM)
Advocacy and informational tools that could be used	<p>Accreditation for the UN HLM is normally done in June. See the example of the accreditation for CSOs/communities at the official site of the UN in the Indico system for UN HLM on TB (2023).</p> <p>Use the key asks of the communities developed at international level (please see examples of such key asks for UN HLM on TB and UN HLM on AMR) and consolidated national asks for the PD.</p>	



2.4. Including representatives of CSOs and communities in the national delegations sent to the UN HLM

Representatives of CSOs and communities may play a significant part in their national delegations at UN HLM. As full members of an official delegation, representatives of CSOs/communities are able to take care of the following key issues:



► It is important to remember that the work of representatives of CSOs/communities in the national delegations must be based on broad consultations at the country platforms of civil society and be supported by regular feedback and informing about the results.

Another important point is the fact that inclusion of representatives of CSOs/communities in a national delegation often does not mean that the state will sponsor their participation. Therefore, it is feasible to plan your participation as a part of delegation well in advance, make provisions for your travel in the budget of your organization or ask regional/international organizations for sponsorship.

To help with inclusion of representatives of CSOs and communities in the national delegation of your country at UN HLM, we suggest the following practical steps and advocacy tools:

1 Step	<div> <div>Practical steps of CSOs/communities</div> <div>Negotiate inclusion (and quantity) of representatives of CSOs/communities in your national delegation with the relevant state authority (usually it is the Ministry of Health) according to recommendations given in the resolution of the GA on conditions of the UN HLM (for example, such recommendations were provided in item 11 of the Resolution of the UNGA on the scope, modalities and format of the UN HLM on TB and item 10 of the Resolution of the UNGA on the scope, modalities and format of the UN HLM on AMR).</div> <div>May - June</div> </div>
1 Step	<div> <div>Advocacy and informational tools that could be used</div> <div> <p>Example of a letter to the MoH requesting about including representatives of CSOs and communities in the official country delegation to the UN HLM on AMR (2024) (Annex 12).</p> <p>Example of a letter to the MoH requesting about including representatives of CSOs and communities in the official country delegation to the UN HLM on TB (2023) and agree upon selection criteria (Annex 13).</p> <p>Example of a letter to the MoH requesting about including representatives of CSOs and communities in the official country delegation and holding a broad intersectoral meeting regarding the UN HLM on TB (2023) (Annex 14).</p> <p>Criteria for selection of representatives of CSOs and communities for inclusion in the national delegation submitted for approval to the MoH (Annex 15).</p> </div> </div>
2 Step	<div> <div>Practical steps of CSOs/communities</div> <div> <p>Organize and hold a competition through the country civil society platform to select representatives of CSOs/communities to be included in the official delegation and recommend the selected representatives to the relevant state authority (usually, the Ministry of Health).</p> <p>To hold such a competition, it is necessary to develop and, if needed, to agree with other state authorities and other stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > a list of criteria for selection among the candidates from CSOs/communities; > composition of the competition committee to select the candidates. <p>! To ensure better coordination of possible inclusion of representatives of CSOs/communities in the delegation, it is feasible to propose to the relevant state authority (Ministry of Health, NTP) to delegate a representative to be included in the selection committee.</p> <p>!! You must remember that inclusion of representatives of civil society and TB-affected communities in the official delegation does not guarantee funding of their participation in the UN HLM.</p> <p>!!! If the representatives of CSOs/communities nominated following the competition to be included in the national delegation have a confirmed source of funding of their participation in the UN HLM, it is worth to mention it in the official letter to the relevant authorities, so that lack of public funding does not become a reason for denial of inclusion in the delegation.</p> </div> <div>May - July</div> </div>

3 Step

Advocacy and informational tools that could be used	<p>Guide on selection of candidates for inclusion in the national delegation and on registration CSOs/communities for UN HLM on TB (Annex 16).</p> <p>Example of a letter to the MoH requesting about including representatives of CSOs and communities in the official country delegation to the UN HLM on TB (2023) and agree upon selection criteria (Annex 13).</p> <p>Criteria for selection of representatives of CSOs and communities for inclusion in the national delegation submitted for approval to the MoH (Annex 15).</p>
Practical steps of CSOs/communities	<p>Register your organization in advance, during the registration for a wide range of CSOs and societies (usually, it is done in June) to prevent losing the chance to go to the UN HLM.</p> <p>Members of the national delegation are registered for attending the UN HLM by the staff of the country mission to the UN working in contact with relevant state authorities. This registration takes place several weeks before the UN HLM when registration for all other categories of participants (CSOs/communities, organizations granted consultative status by ECOSOC) are already closed.</p> <p>To avoid the situation where, because of incorrect documentary formalities, your representative of CSOs/communities who is a member of delegation does not get registered as a participant of the UN HLM, you should register your registration for the Meeting on a general basis, just in case.</p> <p>And, within the deadline provided by the UNGA for registration of delegation members, it is important to make sure that the representative of CSOs/communities has been registered; request the confirmation from representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs or country mission to the UN who have also been included in the delegation.</p>
Advocacy and informational tools that could be used	<p>Accreditation for the UN HLM is normally done in June. See the example of the accreditation for CSOs/communities at the official site of the UN in the Indico system for UN HLM on TB (2023).</p> <p>Guide on selection of candidates for inclusion in the national delegation and on registration CSOs/communities for UN HLM on TB (Annex 16).</p>



2.5. Involvement of a broad range of representatives of CSOs and communities in the plenary session and multi-stakeholder panel discussions at the UN HLM and the side events

When they have the necessary funding, members of civil society and communities, even if they are not on the official delegation of their country, may independently attend the UN HLM provided that their organizations have been accredited at the UN web site in due time.

► It is very important to follow closely the information about the deadlines for registration of organizations for UN HLM, and actively share this information with your colleagues at the country and regional/international levels. It is worth registering your organization for participation even if you do not have confirmed funding of the travel to New York City, because, quite often, closer to the date of the UN HLM, regional and international organizations find some free resources to support participation of representatives of CSOs/communities in the UN HLM. However, if your organization was not accredited for participation in the UN HLM in due time (several months before the UN HLM), you will not be able to change that.

Organizations that have been granted consultative status by ECOSOC (UN Economic and Social Council) should check whether their status is still effective before the end

To promote involvement of a broad range of representatives of CSOs and communities in the plenary session and multi-stakeholder panel discussions at the UN HLM and the side events, we propose the following practical steps and advocacy tools:

21

5 Step

Practical steps of CSOs/communities

Take part in a multi-stakeholder panel sessions at the UN HLM and, if possible, make your prepared statement including key asks for the PD.

September
(participation in the UN HLM)

Advocacy and informational tools that could be used

Use the key asks of the communities developed at international level (please see examples of such key asks for [UN HLM on TB](#) and [UN HLM on AMR](#)) and consolidated national asks for the PD.

6 Step

Practical steps of CSOs/communities

Inform representatives of CSOs/communities taking part in the UN HLM remotely about the opportunity to access online broadcast of the Meeting via the [official web platform of the UN](#).

September
(participation in the UN HLM)

Through social media and other available informational resources, share live information about the course of the UN HLM, the issues discussed and statements made there, about the adopted Political Declaration and side events (which usually take place in New York City throughout the whole week of the High-Level Meeting).

Advocacy and informational tools that could be used

Promote the link to the broadcast via your informational resources: [UN Web TV](#)

Create your own live content about the course of the UN HLM and share it via your personal or organization's informational resources.

The list of side events is disseminated by international and regional organizations on the eve of the week of the High-Level Meeting. Some events may be closed for general attendees or, because of limited space, require prior registration.



