

Dear [Prime Minister/President/Minister]

We are people affected by tuberculosis (TB), academics, researchers, healthcare professionals, advocates, scientists, and representatives of concerned organisations. We are writing to urge you to ensure that TB is prioritised within the G20's work this year on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

TB is the world's leading infectious killer. In 2015, 1.8 million people died from TB, almost 5000 every day. Despite the scale of the epidemic, and the fact that TB is preventable and curable, progress against the disease has been frustratingly slow. In recent years, incidence of TB has been falling at just 1.5 per cent a year. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include an ambitious target to end TB by 2030, but at the current rate of progress, TB will remain a major threat to public health well into the next century.

In addition to its toll on public health, TB is both a cause and a consequence of poverty, and has a major economic and social impact on families, communities and countries across the world. Without addressing TB, the broader vision of the SDGs to eliminate poverty by 2030 will not be possible.

In addition to being the world's leading infectious killer, TB is one of the world's leading drug-resistant threats. It is responsible for one-in-three deaths from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and is the only major airborne form of AMR.

Resistance to TB is driven by a combination of market failure and inadequate care and prevention programmes. Nearly forty per cent of all TB cases are not officially diagnosed or treated, and those patients who are diagnosed have to endure a long and difficult treatment course associated with sometimes severe side-effects. The difficulty of completing treatment increases the likelihood of developing drug-resistance.

Like many other forms of AMR, comprehensive market failure blocks the research and development of urgently needed drugs, diagnostics and vaccines for TB. No new drugs have entered the standard first-line TB treatment regimen for fifty years. Although much can be done by scaling up use of existing tools, without a quicker, safer TB regimen, and a new TB vaccine, we cannot beat the disease.

This year, the G20 is discussing steps that can be taken to address the global threat of AMR. It is critical that these discussions recognise the scale of the TB epidemic in G20 countries. Nearly half (816,000) of all deaths from TB, and 54 per cent (5.6 million) of all cases of TB in 2015, were in G20 nations. Much can be done to reduce the impact of the disease, and to prevent the further spread of drug-resistant strains, through scale-up of existing care and prevention and ensuring that every patient is diagnosed and treated.

However, to end TB, we need new medicines and tools. Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), recently said: "Addressing drug-resistant TB research is a top priority for the WHO and the world."

We therefore request that you take all steps necessary to prioritise TB within the AMR agenda, by enhancing investment in the development of a new TB vaccine and better diagnostics, and particularly by adding your support to the development of a G20 mechanism that will fast-track the development of a new anti-TB regimen.

Such a new regimen—which could treat all forms of TB, including drug-resistant strains—would have a major public health impact, and provide a rapid return for public investment.

Every year, more people die from TB than from any other infectious disease. More than 30 million have died from it since 2000. These deaths could have been prevented if countries had scaled up their existing programmes, and if leading nations had worked together to overcome the market failure preventing the development of new medicines. This year the G20 can take action to ensure that future generations are free from TB, we urge you to seize this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

1. Aavash Samuha, Nepal.
2. ACTION global health advocacy partnership, Global.
3. Advance Access & Delivery, USA.
4. Aequitas Consulting Pvt. Ltd., India.
5. Aeras, USA.
6. Africa Coalition on TB, Zambia.
7. Africa Japan Forum, Japan.
8. AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa, Southern Africa.
9. Alliance for Public Health, Ukraine.
10. American Thoracic Society, USA.
11. ANVITA, India.
12. APCASO, Asia Pacific.
13. Asociacion Nacional de Personas Positivas Vida Nueva, El Salvador.
14. ATP+, Tunisia.
15. AVERT, U.K.
16. Belgian Lung and Tuberculosis Association, Belgium.
17. Coalition of Zambian Women Living with HIV (COZWHA+), Zambia.
18. Community Initiative for TB, HIV/AIDS & Malaria (CITAM+), Zambia.
19. Critical Path Institute, USA.
20. Cultura LLC, USA.
21. Damien Foundation, Belgium.
22. Deutsche Stiftung Weltbev Alkerung, Germany.
23. Drug Resistant TB Scale Up Treatment Action Team (DR-TB STAT), USA.
24. EAP (European Academy of Paediatrics), Belgium.
25. European Respiratory Society (ERS), Belgium.
26. FONADE, Columbia.
27. Friends Affect & Infected Together in Hand (FAITH), Nepal.
28. Friends of the Global Fund Europe, Europe.
29. Fundacion Amigos del observatorio Venezolano de la Salud (FAOVS), Venezuela.
30. Georgia Family Medicine Association, Georgia.

