

Stop TB Partnership
Community Delegation

To

António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations

Cc:

Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General, Global Communications

Kathryn Good, Head, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, United Nations

Robert Skinner, Deputy Director/Chief of Partnerships and Global Engagement, United Nations

Dear Mr. Guterres,

On behalf of the Community Delegation to the Stop TB Partnership Board which constitutes people affected by TB, we would first like to congratulate you on a successful UN High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in New York on 26 September 2024.

We particularly laud the Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) which highlights drug-resistant TB as a top priority, ensuring visibility for TB during the UNHLM. The Political Declaration, which recognizes TB as a critical component of the global AMR response, underscores the urgent need for coordinated global action to combat AMR.

We also appreciated the efforts with inclusivity of the meeting with the participation of civil society organisations, including representatives of affected TB communities.

However, we would like to bring to your attention some significant challenges encountered by several delegates during the meeting which have impacted participation and access to this important meeting.

Unfortunately, a number of our representatives faced difficulties accessing the venue, with some being outright denied access to critical meetings. Confirmations of registration of civil society representatives were sent just a week before the meeting. While only a small number of those who sought registration received confirmation, several civil society participants did not receive an update on their registration status until a few hours before the UNHLM - with important representatives being denied registration as 'seating capacity is extremely limited'.

The reality was the rooms were not packed to capacity, and apart from logistical considerations of civil society and affected communities who come from all over the world and would be unable to attend the meeting on such short notice, this unfortunate situation not only hindered their ability to partake in these important discussions but also compromised the inclusivity and diversity of perspectives at the meeting, particularly from those representing marginalized communities.

No representatives from TB civil society or TB-affected communities were given the floor to speak during the two UNHLM multi-stakeholder panels, despite many civil society representatives in attendance, most of whom had submitted a request to make a statement.

Given the importance of ensuring all voices are heard, particularly on such a global platform, we kindly request that the organizing committee take immediate steps to address these

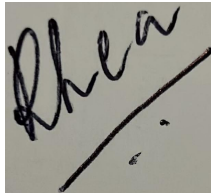
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access issues. We recommend the following measures to improve the experience for future events:

1. **Streamlined and Clear Access Protocols:** Ensure that the process for delegate accreditation and access is clearly communicated with deadlines for acceptance/denials and consistently applied, with particular attention to addressing any logistical barriers.
2. **Increased On-Site Support:** Assign more personnel to assist with delegate entry and resolve any issues promptly, particularly for those attending from diverse or under-represented communities.
3. **Virtual Participation Options:** Consider enhanced virtual access for those unable to physically attend due to access challenges, ensuring that their voices are not excluded from the dialogue.

We appreciate your commitment to facilitating an inclusive and accessible high-level meeting and hope these recommendations will be considered for future events.



RHEA LOBO, Board Member

On behalf of,

**MAXIME LUNGA (Board Member),
TANAKA MUKUHWA (Board Member),
KSENIA SCHENINA (Alternate Board Member)**

**THE COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY TB CONSTITUENCY DELEGATION TO
THE STOP TB PARTNERSHIP BOARD**