CONCLUSION

Results of the UN High-Level Meetings on tuberculosis (2023) and on antimicrobial resistance (2024) our guide is based on have proven that country CSOs and communities in partnership with and under leadership of international and regional organizations really do play an important part in preparation for and conducting of UN HLM.

Thanks to massive efforts of representatives of CSOs and communities, with the support from Stop TB Partnership and in partnership with country missions to the UN, present Political Declaration on TB contains measurable and time-bound targets on detection, diagnosing and treatment of people with TB, and on funding TB response and innovations. One of important commitments of the states in this Political Declaration on TB is strengthening the financial and social protection of people affected by TB.

The Political Declaration on AMR contains multiple references to TB and an extended paragraph on drug-resistant TB, strong wording on stigma and discrimination related to TB and AMR, important mentions of research and development work (on sharing the benefits of scientific progress, state investment in research and development, international cooperation in the area of clinical trials, technology transfer and voluntary licensing, building up local and regional capacity, etc.) and issues related to vaccines that emphasize the lack of funding, the need in decisive actions, shared use of achievements of science and fair access, and so on.

It must be noted, however, that in the course of advocacy work in preparation for the UN HLM, representatives of CSOs and TB-affected communities every now and then encountered barriers that prevented them from achieving their goals at different stages. It is important to take into account that, if the CSOs and communities are aware of these barriers, they can successfully overcome many of them. To avoid frustrating blunders and mistakes when preparing for next UN HLM and make your advocacy even more successful, we propose you to read the booklet [“The Role of Civil Society and TB-affected Communities in preparation for UN High-Level Meeting on TB: Lessons Learned and Practical Recommendations”](#) prepared by the Center for Health Policies and Studies (PAS Center) with the support from Stop TB Partnership.

It is also important to remember that advocacy work does not end with the end of UN HLM, it switches to a new focus: now, the efforts applied by CSOs and communities must fully target implementation of the provisions of the PD approved by the countries and holding the governments accountable for performance thereof. TBEC have analyzed how CSOs/communities can get involved in implementation of a Political Declaration and described respective recommendations in the booklet [“UN HLM Political Declaration on TB 2023: Analysis of Opportunities for CSOs and TB-affected Communities Engagement in the Document Implementation and Recommendations on Application of Relevant Advocacy Tools”](#) which was also produced with the support from Stop TB Partnership.

We are confident that, by combining our accumulated knowledge and experience in preparation for and participation in UN High-Level Meetings, including as a part of our national delegations, we will achieve significant progress in empowering CSOs and communities for more substantial involvement in the UN HLM and other high-level events.



Annex 1

A template of a letter to the MoH from CSOs and communities before the UN HLM on TB



DOWNLOAD

To the Minister of Health of [COUNTRY]

Your Excellence, [REDACTED]!

Let me express my deep respect to you and address the following.

On September 22, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly is holding a High-Level Meeting on TB (hereinafter referred to as the UNHLM on TB) which is a landmark event in the fight against TB that unites at the highest political level the aspirations of 193 UN Member States to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goal 3](#), in particular target 3.3 of ending the TB epidemic by 2030.

Given the importance of the UNHLM on TB in fighting the global TB epidemic, the countries are encouraged to participate at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government. During the plenary segment of the event, each Member State delegation participating in the UNHLM on TB will have the opportunity to give a statement within the time limit of 3 minutes.

The ambitious goals and commitments set out in Political Declaration approved after the UNHLM on TB (hereinafter referred to as the Political Declaration) should certainly reflect the real needs and capabilities of countries, taking into account the current situation in the global health system, including the consequences and possible risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the national context to make it possible to end the TB epidemic by 2030.

Considering the current situation in the field of public health in [COUNTRY] and the possible effect of regional and global humanitarian crises, we consider it necessary to reflect on the existing challenges in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of TB when developing the country's key asks for the Political Declaration. In order to carry out timely and systematic work on these developments, we ask you to involve the representatives of civil society and TB-affected communities in the discussion and preparation of documents related to the UNHLM on TB and/or the Political Declaration.

In particular, we ask your excellence [REDACTED] to hold a broad multisectoral meeting to discuss the key stages of preparation for the UNHLM on TB and developments in requests for the Political Declaration taking into account the global processes. We suggest involving in this meeting representatives of the Ministry of Health of [COUNTRY], the NTP, the Country Coordinating Mechanism, parliamentarians, representatives of international organizations working in the [COUNTRY] and involved in the global processes of preparation for the UNHLM on TB, as well as representatives of civil society organizations and TB-affected communities. In addition, we inform you that [OUR ORGANIZATION] is ready to provide technical support in organizing this meeting, having coordinated the agenda and speakers, date, time and format of the meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Health.

We will also be grateful for the opportunity to get familiarized with the official documents regarding the UNHLM on TB and/or the Political Declaration, which will be provided to the Ministry of Health of [COUNTRY] by the Permanent Representative of [COUNTRY] to the UN, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of [COUNTRY], international organizations.

We also ask you, in accordance with the recommendations of the UN General Assembly resolution on scope, modalities, format and organization of the HLM on TB, to envisage the inclusion of representatives of civil society and TB-affected communities in the official delegation of [COUNTRY] to the UNHLM on TB, ensuring that appropriate competition was initiated.

For any questions regarding engagement with civil society and TB-affected communities affected by TB in the scope of preparation for the UNHLM on TB, please contact [REDACTED] at phone [REDACTED] or email: [REDACTED].

With gratitude for the cooperation,

SIGNATURE

Annex 2

A template of a letter to first persons of the state from CSOs and communities before the UN HLM on TB



DOWNLOAD

To the President of [Country]

Name, Surname

or

to the Prime minister of [Country]

Name, Surname

CC: Minister of Foreign Affairs of

[Country]

Name, Surname

Minister of Health of [Country]

Name, Surname

Your Excellency, _____

We have the honour to address you on behalf of the key civil society organisations and communities of [COUNTRY] that are implementing programs and policies in the field of tuberculosis (hereinafter referred to as TB) at the national and local levels and have been dedicated to ending this deadly infectious disease for many years.

On September 22, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as the UNGA), within the framework of the 78th session in New York, is holding a High-Level Meeting on TB (hereinafter referred to as the UNHLM on TB). This landmark event in the fight against TB unites at the highest political level the aspirations of 193 UN Member States to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of [Sustainable Development Goal 3](#), in particular target 3.3 of ending the TB epidemic by 2030. Given the importance of the UNHLM on TB in fighting the global TB epidemic, the states are encouraged to participate at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government. During the plenary segment of the event, each Member State delegation participating in the UNHLM TB will have the opportunity to give a statement within the time limit of 3 minutes.

The forthcoming UNHLM on TB is aimed to undertake a comprehensive review of the achievement of agreed TB goals at national, regional and global levels, as agreed by countries in the Political Declaration on TB adopted at the HLM of the General Assembly in 2018, and to identify systemic gaps and adopt appropriate solutions to accelerate progress towards ending the TB epidemic by 2030.

This year's UNHLM on TB is a critical moment in the fight against TB, when, according to the UN General Assembly and global international organizations the COVID-19 pandemic has a disproportionately heavy impact on health and development gains, thus hampering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and creating additional setbacks in achieving the targets set out in the 2018 Political Declaration on TB. According to the [WHO Global TB Report 2022](#), the global TB epidemic was responsible for 1.6 million deaths in 2021, and despite the gains achieved in the TB response, progress has been uneven among and within countries.

TB is an acute public health problem for our country as well. Thus, according to WHO, in 2021, the incidence of TB in the [COUNTRY] was [REDACTED] people, of which [REDACTED] people with multidrug-resistant forms of the disease and [REDACTED] with HIV/TB co-infection. TB deaths in 2021 amounted to [REDACTED] people.

