

ADVANCING INNOVATION TO END TB

In recent years, the world has made significant progress in the fight against one of today's most pressing public health challenges: tuberculosis (TB). Renewed focus on this disease has saved lives, empowered communities, and bolstered economies.

Yet TB has recently surpassed HIV/AIDS to become the world's deadliest infectious disease, claiming 1.6 million lives every year. The global response is falling short of what is needed to achieve the bold Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of ending TB by 2030. Weak health systems, insufficient funding, and a lack of political will are limiting progress against this disease, and life-saving tools and technologies are not reaching people fast enough.

Further, TB is becoming resistant to the medicines that are used to treat and help prevent its spread. Drug-resistant TB, especially multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), is contributing to the global burden of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and threatening hard-won gains.

We, the signatories to this charter, believe greater innovation is the key to transforming all aspects of the TB response, from how people are identified, diagnosed, treated, and cured, to how the disease is prevented. Only by developing new approaches, tools, and technologies and ensuring they reach the people who need them will we be able to achieve our collective goals for ultimately ending TB. Global health security concerns and patient rights make this investment an urgent, moral imperative.

We underline the importance of galvanizing increased investment in TB innovation, including:

- New approaches for finding and treating the people missed by health systems;
- More effective and better-tolerated medicines, including safer treatments for children;
- Faster and more accurate diagnostics that can be used at the point of care;
- An effective preventive vaccine;
- Technologies that empower people to be active participants in their care; and
- Ultimately, a universal, fast-acting cure for both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant TB.

We must also accelerate the delivery of existing tools to the people who need them and prepare for the introduction of new technologies. We recognize that the world's ability to prevent, diagnose, treat and cure TB is only as strong as the strategies and systems in place to support these efforts. We need to champion novel access approaches, improve regulatory frameworks, and strengthen long-term commitments for health system capacity-building. Only by ensuring that innovations reach people around the world can we truly achieve "health for all."

We recognize the need to sustainably incentivize innovation – in the lab and at the country-level – as a common goal. To prevail in our efforts to end TB, we must work as a united and effective partnership to drive innovation for new tools and technologies.

We, the signatories to this charter, stand confidently and optimistically together, poised to collaborate in new ways and with new energy to advance innovation that will power the next stage – the final stage – in the fight against TB. Together, we will end TB for good.

Signed,

