



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 April 2018

Excellency,

In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 72/268 on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the High-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis, I will convene an interactive civil society hearing as part of the preparatory process on 4 June 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The interactive hearing will provide representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local government, relevant United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, academia, medical associations and the private sector, as well as people affected by tuberculosis and broader communities, with an opportunity to share experiences and contribute constructively to the preparations of the high-level meeting.

I am pleased to enclose herewith the concept note and provisional agenda of the hearing. An updated programme will be provided in due course.

I encourage representatives of Member States to participate in the hearing.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miroslav Lajčák

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

Concept Note and Preliminary Program

**Interactive Civil Society Hearing**  
**as part of the preparatory process toward the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on TB**

4 June 2018

Conference Room 1  
United Nations Headquarters, New York

**Background**

In accordance with UN General Assembly resolutions 71/159 and 72/268, a high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis will be convened on 26 September 2018 with the overall theme: “United to end tuberculosis: an urgent global response to a global epidemic”.

In order to support the inclusive, active and substantive engagement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the process and as requested in UN General Assembly resolution 72/268, the President of the General Assembly will convene an Interactive Civil Society Hearing on 4 June 2018, with the support of the World Health Organization and the Stop TB Partnership.

**Objective**

The Interactive Civil Society Hearing will provide all relevant stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing preparatory process for the High-Level Meeting. The event will bring together representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local government, relevant UN entities, from civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, medical associations and the private sector, as well as people affected by tuberculosis and broader communities. This includes ensuring the participation and voices of women, girls and indigenous leadership.

The Hearing will focus on the current state of efforts and needs to accelerate the TB response. Participants will be encouraged to exchange views on key priorities for the High-Level Meeting, while underscoring experiences and best practices on the ground, highlighting the special challenges faced by civil society organizations and other stakeholders working in the field, and the need for stronger accountability at all levels.

The Hearing provides a key opportunity to explore the strength, diversity and commitments of civil society and other stakeholders in the response to the TB epidemic by discussing challenges and opportunities in the TB response and by proposing key actions that will make it possible to end TB by 2030. Fundamental to advancing action will be strengthened accountability for all stakeholders.

### **Format**

The one-day Hearing will be divided into an opening segment, four interactive panel discussions and a closing segment. The four panels will feature panelists, including survivors of and people affected by TB, taking into consideration diverse backgrounds. The themes are:

1. Reaching the unreached: closing gaps in TB diagnosis, treatment, care, and prevention
2. Innovation to end TB: new tools and approaches
3. Investing to end the world's leading infectious killer
4. Partnerships for success – the role of communities in an equitable, person-centered, rights-based response

Each panel will be opened by a member of an affected community sharing their story, underpinning the theme of the specific session. Guiding questions for each thematic panel are provided in the provisional programme framework below.

### **Outcome**

The outcome will be a summary prepared by the President of the General Assembly. It will be circulated to all Member States and other stakeholders.

**Interactive Civil Society Hearing**  
**as part of the preparatory process toward the General Assembly High-Level meeting on TB**  
**4 June 2018**  
**Conference Room 1**  
**Provisional Programme**