31. Global Coalition of TB Activists, Global.
32. Global Health Advocates France, France.
33. Global Health Advocates India, India.
34. Global Peace and Development Organization, Liberia.
35. Health GAP, USA.
36. Health Zone, DR Congo.
37. HPLGBT, Ukraine.
38. Initiative For Solutions Africa, Kenya.
39. International Civil Society Support, The Netherlands.
40. International HIV/AIDS Alliance, U.K.
41. International Treatment Preparedness Coalition Latin American and Caribbean, Guatemala.
42. International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, France.
43. Jaringan Peduli Tuberkulosis Indonesia (JAPETI), Indonesia.
44. KELIN, Kenya.
45. Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO), Kenya.
46. KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, The Netherlands.
47. Koch-Mechnikov-Forum, Germany.
48. Lean on Me Foundation, Kenya.
49. Mecanismo social de apoyo y control en VIH de Colombia, Colombia.
50. Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Switzerland.
51. Medici con l' Africa CUAMM, Italy.
52. Medicines Patent Pool, Switzerland.
53. National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, Georgia.
54. National TB Controllers Association, USA.
55. Osservatorio AIDS, Italy.
56. Pacific Friends of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Australia.
57. Partners In Health, USA.
58. Pejuang Tangguh (PETA - Tough Survivor), Indonesia.
59. Public Health Research Society Nepal, Nepal.
60. Radanar Ayar Association.
61. RAP+Afrique Centrale, Cameroon.
62. RESIST-TB (Research Excellence to Stop TB Resistance), USA.
63. RESULTS Canada, Canada.
64. RESULTS International (Australia), Australia.
65. RESULTS Japan, Japan.
66. RESULTS UK. U.K.
67. RESULTS USA, USA.
68. Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation, Romania.
69. Stop TB Partnership, Switzerland.
70. Stop TB USA, USA.
71. STOPAIDS, U.K.
72. TB Alert, U.K.
73. TB Alliance, USA.
74. TB Europe Coalition, Western and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
75. TB Photovoice, USA.
76. TB PROOF, South Africa.
77. TEST Foundation, India.
78. The Princess of Africa Foundation, South Africa.

79. The Sentinel Project on Pediatric Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis, USA.
80. Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa.
81. Treatment Action Group, USA.
82. Vladimir TB Control Association, Russia.
83. WACI Health, South Africa.
84. Zambia CSO TB Coalition, Zambia.

Individuals

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6. Andriy Klepikov, Executive Director, Alliance for Public Health, Ukraine.
7. Angel Cheng, Global TB Caucus, Fiji.
8. Anita Svadzian, McGill International TB Centre, Canada.
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10. Anup Chalise, Nepal Medical College and Teaching Hospital, Nepal.
11. Askar Yedilbayev, Partners In Health, USA.
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13. Barbara Cole, Public Health.
14. Bavesh Kana, National Health Laboratory Services, South Africa.
15. Bikash G.C., Aavash Samuha, Nepal.
16. Blessina Kumar, CEO, GCTA, India.
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28. Danilo Casimiro, Chief Scientific Officer, Aeras. USA.
29. De Backer, Damien Foundation, Belgium.
30. Dean Lewis, Western (India) Harm Reduction Network, India.
31. Deccy Gonzalez Ruge, secretaria de Salud de Cundinamarca. Colombia.
32. Dr Arne von Delft, living with presumed latent MDR-TB, TB Proof, South Africa.
33. Dr Balasangameshwara Vollepore, ANVITA, India.
34. Dr Dalene von Delft, Occupational MDR-TB survivor and Chairperson, TB Proof, South Africa.
35. Dr Grania Brigden, The International Union Against TB and Lung Disease, 3P Project Lead, Switzerland.
36. Dr Jacqueline Shea, CEO, Aeras. USA.

