

## Stop TB Brazil 10 years celebration

On November 27 and 28, members of Stop TB Brazil (*Parceria Brasileira contra a Tuberculose*) were assembled to celebrate its 10 years of creation.

The event had the participation of national and international authorities such as the Health Surveillance Secretary, Dr. Jarbas Barbosa; the NTP Manager, Dr. Draurio Barreira; and Dr. Joel Keravec from Stop TB Partnership.

For his opening speech, Dr. Barbosa highlighted the importance of the partnership as a national articulation and mobilization body, among government and civil



society, strengthening TB social control in the Unified Health System agenda. Barbosa also stated that intersectorial articulations are essential to ensure rights for TB affected people and also contributes to treatment adherence through social benefits and access to existing social programmes, which can decrease treatment default and therefore, TB resistant incidence rate.

The NTP Manager, Dr. Barreira, spoke about the protagonist role Brazil has been playing internationally, developing the Post-2015 End TB Strategy, as well as in the construction of the Global TB Plan for the post-2015 scenario. "Our wide experience in universal coverage through the Brazilian Unified Health System and our proposals on social protection mechanisms for TB control have lead Brazil as a protagonist defending the End TB Strategy at the World Health Assembly, approved by all member states in May 2014. Based in three pillars, the new strategy widens the TB control actions, highlights innovation and the use of new technologies, includes social protection to patients, recommends universal access to health and establishes bold targets to be achieved. That means that the world has agreed on a strategy that seeks to end the TB pandemic – reducing the incidence to less than 10 cases per 100,000 inhabitants and the mortality rate in 95%, by 2035", he concluded.

According to Dr. Joel Keravec from the Stop TB Partnership, the next Global TB Plan (2016-2020) should define the direction to achieve the targets proposed in the strategy. Together, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Stop TB Partnership will work on the development of a global investment plan, and, when necessary, they will search for new partners within and out of the health sector, in order to implement the new strategy.

Established in 2004, the Partnership currently gathers over one hundred organizations as a collegiate propositional body for consultation and social mobilization. Stop TB Brazil aims mainly to promote TB and TB/HIV control and prevention through joint efforts, in articulation with the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP), from the Brazilian Ministry of Health.



During the event, activist Carlos Basilia, head of the Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization area from the Brazilian TB Observatory at the National School of Public Health (ENSP), was elected the new Executive Secretary of Stop TB Brazil for 2015/2016.

“As a founding member and the first Stop TB Brazil executive secretary, I am optimistic that we are entering a new and promising mobilization phase of this important platform of strategic actors for fighting TB in Brazil. As the new executive secretary I would like to renew and strengthen articulations with the Health Surveillance Secretary/ Ministry of Health, widening our dialogue and requesting support for reformulation, structuring and functioning of Stop TB Brazil internal policies. Our first task will be to develop and execute a work plan for 2015/2016, aligned with the Global Post-2015 TB Strategy”, said Basilia.

The deputy secretary elected was the NGO Gestos, represented by Jair Brandao Filho, former executive secretary.

In relations to ENSP/ Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), the Observatory will deepen articulations with the Referral Centre Professor Helio Fraga (CRPHF) and Fio\_TB Programme, now being implemented by the Fiocruz presidency.

The assembly also approved new members and incorporated a new segment: the TB Network Committee – to the executive secretariat working group. Stop TB Brazil is now committed to gather all segments and approach the new challenges in the country to address the End TB Strategy.