



HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

22 September 2023
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

The high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis is convened in accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/274](#). It will be held on September 22, 2023 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting will bring together Member States and their delegations including Heads-of-State and other leaders, ministers from relevant ministries, representatives such as parliamentarians, mayors and governors of cities and states with a high burden of tuberculosis, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and indigenous leadership community organizations and faith-based organizations, academia, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and networks representing people affected by tuberculosis. The objective of the meeting is to undertake a comprehensive review of the achievement of agreed tuberculosis goals at the national, regional and global levels contained in the 2018 political declaration, to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress towards ending the epidemic by 2030.

TB remains among the world's top infectious killers, claiming 1.6 million lives annually. In 2018, world leaders at the UN High Level Meeting on TB adopted a historic declaration (A/RES/73/3), with ambitious targets. The declaration catalyzed progress towards ending TB, saving lives. However, COVID-19 pandemic disruptions coupled with ongoing global crises, has reversed years of progress. Despite these challenges, Member States have made significant progress in saving millions of lives, through the roll-out of better tools and strategies to prevent, detect, and treat TB, strengthened collaboration across sectors to tackle the key drivers of the epidemic, and closer engagement with communities and civil society. Expansion of affordable access to TB services to all people affected by the disease, enabled by adequate financing, community and civil society engagement, social protection measures and effective vaccines can make ending the TB epidemic by 2030 a reality.

An overview of progress between 2018-2022 is presented in a [special report released by the UN Secretary-General](#), with the support of the World Health Organization, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/274. The report presents a comprehensive and analytical review of progress achieved and challenges remaining in realizing tuberculosis goals within the context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including on the progress and implementation of the 2018 political declaration of UN High Level Meeting on TB. It was critical in informing intergovernmental negotiations for the declaration of the 2023 High Level Meeting and the preparations for a comprehensive review by Heads of State and Government at the meeting.

The President of the General Assembly held a multi-stakeholder hearing on 8 May 2023 in preparation of the high-level meeting. It was highlighted during the hearing that the upcoming

High-Level Meeting presents a unique opportunity to reflect on progress achieved in the context of the commitments made in the 2018 political declaration of the first High-Level Meeting on the fight against TB (resolution 73/3), challenges remaining in reaching agreed global targets, and actions required to win the fight against TB.

Format

The meeting will be held fully in-person and will consist of an opening segment, a plenary, two interactive multi-stakeholder panels and a closing segment.

The themes of the multi-stakeholder panels are as follows.

- **Panel 1:** Accelerating multisectoral actions and accountability to ensure equitable high-quality people-centered tuberculosis care, and addressing determinants of tuberculosis in the context of universal health coverage
 - Given persisting gaps in access to TB prevention and treatment services, how can we ensure that all people with TB are reached with the latest WHO-recommended rapid diagnosis, prevention and care?
 - How can we build on lessons learnt from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to strengthen and transform the TB response to be resilient and resistant to shocks?
 - What are some of the key strategies to strengthen partnerships across sectors to streamline a comprehensive response to the TB epidemic, for example, between private, public sectors in health, or between health and non-health sectors?
 - How can meaningful and active engagement of civil society be streamlined by governments to drive an effective, human rights-based and people centered national TB response?
 - How can the main drivers of the TB epidemic be addressed through action beyond the health sector, across the Sustainable Development agenda?
- **Panel 2:** Scaling up adequate and sustainable national and international financing for tuberculosis service delivery, innovative strategies, as well as for the research and development of new diagnostics, vaccines and drugs
 - It is well known that funding from international donors is vital to accelerate the TB response, especially for many low- and middle-income countries with a high TB burden. At the same time significant funding gaps remain one of the biggest challenges to expand access to quality TB prevention, diagnosis and care. What could be the ways forward and perspectives to address this major resource challenge?
 - What innovative financing mechanisms can be leveraged to sustainably address the persistent chronic underfunding for the TB response, including for health workforce and to boost community engagement, both at domestic and international levels?
 - To intensify research and development, what are some ways to boost national and international financing required to fast-track the development of rapid tests that can be used at the point of care in community setting, safer and more effective drugs and treatment regimens and other technologies?
 - How do we re-think the way we finance and test new vaccines, to ensure their availability/near-availability to patients by the next high-level meeting in 2028?

How can we ensure rapid uptake of new TB vaccines for adults and adolescents, once they are available drawing on lessons from COVID-19 vaccine introduction and scale up?

Participation

The high-level meeting is open to Member States, observers of the General Assembly, the United Nations system, representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC and representatives of organizations with special accreditation.

Outcome

The high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented political declaration, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the General Assembly

Logistics

A detailed logistics note covering the three health-related meetings has been circulated with this concept note and will be available on the website of the President of the General Assembly.