

The Kigali Civil Society Declaration on Tuberculosis

CIVIL SOCIETY DEMANDS MEANINGFUL INCLUSION IN THE UNION AFRICA REGION BOARD AND CONFERENCE

Statement from TB civil society representatives presented at the 19TH AFRICA UNION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS AND LUNG DISEASES Conference at Serena Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda.

We, the undersigned Tuberculosis (TB) civil society representatives, community members and our supporters, recognize the gesture of the Union Africa Region Board for the 50% waiver on registration given to enable us attend this conference. This gesture proves that communities and science can work together in trying to make it possible to end the TB epidemic in our lifetime.

We are however disappointed by the lack of visibility of civil society/affected communities in the planning, execution and total content of this conference.

We are aware and recognize the fact that ZERO TB deaths cannot be met without the full involvement of civil society that carry the voices of the patients and respective communities we represent.

Civil Society, most of us who work as volunteers with very little resources to sustain ourselves are already involved in DOTS support, tracing those lost to treatment, dispensing drugs at health facilities, giving psychosocial support to other patients and affected communities, caring for in-patients at health facilities, assisting governments in mobilizing resources from international communities and multi-national corporations, participation in health system strengthening and advocacy for policy change that favour patients and programs, participate in clinical trials in research and many other functions.

The African Region's non-recognition of the work of civil society has to come to an end if we are going to move together to end TB pandemic in every African country. We have the potential to reach ZERO TB deaths if we unite in the fight against TB. TB affects and