Despite the significant slowdowns in progress on the way to ending TB, the Stop TB Partnership's Global Plan to End TB 2023–2030 shows that with political will, strategic policies and adequate funding, it is still possible to end TB by 2030.

As a result of the UNHLM on TB, a Political Declaration will be adopted in 2023 which will include a set of clear goals, guide and commitments that countries agree to take on and implement to improve the situation in ending TB. The Political Declaration on TB will be developed by the UNGA based on an analysis of the implementation of the goals and commitments undertaken by countries in 2018, and taking into account the key asks voiced by the participants during the multi-stakeholder hearings on May 8-9, 2023 in New York, as well as submitted through country missions to the UN.

Thus, the involvement of government authorities at the highest level from now and until the UNHLM on TB is essential in order to ensure that the key asks for the Political Declaration on TB in 2023 fully reflect the position of [COUNTRY] on the necessary actions to TB response at the national, regional and global levels.

Considering the above, we appeal to you, excellency [REDACTED], with a request to personally participate in the UNHLM on TB and lead the multisectoral national delegation of [COUNTRY].

On behalf of the hundreds of people affected by TB, medical and social workers, scientists, experts, and activists who are making daily efforts to overcome the incidence of TB in [COUNTRY], we look forward to your support and ask you to use the unprecedented opportunity provided by the UNHLM on TB to eliminate the disease worldwide and to prioritize at the highest government level the issue of access to high-quality TB care for every citizen in [COUNTRY].

For our part, civil society organizations and communities affected by TB will be grateful for the opportunity to actively participate in the processes related to the preparation of [COUNTRY] for participation in the UN HLM on TB, and will be happy to share all the necessary information, including from personal experience in ending TB.

To discuss any additional matters referred to in this letter, please contact [REDACTED].

With high respect,

Annex 3

A template of a letter to the MoH from CSOs and communities before the UN HLM on AMR



DOWNLOAD

To the Minister of Health of [COUNTRY]

Your Excellence, [NAME] !

Let me express my deep respect to you and address the following.

As you are aware, on 26 September 2024 the United Nations General Assembly is holding a High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (hereinafter referred to as the UN HLM on AMR) which is a landmark event in the fight against AMR that unites the political aspirations of 193 UN member states. The resulting UN HLM on AMR Political Declaration for the next 5 years will guide countries at national, regional and global levels and provide an important framework for addressing drug-resistant infections, including tuberculosis (hereafter referred to as TB), which is considered a major driver of the silent pandemic of AMR.

It is important to note that the current draft Political Declaration on AMR has been significantly optimized in the context of the related issues of TB and AMR compared to the zero draft document proposed by the General Assembly in May 2024. This was made possible thanks to the active involvement of civil society and affected communities, with the support of the Stop TB Partnership and in close cooperation with country missions to the UN.

Thus, the current draft Political Declaration on AMR contains numerous references to TB and an extended paragraph on drug-resistant TB, strong language on stigma and discrimination related to TB and AMR, important references to research and development (on sharing the benefits of scientific progress, public investment in research and development, international collaboration in clinical trials, technology transfer and voluntary licensing, strengthening local and regional capacities, etc.), and vaccine-related issues that highlight the lack of funding, the need for decisive action, sharing of achievements and equitable access, etc.

Given the above, as well as the significant role of civil society and communities affected by TB in the fight against drug-resistant infections in [COUNTRY], we kindly ask you, dear [NAME], to consider the possibility of including representatives of civil society and communities affected by TB in the official delegation of [COUNTRY] to the UN HLM on AMR. We also inform you that the recommendations of the [UN General Assembly Resolution on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the UN HLM on AMR](#) (paragraph 10) encourage UN Member States to include representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations in their delegations to make a fundamental contribution in terms of raising awareness of the importance of addressing the problem of antimicrobial resistance.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the work of the official [COUNTRY] delegation and to highlight the issue of TB in the context of fighting AMR during the UN HLM on AMR.

For any questions regarding engagement with civil society and TB-affected communities in connection with the UN HLM on AMR, please contact [NAME] by phone [PHONE] or email [EMAIL].

With gratitude for the cooperation,

[SIGNATURE]

Annex 4

A template of a letter to first persons of the state from CSOs and communities before the UN HLM on AMR



DOWNLOAD

To the President of [Country]

Name, Surname

or

to the Premier-minister of [Country]

Name, Surname

Copy: Minister of Foreign Affairs of

[Country]

Name, Surname

Minister of Health of [Country]

Name, Surname

Your Excellency, _____!

Let us express our deep respect and address you on behalf of the key civil society organizations and communities of [COUNTRY], which at the national and local levels implement programs and policies in the field of fight against tuberculosis (hereinafter referred to as TB) and have been dedicated for many years to the cause of eliminating this deadly infectious disease.

On 26 September 2024, in New York, the United Nations General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as UNGA) will hold the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (hereinafter referred to as UNHLM on AMR) within the framework of the 79th session. This landmark event brings together at the highest political level the commitments of 193 UN Member States to reduce antimicrobial resistance through concrete action, which threatens the effectiveness of public health responses to infectious diseases and pandemics, and reverses the gains made in health and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Given the unique relevance of the UN HLM on AMR to the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance and its impact on reducing the development and spread of infectious diseases, countries at the level of Heads of State or Government are scheduled to participate. During the plenary part of the event, a representative of each UN HLM on AMR participating country will have the opportunity to make a 3-minute presentation.

The objective of the upcoming UN HLM on AMR is to provide a comprehensive review of achievements and targets in the fight against antimicrobial resistance at the national, regional and global levels, as well as to identify systemic gaps and take appropriate actions to accelerate progress in the fight against antimicrobial resistance. The UN HLM on AMR in 2024 will result in the adoption of a Political Declaration - a set of clear goals, guiding principles and commitments that countries agree to adopt and implement to improve the situation in overcoming AMR. This strategic document for the next 5 years will serve as a reference for

countries in the fight against antimicrobial resistance and will be a significant political commitment for all stakeholders in the field of combating drug-resistant infections, including tuberculosis, which is considered the main driver of the "silent" pandemic of AMR.

Antimicrobial resistance is a significant and growing threat to global public health, undermining the ability to treat common infections and turning easily treatable infections into untreatable ones. AMR occurs when microorganisms evolve to resist the effects of antimicrobials, rendering them ineffective. TB is the world's leading infectious killer and a prime example of the impact of AMR on infectious diseases. Unrestricted use of antibiotics, delayed diagnosis, and treatment interruptions contribute to the development of AMR, leading to the emergence of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB).

Because DR-TB is resistant to the most widely used anti-TB medicines, its spread in our region and globally is extremely alarming and highlights the urgent need to address AMR in the context of TB prevention efforts. TB is preventable and curable, but the development of DR-TB has exacerbated the global TB crisis: in 2022, more than 410 000 people developed DR-TB and more than 160 000 people died from DR-TB worldwide.

TB is also an acute public health problem for our country. [According to the World Health Organization](#), in 2022, the incidence of tuberculosis in [COUNTRY] was [REDACTED] people, including [REDACTED] people with drug-resistant forms of the disease and [REDACTED] with HIV/TB co-infection. Mortality from TB was [REDACTED] people in 2022. The UN High-Level Meeting on AMR provides an opportunity for Member States to resolutely reaffirm their commitment to combating antimicrobial resistance and to recognize DR-TB as a priority area on this agenda. Building on the commitments made by countries at last year's UN High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis, it is important to recognize the urgent threat posed by tuberculosis as the world's leading infectious cause of death and the leading cause of death among antimicrobial-resistant infections.

Thus, the involvement of government bodies at the highest level is essential to ensure that the final text of the Political Declaration on AMR fully reflects [COUNTRY's] position on the necessary decisive measures to fight TB in the context of AMR at the national, regional and global levels.

