



Dear HE President C.M. Ramaphosa

Cc: Deputy Present Mr Mashatile, Minister of Health Dr J Pahlaa, Chairperson if National TB Caucus – Dr Dhlomo & National TB Program

To accelerate the TB response, Heads of State came together in September 2018 and made strong commitments to end TB. During the meeting, the UN General Assembly adopted the [Declaration of the first-ever United Nations High Level Meeting on TB](#). At the 2018 UN HLM on TB, world leaders committed to hold a 'comprehensive review by Heads of State and Government at a high-level meeting in 2023' in the Political Declaration.

2022 was a Global Fund 7<sup>th</sup> Replenishment year, we Thank our African Governments & Leaders for championing and pledging in making 7<sup>th</sup> Replenishment a success. Out of the \$18b our efforts managed to raise \$15.7b and missed the target, we need to work together in finding ways of filling this gap and also unlocking the commitment of \$6b from the United State. Global Fund leads in TB, HIV and Malaria response and most of its investment is in Africa which saves millions lives in our continent.

At the 2023 HLM Heads of States and governments will approve a concise and action-oriented Political Declaration, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental Negotiations. The 2023 Declaration will endorse and further build on the 2018 Political Declaration with the opportunity to build on previous UN HLM on TB and reaffirm the global political commitment to ending TB.

The already low funding for the TB implementation response as indicated by Communities and Civil Society organisations in the [deadly divide report](#) dropped by \$500 million from 2019 to 2020, and funding for R&D remained nearly unchanged at \$915 million. Meanwhile, [the Global Plan to end TB 2023-2030](#) showed that despite setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is possible to end TB by 2030 but the funding needs have now gone up substantially from the 2018 UN HLM target. This year, the Global theme for the [World TB day is 'Yes! We Can End TB'](#).

As TB affected communities and Civil Society organizations, we deeply appreciate and thank our Government for the commitment towards the healthcare of its citizens. We also realize that current actions and investments in our country and globally, fall far short of those needed to end the global tuberculosis epidemic. We are reminding our Government of the **Asks** that we had as follows

1. Government to urgently accelerate the TB response to reach targets set at the UN High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on TB in September 2018.

2. Government gives urgent attention to TB preventive treatment which stops the infection from developing into disease and to reduce vulnerability. Household contacts of TB patients, especially children, are some of the most vulnerable groups.
3. Government allocates more resources to scale up investments in TB prevention, treatment, research and innovation to ensure more effective medicines, vaccines and tools which are urgently needed to break the trajectory of the TB epidemic through timely and effective treatment.

Our Governments had Commitments that were officially adopted by General Assembly by all Member States of the UN for country implementation at TB HLM 2018 were as follows:

1. Scale up access to TB prevention & treatment
2. Ensure sufficient & sustainable financing including for research
3. Promote an equitable, rights-based & people-centered TB response
4. Promote an end to stigma & discrimination of TB patients
5. Build accountability

We therefore call for urgent expansion of tools outlined in the TB Recovery Plan to support commitments made in the political declaration, including:

- the TB Health Check application to increase TB screening
- routine annual TB testing for people living with HIV (PLHIV), household contacts and previously treated TB patients, irrespective of TB symptoms
- digital chest x-rays and urine LAM assay
- short-course TB preventive therapy for PLHIV, TB contacts, people with silicosis and high risk groups

**For the 2023 UN HLM on TB as TB affected communities we are working on 6 Action Areas to shape our Asks for TB HLM 2023 taking into consideration the missed TB targets due to COVID 19 but also making sure that we leverage on lessons learned in the COVID 19 era to effectively and efficiently respond to TB. We are hoping that TB HLM 2023 will be a really High Level Meeting, and requesting High Level Representation from Our Governments and transparent process to engage affected communities and Civil Society in developing country plans.**

**Yes! We Can End TB**