37. Dr Naresh Gill, Medical Focal Point, MSF, India.
38. Dr Wouter Arrazola de Oate, Belgian Lung and Tuberculosis Association, Belgium.
39. Dr. Kevin Schwartzman, Director, Respiratory Division, McGill University, Canada.
40. Dr. Paul Freeman, University of Washington, USA.
41. Dr. Ruvandhi Nathavitharana, Harvard Medical School, USA.
42. Dr. Sara L.M. Davis, Graduate Institute, Switzerland.
43. Dr. Daisy Dharmaraj, Director, TEST Foundation, India.
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45. E Jane Carter, MD, Immediate Past President of The Union, Associate Professor of Medicine, Brown University, Brown University School of Medicine, USA.
46. Elna Osso, Department of Global Health & Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School, USA.
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50. Farai Mavhunga, Chief Medical Officer, NTP Namibia, Namibia.
51. Francisco Olivares, Corresponsales Clave, Chile.
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66. Joyce Nganga, Policy Advocacy Officer, WACI Health, Kenya.
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68. Jum'atil Fajar, Medical Care Director, RSUD dr. H. Soemarno Sosroatmodjo, Indonesia.
69. Karen Jacobson, Assistant Professor, Boston University School of Medicine, USA.
70. Karen R Steingart, MD, MPH, Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group, USA.
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74. Laia Ruiz Mingote, TB Advocate.
75. Lisa V. Adams, Associate Dean for Global Health, Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine, USA.
76. Lucy Ghati, Programme Manager HIV and TB, KELIN, Kenya.
77. Ludmila Lucia Mihailescu, individual, Romania.
78. Lusiana Aprilawati, JAPETI, Indonesia.
79. Madhukar Pai, Professor, McGill International TB Centre, Canada.
80. Maha Farhat, Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, USA.
81. Marianella Herrera, Director, Fundacion Amigos del Observatorio Venezolano de la Salud, Venezuela.
82. Masaki Inaba, Africa Japan Forum, Japan.

83. Mercedes Becerra, Professor, Harvard Medical School, USA.
84. Michael L. Rich, Co-Leader, endTB project, Partners In Health.
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87. Nino Lomtadze, National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, Georgia.
88. Philip Lederer, MD, Harvard, USA.
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92. Pushpdeep, Researcher, IIT Bombay, India.
93. Rachael Crockett, Civil20 Health Working Group International Co-chair, U.K.
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96. Robert Benjamin, MD, MPH, Consultant.
97. Rosanna Flury, Advocate, Global TB Caucus Secretariat, U.K.
98. Salmaan Keshavjee, Professor, Harvard Medical School, USA.
99. Stephen Lewis, Co-Director, AIDS-Free World, Canada.
100. Susan Mundt, MSF, India.
101. Syed Rizwanuddin Ahmad, Pharmacovigilance & Regulatory System Strengthening, USA.
102. Ted Cohen, Yale School of Public Health, USA.
103. Teguh Sugiarto, PETA, Indonesia.
104. Timur Abdullaev, Member of the Interim Steering Committee, TBPeople, Uzbekistan.
105. Tsira Chakhaia, advocate, Georgia.
106. Tushar Nair, Global Coalition of TB Activists, India.
107. Vanaja Kumar, CDDD, Sathyabama university, India.
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109. Wieda Human, Early Inspiration, South Africa.
110. Wim Vandeveld, Chair, TBCAB, South Africa.
111. Yuliya Chorna, TB Advocacy Project manager, Ukraine.
112. Zahedul Islam, Management Science for Health (MSH), Bangladesh.