Considering the above, we appeal to you, highly respected [REDACTED], with a request to personally participate in the UN HLM on AMR and lead the multisectoral national delegation of [COUNTRY].

On behalf of hundreds of people affected by the problem of TB, medical and social workers, scientists, experts, activists who make daily efforts to overcome the incidence of tuberculosis in [COUNTRY], we sincerely count on your support and ask you to use the unprecedented opportunity that the UN HLM on AMR opens up to eliminate drug-resistant

For their part, civil society organizations and communities affected by TB would be grateful for the opportunity to actively participate in the processes related to the preparation of [COUNTRY] for participation in the UN HLM on AMR, and would be happy to share all the necessary information, including from personal experience in fighting DR-TB.

To discuss additional issues listed in this letter, please contact [REDACTED].

With high respect,

Annex 5

A template of a letter to first persons of the state from MPs before the UN HLM on TB



DOWNLOAD

To the President of **COUNTRY**
Full Name

or

To the Prime Minister of **COUNTRY**
Full Name

Copy: To the Minister of Foreign
Affairs of **COUNTRY**
Full Name

To the Minister of Health of
COUNTRY
Full Name

Dear _____,

Allow me to express my deep respect and address you on behalf of the members of the Parliament of **COUNTRY**, united in the fight against tuberculosis (hereinafter – TB) and the elimination of this deadly infectious disease.

On September 22, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly (hereinafter – UNGA) will hold a High-Level Meeting on TB (hereinafter – UN HLM on TB) as part of its 78th session in New York. This landmark event in the field of TB control brings together the commitment of 193 UN member states at the highest political level to take concrete actions toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 3.3 – to end the TB epidemic by 2030. Given the significant importance of the UN HLM on TB for the fight against the global TB epidemic, participation is expected at the level of Heads of State or Government. During the plenary session, each participating country will have a 3-minute speaking opportunity.

The purpose of the upcoming UN HLM on TB is to conduct a comprehensive review of achievements and goals in TB control at national, regional, and global levels, as agreed upon in the Political Declaration on Tuberculosis following the previous UN HLM on TB in 2018. It will also aim to identify systemic gaps and adopt appropriate decisions to accelerate progress toward ending the TB epidemic by 2030.

The UN HLM on TB is taking place at a critical time in the fight against TB. According to UNGA and global international organizations, due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other unfavorable factors, progress in TB control has been set back by years, and humanity is not yet on track to meet most of the time-bound targets of the 2018 Political Declaration on TB. According to the WHO Global TB Report published in 2022, the global TB epidemic caused 1.6 million deaths in 2021 alone, with progress being uneven between and within countries.

TB remains a pressing public health issue in our country as well. According to WHO data, in 2021, the TB incidence in **COUNTRY** was _____ people, including _____ people with multidrug-resistant TB and _____ with TB/HIV co-infection. The TB mortality rate in 2021 was _____ people.

Despite the significant slowdown in TB control progress, the Global Plan to End TB 2023–2030, developed by the Stop TB Partnership, demonstrates that with political will, strategic policies, and adequate financing, it is still possible to end TB by 2030.

As a result of the 2023 UN HLM on TB, a Political Declaration will be adopted—a set of clear goals, guiding principles, and commitments that countries will agree to undertake and

implement to improve TB response efforts. The Political Declaration on TB will be developed by the UNGA based on an analysis of the progress made in achieving the goals and commitments adopted in 2018, as well as key demands expressed by stakeholders during the Multistakeholder Hearings held on May 8-9, 2023, in New York, and those submitted through country missions to the UN.

Thus, the involvement of government bodies at the highest level from now until the UN HLM on TB is crucial to ensure that the key demands reflected in the 2023 Political Declaration on TB fully capture the position of COUNTRY regarding the necessary decisive measures to combat TB at national, regional, and global levels.

Given the above, we respectfully urge you, _____, to personally participate in the UN HLM on TB and lead the multisectoral national delegation of COUNTRY.

On behalf of the parliamentarians of COUNTRY, as well as all people affected by TB, we sincerely count on your support and request you to seize the unprecedented opportunity that the UN HLM on TB presents to eliminate this disease on the global stage and prioritize access to quality TB care services at the highest level of government for every citizen in COUNTRY.

Parliamentarians stand ready to actively engage in processes related to COUNTRY's preparations for the UN HLM on TB and to support keeping this issue on the political agenda.

For further discussion of the matters outlined in this letter, please contact _____.

Sincerely,

Annex 6

A template of a letter to the MFA on cooperation with regard to the UN HLM and arranging a meeting



DOWNLOAD

To the Director of the Department of
International Organizations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **COUNTRY**

Full Name

Dear _____,

Allow me to express my respect and address you on behalf of **ORGANIZATION**, which, together with **ORGANIZATION**, coordinates the participation of civil society and communities affected by tuberculosis (hereinafter – TB) in preparing the country for the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on TB (hereinafter – UN HLM on TB).

The UN HLM on TB, scheduled for September 22, 2023, is a landmark event in the field of TB control. At the highest political level, it unites the commitment of UN member states to take concrete actions to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 3.3, to overcome the TB epidemic by 2030. As a result of the UN HLM on TB, a corresponding Political Declaration will be agreed upon, outlining clear goals, commitments, and steps necessary for overcoming TB.

The key demands for the draft Political Declaration will be discussed for the first time on May 8-9, 2023, during the Multistakeholder Hearings organized by the General Assembly in New York. The leadership of **ORGANIZATION** and **ORGANIZATION**, as well as other representatives of stakeholders and civil society organizations, plan to participate in these hearings.

The ambitious goals and commitments to be agreed upon in the Political Declaration must reflect the real needs and capabilities of countries, considering regional and national contexts. Given the public health situation in **COUNTRY**, we believe it is crucial to reflect in the key demands for the Political Declaration the existing challenges and specificities in TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and support.

These key demands will also form the basis of informational materials for members of the official delegation of **COUNTRY** at the UN HLM on TB, in the preparation of which **ORGANIZATION** will participate.

Considering the above, and to obtain detailed information on the processes of agreeing on key demands for the Political Declaration during the Multistakeholder Hearings and the further review of the Political Declaration draft at the level of UN member states, we kindly ask you, dear _____, to facilitate our communication with the **COUNTRY**'s mission to the UN. We would be grateful if such communication could take place before April 20, so that all civil society representatives from **COUNTRY** participating in the hearings can adequately prepare based on the received information.

We sincerely appreciate your assistance! If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact _____ at phone number _____ or email _____.

Sincerely,

Director of **ORGANIZATION**

Annex 7

A template of a letter to country missions to the UN about a meeting on the eve of Multi-stakeholder Hearings before the UN HLM on AMR



DOWNLOAD

H.E. Mr./Mrs. [REDACTED]
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
Mr./Mrs. [REDACTED]
Permanent Mission of the [REDACTED] to the United
Nations

Subject: Meeting TB community and researchers Representatives on the margins of the UN Multi-stakeholder Hearing on AMR

Your Excellency,

On behalf of [REDACTED], and Stop TB Partnership, a United Nations-hosted organization that is leading the global fight against TB, it is with great pleasure that we extend our warm greetings and sincere compliments to You. [REDACTED] is honored to serve as a representative of civil society in presenting the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region (EECA) during the Multi-stakeholder Hearing on Antimicrobial Resistance, as part of the preparations for the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (hereinafter referred to as the UNHLM on AMR).

The High-Level Meeting, proposed to convene on September 26, 2024, in New York, centers around the overarching theme of "Investing in the Present and Securing Our Future Together: Accelerating Multi-sectoral Global, Regional, and National Actions to Address Antimicrobial Resistance." AMR poses significant challenges to the sustainability and effectiveness of public health responses to communicable diseases and epidemics, jeopardizing health and development gains and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNHLM on AMR aims to yield a Political Declaration outlining clear goals, commitments, and actions necessary for a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to addressing AMR by the UN State members, as well as enhancing awareness of its implications.

