



BACKGROUND FAQ

THE UN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TB

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WHAT IS A UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING?

A United Nations High-Level Meeting (UN HLM) is convened by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the main decision-making body of the UN representing all 193 UN Member States, and governments. Agreement to hold a dedicated UN HLM on a specialized topic is taken in exceptional circumstances through a UN resolution and vote, with the purpose of reaching agreement on cooperation measures and solutions on important global issues among Heads of State and governments. The UN HLM on TB will be the fifth time the UN has called for a high-level meeting devoted to a health issue, the first being the 2001 Special Session on HIV/AIDS, followed by UN HLMs on Non-communicable Diseases, Ebola, and Antimicrobial Resistance.

HOW WAS THE UN HLM ON TB AGREED?

Following a campaign launched by the Stop TB Partnership Board and partners in September 2016 at its Coordinating Board Meeting in New York, the resolution calling for a UN HLM on TB was tabled in December 2016 by the Global Health and Foreign Policy Initiative, a UN country grouping which includes South Africa, Thailand, Brazil, France, Norway, Senegal, and Indonesia. The resolution, and specifically the text calling for the UN HLM on TB, was agreed unanimously by UN member states through a vote in the UN General Assembly.

HOW IS THE AGENDA DECIDED?

The agenda, topics, date, and speakers will be agreed in a UN document called the 'modalities resolution' which will be negotiated and agreed by UN member states at UN headquarters in New York. The exact timeline for the negotiation and finalization of the modalities resolution will be agreed by UN member states. Based on previous HLMs, it will likely be finalized 6-8 months before the UN HLM on TB takes place.

WHY IS THE UN HLM ON TB IMPORTANT?

The High-Level Meeting is the biggest and best opportunity to raise the political priority of TB. It is the most significant political meeting ever held on TB. The meeting will result in a Political Declaration on TB endorsed by Heads of State that will form the basis for the future TB response.

It should secure commitment from Heads of State and government for a coordinated global response, agree to substantially increase financial resources for TB, and lead to millions of lives saved from premature deaths from TB. It should endorse measurable targets and commitments from governments and key stakeholders for 2020 and 2025 on which they can be monitored and held accountable through regular reporting.

ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION OF THE UN HLM

WHERE AND WHEN WILL THE MEETING TAKE PLACE?

The meeting will take place at UN Headquarters in New York in 2018. The exact date has yet to be decided and will be agreed in the 'modalities resolution' which will be agreed by UN member states. The Stop TB Partnership and partners have requested the meeting take place in September 2018 over a period of two days to coincide with the UN General Assembly General Debate, in order to maximize the attendance of Heads of State and Ministers.

WHO IS IT BEING ORGANIZED BY?

The UN High-Level Meeting on TB will be organized under the direction of the UN General Assembly. The resolution agreeing to hold the UN HLM 'requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to propose options and modalities for the conduct of such a meeting, including potential deliverables, building on existing efforts in this regard'. The Stop TB Partnership is working with all partners and WHO to ensure the organization of the meeting reflects the inputs and strengths of different partners in the TB community.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN A UN HLM?

Previous HLM's have been attended by Heads of State, Government Ministers, UN Secretary General and other UN leaders, civil society, community representatives, private sector, UN Ambassadors, researchers, academics, parliamentarians, and other relevant partners. Non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) can register and attend all UN HLMs. As was the case with previous UN HLMs and their respective stakeholders, all TB organizations and stakeholders (regardless of UN ECOSOC status) should have the opportunity to register and attend the UN HLM on TB.