10:00 - 10:30	<p><b><u>Opening segment</u></b> by H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the General Assembly</p> <p>Speakers (tbc)</p>
10:30 - 11:45	<p><b><u>Panel 1: Reaching the unreachable: closing gaps in TB diagnosis, treatment, care, and prevention</u></b></p> <p>This panel will focus on the reaching the millions of people who are falling ill with TB annually. In 2016, that figure was 10.4 million. Between 2018 and 2022, 40 million people will need quality care – including people with drug-sensitive, drug-resistant, and pediatric TB, TB-HIV coinfection and other comorbidities, other vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population, including miners, indigenous persons, prisoners, migrants, people who use drugs, and all those people needing preventive treatment. This panel will discuss how to pivot the global response in order to achieve the End TB targets, and ensure that everyone has access to quality TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care.</p> <p><b><u>Guiding Questions:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizing that 40% of people with TB go undiagnosed or unreported every year, how do we transform to efforts so we can find, diagnosis and treat all people with TB, and address specific barriers through community-based, public and private sector care and prevention efforts?</li> <li>• Given SDG 3 which includes ending TB by 2030, and the overarching principle of Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind, how should the international community best address the needs of society as a whole, including the vulnerable and marginalized segments of population, key populations and affected communities, taking into account age, gender and vulnerability perspectives?</li> <li>• How can we build accountability for measurable and fast progress on access to care?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator (tbc)  Stakeholder Panelists (tbc)</p> <p>Interactive Q&amp;A</p>
11:45 - 13:00	<p><b><u>Panel 2: Investing to end the world's leading infectious killer</u></b></p> <p>TB cannot be eliminated with existing resources in TB care and R&amp;D. Without significant investment in the fight against TB, the disease is estimated to cost the global economy nearly USD 1 trillion by 2030. This panel will focus on how to fill the annual funding gaps for TB care and prevention (USD 2.3 billion) and TB R&amp;D (USD 2 billion), as well as build support for investment in dramatically underfunded health systems. Currently, 85% of resources for TB come from domestic funding, but more financing is needed both from domestic and international sources if we hope to end TB by 2030.</p>

	<p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we achieve the financing necessary to fully fund the TB response? In particular, how do we ensure adequate resources for community advocacy and services in order to enable the scale up of TB programmes for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care for all people affected by TB, particularly key and vulnerable populations?</li> <li>• What are the key factors for change that will enable increased and reliable financing of community responses; including for adequate planning, costing and budgeting, and policy and regulatory frameworks?</li> <li>• What are good ways to drive greater accountability for domestic and international financing, including innovative approaches?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator (tbc) Stakeholder Panelists (tbc)</p> <p>Interactive Q&amp;A</p>
15:00 - 16:15	<p><b><u>Panel 3: Innovation to end TB: new tools and approaches</u></b></p> <p>This panel will focus on the urgent need to invest in new tools, including drugs, diagnostics and vaccines, and their effective roll-out to ensure access for all people in need. Today, most people are still diagnosed using the same technology from 1882 - a microscope, the only vaccine is 97 years old, and the drugs available were found decades ago. Research and innovation are also needed to develop new approaches to tackling TB, and to face the public health threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Multi-drug resistant TB is among the top concerns in the AMR response.</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the urgent need for better TB diagnostics, drugs, vaccines, and technologies, how should civil society, other TB stakeholders, and Member States work together to ensure adequate resources and support for research and development and community-led initiatives, both globally and nationally, and accountability for research and development impact?</li> <li>• How are the weaknesses in TB diagnostics, drugs, vaccines and technologies affecting people today? Why do we need new tools?</li> <li>• How can civil society and, in particular, TB-affected communities, be meaningfully involved in research and development processes?</li> <li>• What is the best way to support existing and new research initiatives and ensure they deliver on their goals?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator (tbc) Stakeholder Panelists (tbc)</p>

	Interactive Q&A
16:15 - 17:45	<p><b><u>Panel 4: Partnerships for success - the role of communities in an equitable, person-centred, rights-based response</u></b></p> <p>The TB response must begin with the affected people and communities, be rights-based, and enable a model of person-centred care and prevention. This panel will focus on efforts to empower communities through education and counseling, proper social protection, and people-centred models of service delivery such as integrated, decentralized, ambulatory care.</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How should civil society and affected communities best support Member States to envision and implement inclusive, people-centered, gender sensitive, and evidence-based TB responses and equal access to justice?</li> <li>• Breaking the transmission cycle is essential to stopping any communicable disease – today this is happening in homes, communities and workplaces. As we accelerate efforts at preventing TB how do we ensure adequate balance between people’s rights to know if they have TB and their right to privacy?</li> <li>• How can accountability be advanced so that Member States and all stakeholders are advancing dialogue and partnerships in planning, implementing, monitoring and reviewing actions undertaken?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator (tbc) Stakeholder Panelists (tbc)</p> <p>Interactive Q&amp;A</p>
17:45 - 18:00	<p><b><u>Closing segment</u></b> by H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the General Assembly</p> <p>Speakers (tbc)</p>