TB remains one of the leading causes of death attributable to AMR infections. Annually, 1.3 million people die from TB worldwide, with an incidence of 10 million cases per year. Unrestrained antibiotic usage, delayed diagnosis, and treatment interruptions can contribute to AMR development, resulting in the emergence of drug-resistant TB strains. This significantly complicates treatment, escalates costs, and fosters the proliferation of drug-resistant infections. In 2022 alone, 410,000 people were infected with MDR-TB, resulting in 160,000 deaths. These statistics underscore the urgency of addressing AMR, which threatens treatment efficacy and public health at large.

The key asks to the draft Political Declaration will be discussed for the first time on 15 May 2024 during a multi-stakeholder hearing organized by the General Assembly in New York, which is expected to be attended by the representatives from the [REDACTED] and the Stop TB Partnership and civil society and community representatives from other countries.

The ambitious goals and commitments articulated in the Political Declaration following the UNHLM on AMR should accurately reflect the genuine needs and capacities of countries, considering their regional

and national contexts. These same key asks should underpin informational materials for members of official delegations to the HLM on AMR.

Given the aforementioned, and to gain comprehensive insights into the processes of finalizing the key points for the Political Declaration on AMR during multi-stakeholder hearings and subsequent deliberations at the UN Member States' level, we kindly request the meeting of ORGANISATION and Stop TB Partnership with the representatives of the Permanent Mission of the COUNTRY to the United Nations in New York.

During the meeting, we suggest discussing the following issues:

- Informing the representatives of the Permanent Mission of the COUNTRY to the United Nations in New York on the key asks from civil society and communities of the WHO Europe region to the draft Political Declaration of the UN High-level Meeting on Overcoming AMR.
- Discussion of possible cooperation and necessary support from national and international partners for the effective participation of the representatives of the Permanent Mission of the COUNTRY to the United Nations in New York in the discussions on the draft Political Declaration of the UN High-level Meeting on Overcoming AMR, which will be adopted by UN Member States on 26 September 2024.

We would greatly appreciate if this communication could take place during the week of May 14 to May 17. We understand that the representatives of the Permanent Missions have very busy schedules, hence even a brief 30-minute meeting would be greatly appreciated.

We sincerely value Your gracious support. In case should there be any further queries, please address them to [REDACTED] at E-MAIL or PHONE.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.
Sincerely Yours,

Director
ORGANISATION

Annex 8

A template of a letter of appreciation to the mission to the UN regarding the meeting prior to Multi-stakeholder Hearings of the GA before the UN HLM on AMR



DOWNLOAD

Dear _____ and colleagues,

I am writing to express our sincere gratitude to you for taking the time to meet with us on Tuesday, 14th May on the sidelines of the UN Multi-stakeholder Hearing on AMR. We greatly appreciated the insights you shared on the process leading towards the High-Level Meeting on AMR and the opportunity to share our views on the development of a strong Political Declaration on AMR.

We would also like to congratulate you and the co-facilitators on the release of the zero draft of the AMR Political Declaration. It's an excellent document to build on and contains many of the commitments the TB and AMR communities are hoping to see in the final Declaration.

Please find attached an electronic copy of "Key TB Asks for the AMR Political Declaration" that we shared during the meeting, as well as a document outlining our priority suggested text changes to the Zero Draft with sources that we believe would greatly strengthen the document.

We look forward to our continued collaboration and to making substantial strides in our joint fight against AMR and TB.

Warm regards,

Annex 9

A template of a letter to country missions to the UN regarding key asks of the communities



DOWNLOAD

Your Excellency _____,

We write to you to share a document before the next stage of the in-person negotiation of the political declaration for the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis (TB HLM on TB). The TB HLM 2023 inputs were coordinated and gathered from hundreds of Affected Communities and Civil Society members on the current version of the zero draft.

The consolidated inputs are in the attached document, which we hope you will find a useful guide and point of reference during the negotiation. We hope for a strong, action-oriented political declaration as the outcome of the TB HLM. We believe this suggested edits to the zero draft align with that vision, build on the work done in 2018 for the first TB HLM, and are a step towards putting us back on the path to End TB by 2030.

We thank you for your time and hope you find this document useful.

Respectfully,

***A template of a letter from NTP to the MFA
regarding the importance of taking into account
key asks for the UN HLM on AMR***



DOWNLOAD

To the Minister of Foreign Affairs of [COUNTRY]

Cc: The Mission of [COUNTRY] to the United Nations

Dear [Name],

I would like to express my respect on behalf of the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP), which is implemented in [COUNTRY] under the authority of [NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY], and to address the following matter.

As you are aware, on September 26, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly will convene a High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), during which UN Member State representatives will discuss and adopt a corresponding Political Declaration. This strategic document will serve as a guiding framework for countries at the national, regional, and global levels over the next five years and is of utmost importance to all stakeholders working to combat drug-resistant infections, including tuberculosis (TB). TB is considered a key driver of the "silent" AMR epidemic.

Antimicrobial resistance poses a significant and growing threat to global health, undermining our ability to treat common infections and turning easily curable diseases into untreatable conditions. AMR arises when microorganisms evolve to withstand the effects of antimicrobial agents, rendering treatments ineffective. TB is the world's leading infectious killer and a stark example of the impact of AMR on infectious diseases. The misuse of antibiotics, delayed diagnosis, and treatment interruptions contribute to the rise of AMR, leading to the emergence of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB). While TB is preventable and curable, the spread of DR-TB has worsened the global crisis: in 2022 alone, more than 410,000 people developed DR-TB, and over 160,000 lost their lives to the disease.

Since drug-resistant forms of TB—multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB)—are not responsive to the most commonly used TB treatments, their spread both in our country and globally is highly alarming. This underscores the urgent need to address AMR within the broader efforts to prevent and control TB.

The UN High-Level Meeting on AMR presents a crucial opportunity for Member States to reaffirm their commitment to fighting antimicrobial resistance and to recognize DR-TB as a priority issue in this agenda. Building on the commitments made at last year's UN High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis, it is vital to acknowledge the urgent threat posed by TB, which remains the world's leading infectious killer and the primary cause of mortality among antimicrobial-resistant infections.

One of the key steps in finalizing the text of the AMR Political Declaration should be the inclusion of TB as a tracking indicator in global and national AMR strategies. Progress in TB control, research, and development is one of the most critical indicators of success in combating AMR and curbing the spread of drug-resistant strains. Achievements in TB control translate directly into progress in addressing antimicrobial resistance, highlighting the interconnectedness of efforts to combat both public health threats.

Although the draft text of the AMR Political Declaration has undergone significant revisions since the zero draft proposed by the General Assembly in May 2024, there is still an opportunity to introduce crucial improvements. Given the above, we kindly request you, Honorable Minister,

to consider forwarding the attached proposed amendments to the representatives of [COUNTRY]'s mission to the UN for further inclusion in the AMR Political Declaration.

Enhancing the document's text in this manner will help strengthen the language concerning TB and AMR, particularly in the context of research and development, financing, access to testing, treatment, and care, access to innovations and their equitable sharing, as well as issues related to vaccination.

[COUNTRY]'s engagement in refining the draft AMR Political Declaration will not only contribute to strengthening this strategic document and laying the foundation for the accelerated elimination of TB and AMR but will also enhance [COUNTRY]'s positive international reputation in matters related to protecting public health and ensuring the well-being of our citizens and people worldwide.

