**WTBD Template Advocacy Letter**

 **Re: Invitation to join the global campaign for World TB Day, 24 March 2022.**

Dear <Recipient>

I am writing to you in advance of World TB Day on 24th March to invite you to join our campaign with the theme ‘Invest to End TB. Save Lives’.

As the representative of a country with an important role to play in protecting and promoting global health, we would be grateful if you could support the World TB Day campaign by reminding the world that we are losing time in the fight to end this deadly disease.

TB remains the world’s deadliest airborne pandemic next to COVID-19 and causes 1.5 million deaths every year, despite being preventable and curable. World leaders have until the end of this year to reach the targets agreed in the 2018 UN High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on TB Political Declaration. This is a milestone moment in the 2030 Agenda; failure to fulfill the targets will seriously threaten the target to end the TB epidemic by 2030.

Progress is particularly off track in the area of TB investments, the focus of this year’s World TB Day. Following world leaders UNHLM on TB commitment to spend $15 billion on TB annually, including $2 billion on research and development, current funding is less than half of that amount, and fell by $500 million dollars to just $6.2 billion in 2020.

This World TB Day, I wish to kindly ask you to support our efforts and campaign in one of the following ways for your consideration:

* Issue a public statement on World TB Day on your TB response and the heavy COVID-19 impact on people with TB and their treatment;
* Reaffirm your commitment to reaching the UN Political Declaration on TB targets by December 2022, and express your support for a successful UN High-Level Meeting on TB in September 2023;
* Consider lighting up city landmarks, buildings, or clocks in your capital city in **RED** on 24 March 2022 to bring attention to the fight against TB;
* Share WTBD images, news, and messages on social media to support and amplify the global World TB Day campaign using the campaign materials at [www.stoptb.org/world-tb-day](http://www.stoptb.org/world-tb-day)’
* Lead a meeting with key TB stakeholders and members of the government and discuss financing for TB prevention and care, innovations in care delivery, and research and development.

Please do not hesitate to reach out in case we can provide further information.

Best regards,

<Name and Organization>