We appreciate your support in advance. Should you have any questions regarding the matters raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact [CONTACT NAME] (Phone: [PHONE NUMBER], Email: [EMAIL ADDRESS]).

Attachment: 4 pages

Sincerely,

Draft Political Declaration on AMR (Rev 2_ 17 July 2024)

Suggested Text Changes for Consideration

Current Text	Inputs (suggested text changes or highlighted adding)
Suggestion: Add a preambular paragraph (following P10 and P11) referencing human rights conventions and the rights to health and scientific progress drawing on agreed language from the 2023 TB political declaration (A/78/L.4, P5).	Reaffirm the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and that the fulfillment of the right to health in the context of AMR is closely linked to the right to enjoy and share the benefits of scientific progress and its applications and the development, diffusion, and conservation of scientific benefits (Ref: A/78/L.4, P5).
<p>P14: Acknowledge the need to reach the furthest behind first, and to ensure equitable access to quality essential health-care services and safe, effective, quality, affordable essential medicines including antimicrobials, vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and other health technologies, while respecting and promoting human rights, gender equality, sociocultural factors, and the dignity of the person and the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as well as supporting and empowering those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, including women, newborns, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, immunocompromised patients, people living with HIV/AIDS and those affected by tuberculosis, people of African descent, Indigenous Peoples, people living in fragile and conflict affected states and humanitarian settings, including those impacted by climate change and natural disasters, refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, and those living in poverty and extreme poverty in both urban and rural areas, people living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing,</p> <p>P15: Recognize the profound socioeconomic challenges and financial hardships faced by people affected by antimicrobial resistance, including in obtaining an early diagnosis, in being subject to</p>	<p>Background: We recommend additional para covering topics of stigma, discrimination or the key role of communities and the barriers they face, which are agreed text from the High-Level Meeting on TB Political Declaration (A/78/L.4), but with the references to TB replaced with AMR</p> <p>P16: Recognize that structural inequity, stigma, racism and discrimination, including against women, inadequate investment in, and inequitable access to prevention, diagnosis, treatment remain key roadblocks to ending AMR infections, that people with AMR may suffer from stigma and all forms of discrimination and that barriers to the enjoyment of human rights need to be addressed through comprehensive political, legal and programmatic actions; (Ref: A/78/L.4, P10)</p>

extremely long treatment regimens, with drugs that could involve severe side effects, as well as in securing integrated support, including from the community, and therefore affirm that all these people require integrated, people-centred prevention, diagnosis, treatment, management of side effects, and care, as well as psychosocial, nutritional and socioeconomic support for successful treatment, including to reduce stigma and discrimination,	
P43: Suggest adding additional para following P43 with agreed text from <i>A/RES/78/5, P39</i> on the right to science	Commit to protect and promote the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application in order to advance towards universal access to quality, affordable, inclusive, equitable and timely prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and awareness-raising related to AMR, and address its economic and social determinants.
P62: Acknowledge that drug-resistant tuberculosis is a key component of the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance, and express grave concern that the scope and scale of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis illness and mortality place an additional burden on health and community systems, especially in low- and middle-income countries, and thereby pose a critical challenge that could reverse the progress made against the disease, against antimicrobial resistance and towards the Sustainable Development Goals,	<p>Background: Suggest including expanded text from <i>A/RES/78/5, P25</i></p> <p>P62: Acknowledge that drug-resistant tuberculosis is a key component of the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance, and express grave concern that the scope and scale of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis illness and mortality place an additional burden on health and community systems, especially in low- and middle-income countries, and thereby pose a critical challenge that could reverse the progress made against the disease, against antimicrobial resistance and towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and that there is a profound gap in access to quality diagnosis, treatment and care for those affected, and there is still a low treatment success rate for those who are treated,</p>

<p>P58: Acknowledge the drivers of antimicrobial resistance, including lack of regulation of over-the-counter use of antimicrobials; over-prescription by health care workers; lack of evidence-based standard treatment and prophylaxis guide; poor treatment adherence; inappropriate use of antimicrobials, as during viral seasons and outbreaks; substandard and falsified antimicrobial medicines, which require surveillance and legal enforcement by national regulatory authorities; lack of adequate infrastructure, surveillance and monitoring systems, and affordable and effective diagnostic tests, including rapid and point-of-care tests; and lack of availability of and access to essential and quality-assured antimicrobials,</p>	<p>Background: Recommend adding the highlighted reference given the key role of treatment adherence in avoiding AMR infections.</p> <p>P58: Acknowledge the drivers of antimicrobial resistance, including lack of regulation of over-the-counter use of antimicrobials; over-prescription by health care workers; lack of evidence-based standard treatment and prophylaxis guide; poor treatment adherence; inappropriate use of antimicrobials, as during viral seasons and outbreaks; substandard and falsified antimicrobial medicines, which require surveillance and legal enforcement by national regulatory authorities; lack of adequate infrastructure, surveillance and monitoring systems, and affordable and effective diagnostic tests, including rapid and point-of-care tests; and lack of availability of and access to essential and quality-assured antimicrobials for uninterrupted treatment;</p>
<p>P63: Recognize the impact of high-burden resistant pathogens and that antimicrobial resistance undermines the effective treatment of bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic infections, including sexually transmitted infections, as well as routine medical procedures such as surgery, neonatal care, cancer treatment and control and organ transplants, and take into account the lessons learned and best practices from addressing HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as neglected tropical diseases, particularly with regards to the need to eliminate stigma and discrimination and the need to protect and fulfil human rights of those affected,</p>	<p>Background: Recommend adding text to P63 to highlight the 2024 WHO Bacterial Priority Pathogens List (WHO BPPL). Here is some suggested text:</p> <p>We note the importance of the 24 priority pathogens outlined in the 2024 World Health Organization Bacterial Priority Pathogens List, noting the four pathogens listed in the critical group that present major global threats due to their high burden, and ability to resist treatment: <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>, carbapenem-resistant; Enterobacterales, third-generation cephalosporin-resistant; Enterobacterales, carbapenem-resistant; <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>, rifampicin-resistant (ref: WHO)</p>
<p>P82 – P99: Suggest two text additions under Research and Development, Innovation and Manufacturing section using agreed text from</p>	<p>Background: Recommend adding language from <i>A/RES/78/5</i> about global collaboration and ensuring maximal return on public investment in</p>

A/RES/78/5, P32 and P72	<p>R&D; adding this language would provide a stronger justification for the commitments that follow:</p> <p>Acknowledge the importance of global collaboration in the field of antibiotic research and development and imperative to increase investment and transparency of investments to fast-track progress and ensure equitable access and maximal return on public investment in scientific progress." This draws on precedent language in the TB political declaration (A/RES/78/5, P32).</p> <p>Background: Recommend adding language from A/RES/78/5 about international cooperation on R&D</p> <p>Commit to increase international cooperation to advance AMR research and innovation, including by fostering and coordinating research and clinical trials, providing funding for collaborative research and clinical trials, supporting transparent and rapid reporting of research and clinical trial results, promoting data-sharing, encouraging open innovation approaches, voluntary licensing and technology transfer, where possible in agreements where public funding has been invested, in order to ensure maximal return on public investment in scientific progress. (A/RES/78/5, P72).</p>
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A template of a letter on inclusion of key asks in the speech of the representative of the delegation at the UN HLM on AMR



Dear Colleagues,

Allow us to express our respect on behalf of the [ORGANIZATION], and to address you with the following.

On September 26, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly will convene a High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (hereinafter UN HLM on AMR), during which representatives of UN member states will review and adopt a corresponding Political Declaration. This strategic document will serve as a guideline for countries at national, regional, and global levels for the next five years and is critically important for all stakeholders in the fight against drug-resistant infections, including TB, which is considered a major factor in the "silent" pandemic of antimicrobial resistance (hereinafter AMR).

AMR poses a significant and ever-growing threat to global health, undermining the ability to treat common infections and turning easily treatable infections into those that are difficult to treat. AMR occurs when microorganisms evolve to withstand the effects of antimicrobial drugs, rendering them ineffective. TB is one of the leading infectious killers in the world and a vivid example of the impact of AMR on infectious diseases. The unrestricted use of antibiotics, delayed diagnosis, and interruptions in treatment contribute to the development of AMR, leading to strains of drug-resistant TB (hereinafter referred to as DR-TB). TB can be prevented and treated, but the emergence of DR-TB has exacerbated the global crisis of this disease: in 2022 alone, more than 410,000 people worldwide developed DR-TB, and over 160,000 died from DR-TB.

Since drug-resistant forms of TB are not susceptible to the most commonly used anti-TB medicines, their spread in our region and globally is extremely alarming and underscores the urgent need to address the AMR problem in the context of TB control and prevention efforts.

The UN HLM on AMR provides member states with an opportunity to firmly reaffirm their commitment to combating antimicrobial resistance and to recognize DR-TB as a priority area in this agenda. Building on the commitments made by countries at last year's UN High-Level Meeting on TB, it is important to acknowledge the urgent threat posed by TB as one of the world's leading infectious causes of death and the primary cause of death among infections resistant to antimicrobial drugs.

Given the above, a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of civil society and communities affected by TB, the private sector, academia, and researchers, with the support of the Stop TB Partnership, have developed key asks regarding TB for the UN HLM on AMR:

1. **Political Commitments:** Include TB as an indicator in global and national AMR strategies, as progress in TB research and development is a key measure of success in combating AMR and the efforts to prevent the emergence of drug-resistant strains.
2. **Financing:**

- Achieve annual funding of USD 22 billion by 2027 to implement global measures in response to TB, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, and surveillance of DR-TB, as well as mechanisms for sustainable financing and innovative approaches to funding, as agreed by governments in the Political Declaration of the UN HLM on TB in 2023.
- Shorten the duration, and increase the safety and effectiveness of treatment regimens, especially for DR-TB, and develop and introduce safe, effective, accessible, and affordable TB vaccines for people of all ages.

3. Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention:

- Provide treatment for up to 45 million people with TB from 2023 to 2027, including up to 4.5 million children and up to 1.5 million people with DR-TB, as agreed in the Political Declaration of the UN HLM on TB in 2023.
- Prioritize access to innovations at the country level, including shorter-duration oral treatments, as well as social, mental, and nutritional support, complemented by safety monitoring and management of side effects.
- Promote the rational use of antimicrobial drugs and ensure uninterrupted access to high-quality, affordable anti-TB medications to prevent the emergence and spread of drug-resistant TB strains. Implement comprehensive infection prevention and control measures in all healthcare facilities.

4. Community, Rights, and Gender: Advocate for and allocate resources to implement AMR responses that are people-centered, focusing on communities, individuals affected by AMR, and key and vulnerable populations. Ensure resources are provided to support their participation in AMR programs, as well as community-led monitoring efforts. It is crucial that AMR responses are grounded in human rights, promote gender transformation, and are free from stigma.

5. Research and Development: Recognize vaccine development as a key strategy in the fight against AMR, and ensure that the regulatory framework includes guide to support the accelerated development and approval of drugs and vaccines against AMR. Support research and development in human immunology and new AI-based strategies to monitor AMR and identify viable vaccine targets against AMR.

6. Health Systems and Accountability:

- Acknowledge the importance of a common health approach in combating DR-TB, zoonotic TB, AMR, and climate issues, and emphasize TB as an integral part of the consistent health approach.
- Promote accountability in the fight against AMR, including the establishment of an Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR, an annual report by the UN Secretary-General, and ensure that TB is included in these initiatives.

To ensure that these key asks are reflected in the final text of the Political Declaration on AMR, we kindly ask for your assistance in bringing them to the attention of the representatives of [COUNTRY]'s official delegation to the UN HLM on AMR. We hope these requests will be considered for possible inclusion in the speeches of the delegates during the plenary session and the two panel discussions within the framework of the UN HLM on AMR.

Including these key asks on TB will not only help improve the final text of the Political Declaration on AMR and enhance the substance of this strategic document, creating prerequisites for the accelerated ending of TB and AMR, but will also strengthen [COUNTRY]'s positive international image in matters related to the protection of rights and the health of its citizens as well as people around the world.

We are grateful in advance for your support, and for any questions raised in this letter, please contact the [ORGANIZATION] representative _____ (WhatsApp: _____, email: _____).

Best regards,

Annex 12

A template of a letter to the MoH requesting inclusion of representatives of CSOs and communities in the official country delegation to the UN HLM on AMR



DOWNLOAD

To the Minister of Health of [COUNTRY]

Your Excellence, [REDACTED]

Let me express my deep respect to you and address the following.

As you are aware, on 26 September 2024 the United Nations General Assembly is holding a High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (hereinafter referred to as the UN HLM on AMR) which is a landmark event in the fight against AMR that unites the political aspirations of 193 UN member states. The resulting UN HLM on AMR Political Declaration for the next 5 years will guide countries at national, regional and global levels and provide an important framework for addressing drug-resistant infections, including tuberculosis (hereafter referred to as TB), which is considered a major driver of the silent pandemic of AMR.

It is important to note that the current draft Political Declaration on AMR has been significantly optimized in the context of the related issues of TB and AMR compared to the zero draft document proposed by the General Assembly in May 2024. This was made possible thanks to the active involvement of civil society and affected communities, with the support of the Stop TB Partnership and in close cooperation with country missions to the UN.

Thus, the current draft Political Declaration on AMR contains numerous references to TB and an extended paragraph on drug-resistant TB, strong language on stigma and discrimination related to TB and AMR, important references to research and development (on sharing the benefits of scientific progress, public investment in research and development, international collaboration in clinical trials, technology transfer and voluntary licensing, strengthening local and regional capacities, etc.), and vaccine-related issues that highlight the lack of funding, the need for decisive action, sharing of achievements and equitable access, etc.

Given the above, as well as the significant role of civil society and communities affected by TB in the fight against drug-resistant infections in [COUNTRY], we kindly ask you, dear [REDACTED], to consider the possibility of including representatives of civil society and communities affected by TB in the official delegation of [COUNTRY] to the UN HLM on AMR. We also inform you that the recommendations of the [UN General Assembly Resolution on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the UN HLM on AMR](#) (paragraph 10) encourage UN Member States to include representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations in their delegations to make a fundamental contribution in terms of raising awareness of the importance of addressing the problem of antimicrobial resistance.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the work of the official [COUNTRY] delegation and to highlight the issue of TB in the context of fighting AMR during the UN HLM on AMR.

For any questions regarding engagement with civil society and TB-affected communities in connection with the UN HLM on AMR, please contact [REDACTED] by phone [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED].

With gratitude for the cooperation,

[SIGNATURE]

A template of a letter to the MoH requesting inclusion of representatives of CSOs and communities in the official country delegation to the UN HLM on TB and agree upon selection criteria



DOWNLOAD

To the Minister of Health of [COUNTRY]

Your Excellence, [REDACTED] !

Let me express my deep respect to you and address the following.

On September 22, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly is holding a High-Level Meeting on TB (hereinafter referred to as the UNHLM on TB) which is a landmark event in the fight against TB that unites at the highest political level the aspirations of 193 UN Member States to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goal 3](#), in particular target 3.3 of ending the TB epidemic by 2030.

Considering the significant role of civil society and TB affected communities in combating the disease in [COUNTRY], as well as in accordance with the recommendations of the [United Nations General Assembly Resolution on scope, modalities, format and organization of the UNHLM on TB](#), we kindly request the inclusion of representatives from civil society and TB-affected communities in [COUNTRY]'s official delegation to the UN HLM on TB. To select candidates for inclusion in the official delegation through the civil society platform [REDACTED], a corresponding competition will be organized and conducted.

In light of the above, we kindly ask you to review and approve the proposed list of criteria for the selection of candidates from civil society and affected communities (attached), and to delegate a representative from the Ministry of Health to the selection committee.

For any questions regarding engagement with civil society and TB-affected communities affected by TB in the scope of preparation for the UNHLM on TB, please contact [REDACTED] at phone [REDACTED] or email: [REDACTED].

With gratitude for the cooperation,

SIGNATURE

Annex 14

A template of a letter to the MoH on including in the delegation and holding a broad intersectoral meeting on the UN HLM on TB



DOWNLOAD

To the Minister of Health of [COUNTRY]

Your Excellence, _____!

Let me express my deep respect to you and address the following.

On September 22, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly is holding a High-Level Meeting on TB (hereinafter referred to as the UNHLM on TB) which is a landmark event in the fight against TB that unites at the highest political level the aspirations of 193 UN Member States to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goal 3](#), in particular target 3.3 of ending the TB epidemic by 2030.

Given the importance of the UNHLM on TB in fighting the global TB epidemic, the countries are encouraged to participate at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government. During the plenary segment of the event, each Member State delegation participating in the UNHLM on TB will have the opportunity to give a statement within the time limit of 3 minutes.

The ambitious goals and commitments set out in Political Declaration approved after the UNHLM on TB (hereinafter referred to as the Political Declaration) should certainly reflect the real needs and capabilities of countries, taking into account the current situation in the global health system, including the consequences and possible risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the national context to make it possible to end the TB epidemic by 2030.

Considering the current situation in the field of public health in [COUNTRY] and the possible effect of regional and global humanitarian crises, we consider it necessary to reflect on the existing challenges in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of TB when developing the country's key asks for the Political Declaration. In order to carry out timely and systematic work on these developments, we ask you to involve the representatives of civil society and TB-affected communities in the discussion and preparation of documents related to the UNHLM on TB and/or the Political Declaration.

In particular, we ask your excellence _____ to hold a broad multisectoral meeting to discuss the key stages of preparation for the UNHLM on TB and developments in requests for the Political Declaration taking into account the global processes. We suggest involving in this meeting representatives of the Ministry of Health of [COUNTRY], the NTP, the Country Coordinating Mechanism, parliamentarians, representatives of international organizations working in the [COUNTRY] and involved in the global processes of preparation for the UNHLM on TB, as well as representatives of civil society organizations and TB-affected communities. In addition, we inform you that [OUR ORGANIZATION] is ready to provide technical support in organizing this meeting, having

coordinated the agenda and speakers, date, time and format of the meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Health.

We will also be grateful for the opportunity to get familiarized with the official documents regarding the UNHLM on TB and/or the Political Declaration, which will be provided to the Ministry of Health of [COUNTRY] by the Permanent Representative of [COUNTRY] to the UN, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of [COUNTRY], international organizations.

We also ask you, in accordance with the recommendations of the UN General Assembly resolution on scope, modalities, format and organization of the HLM on TB, to envisage the inclusion of representatives of civil society and TB-affected communities in the official delegation of [COUNTRY] to the UNHLM on TB, ensuring that appropriate competition was initiated.

For any questions regarding engagement with civil society and TB-affected communities affected by TB in the scope of preparation for the UNHLM on TB, please contact [REDACTED] at phone [REDACTED] or email: [REDACTED].

With gratitude for the cooperation,

SIGNATURE

***A sample list of criteria for selection
of representatives of the CSOs and communities
to be included in the national delegation***



DOWNLOAD

The approximate list of criteria for selecting candidates from civil society organizations and affected communities to be part of the official delegation for participation in the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis:

1. Experience working with key populations and vulnerable groups/active involvement in TB response efforts for at least 2 years.
2. Familiarity with international strategic documents on implementing effective TB response programs.
3. Knowledge of the situation in the field of TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment and support in the country (basic epidemiological data and processes); understanding of the key challenges that arise in the course of overcoming tuberculosis in the country.
4. Experience of cooperation with other non-governmental organizations, including international ones, in the field of TB response.
5. Candidates should regularly engage in communication, coordination, and consultations with the community of people affected by TB.
6. Strong communication and public speaking skills at official events; desirable experience in presenting project outcomes or the needs of key populations affected by TB at conferences, forums, or various-level meetings, including international ones.
7. English language knowledge is desirable for effective participation and networking with participants from other countries.
8. Willingness to contribute to the accountability process following the High-Level Meeting and participate in the preparation for the meeting and the development of proposals for the draft Political Declaration.
9. Candidates should not have any restrictions in order to obtain a US visa; it is desirable to have an open visa to the United States.

Guide on registration for the UN HLM on TB and selection of representatives of CSOs and communities



DOWNLOAD

Dear colleagues,

We would like to remind you that the registration of organizations for the participation of their representatives in the UN High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis (UN HLM on TB) is open until **June 19, 2023**. Taking part in this crucial event in the field of TB is an excellent opportunity for civil society organizations and affected communities to contribute to the fight against TB at the highest level and establish themselves as significant players in TB elimination.

Organization registration is a mandatory requirement for personal participation in the UN HLM on TB and can be done on the official UN website at the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1005482/>.

👉 If you don't have an Indico account yet, please create one before proceeding with the application. User guidance for creating an account can be found [here](#).

👉 It is important to note that the application for special accreditation must be submitted on behalf of the organization, not an individual. After review, you will receive a notification regarding the accreditation of your organization and the number of representatives who can participate in the UN HLM on TB. Please familiarize yourself with detailed information on special accreditation [here](#).

Additionally, we would like to remind you that according to the [UN resolution on the modalities and format of the UN HLM on TB](#) (Operational Paragraph 11), UN member states are encouraged to include representatives of civil society and people affected by TB in their delegations.

In light of this, we suggest that you take the initiative to **organize a competition among representatives of civil society organizations and affected communities, using the civil society platform, to select candidates from civil society for inclusion in national delegations**. To do this, please follow these steps:

- On the civil society platforms at the country level, agree on the criteria for such candidates (you can find a sample list of criteria in attachment) and establish a selection committee that may include representatives from government bodies and international organizations.
- To ensure the legitimacy of the competition, we recommend that you coordinate the criteria and composition of the selection committee with the relevant government agency, typically the Ministry of Health. You can find a template for addressing the Ministry of Health in attachments:
 - For countries where dialogue on the UN HLM on TB has already begun, and only the question of including civil society representatives in the delegation and the criteria for their selection need to be coordinated.
 - For countries where dialogue on the UN HLM on TB has not yet begun, and attention needs to be drawn to the importance of preparing for the UN HLM on TB, as well as coordinating the question of including civil society representatives in the delegation and the criteria for their selection.
- The format of conducting such a competition can be chosen according to the organizers' capabilities and the accepted practices in the country, ranging from electronic voting to public meetings of the selection committee.
- The selected candidates (the number of which should be agreed upon in advance with the relevant government agency) can be proposed by your platform to the relevant government agency for inclusion in the official delegations.

We would like to draw your attention to two important points:

- The inclusion of civil society and affected community representatives in the official delegation does not guarantee funding for their participation in the UN HLM on TB. This matter needs to be clarified separately with the relevant government agency in your country.
- With appropriate funding, representatives of civil society and communities who have not been included in the official delegation can participate independently in the UN HLM on TB, provided that their organizations have been accredited after registration on the UN website by June 19, 2023.

We wish you success in organizing the participation of civil society and community representatives in the UN HLM on TB.