AFRICA SIDE EVENT

@UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending TB

25 September 2018, New York, USA

“United To End Tuberculosis in Africa: A Continental Response”
BACKGROUND

African countries are making significant positive strides in the fight against tuberculosis since the time of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The World Health Organisation (WHO) TB report for 2017 indicates that seven African high TB burden countries were among countries that recorded at least 4% decline in TB incidence per year between 2010 and 2016. Overall, the African continent halted and started to reverse TB incidence by the end of 2015, thereby achieving the core MDG target for TB control.

Notwithstanding the progress made, TB remains a communicable disease of major public health concern globally and on the African continent. The continent harbours sixteen of the thirty high TB burden countries with some countries having incidence rates of over 500 per 100,000 population, double the continental average rate of 254 cases per 100,000 population. Africa accounts for 25% of the global burden of TB, 32% of HIV negative and 86% of HIV positive TB deaths. In 2016, it was estimated that 10.4 million people fell ill with TB worldwide, and Africa alone accounted for 2.6 million of these. In the same year 1.8 million people died from the disease globally, with the majority in low and middle-income countries - an observation that strongly suggests the relationship of the disease with poverty, malnutrition, working and living conditions. Furthermore, in the midst of the great African efforts to combat TB, the emergence of Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB) is posing a major setback. Another threat comes from the negative impacts of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on TB incidence and death.

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the WHO End TB Strategy, and the African Union Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2030 present a new era in the fight against TB. Consistent with these strategic frameworks, efforts are being taken by African countries to change focus from halting the TB epidemic to ending it. Regional Economic Communities and countries have thus adopted TB strategies aimed at ending the epidemic. Efforts have been taken at the continental, regional and national level to fight TB where it matters most, among vulnerable populations which are hotspots for the spread of the disease including in correctional facilities, among migrant populations and refugees, in mining communities, health workers, transport corridors, and in children. Furthermore, the efforts are targeting the unique relationships between TB and HIV, TB and poverty, and TB and mining thereby triggering a multi-sectoral approach to end TB by 2030.

In the advent of regional and continental integration, the challenge of TB has become cross-border due to high intra-regional population mobility facilitating transmission of the disease, making TB a regional problem. Defeating TB therefore requires collective continental efforts using innovative and sustainable strategies to mobilise and empower communities to actively plug-in on continental transformative actions to end the TB epidemic by 2030. Africa thus needs united and renewed efforts towards meeting control targets set at the country, regional, continental and global levels. Finally, to attain the desired outcome of ending the TB epidemic will require additional and sustained financial commitments by governments, especially from domestic sources.

It is against this background that the African Union Commission (AUC), NEPAD Agency, Pan African Parliament (PAP), RECs, WHO, UNAIDS, Global Fund, African Development Bank, World Bank and Stop TB Partnership have organised a high-level Africa side event with the theme “United to End
Tuberculosis in Africa: A Continental Response”. The side event, which will be held on 25 September 2018 on the Side-lines of the UNHLM on Tuberculosis, presents an opportunity for African Leaders, partners, funders and civil society to assess, dialogue, re-energise and galvanise efforts towards ending TB by 2030. The event will share success stories and lessons learnt in TB prevention and control in Africa, with a focus on regional collaboration/partnership and resource mobilization.

REGIONAL INTERVENTIONS ON TB

There are various regional initiative implemented in Africa guided by the AU Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2030, and WHO End TB Strategy. The continent has taken a regional approach to deal with the shared burden across national boundaries which is proving to be an effective mechanism to achieving the desired ends. For instance, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region adopted a declaration on TB in the mining sector in 2012 to guide regional collaborative actions on TB within the sector. In implementing the declaration, SADC countries are collectively spearheading the implementation of projects aimed at eliminating TB among key populations which are hotspots for the spread of the disease. The Southern Africa Tuberculosis and Health Systems Support (SATBHSS) project was initiated in 2007 with the aim of improving the coverage and quality of key TB control and occupational lung disease services, and strengthening regional capacity to manage the burden of TB and occupational diseases. The Tuberculosis in the Mining Sector (TIMS) project is also targeting miners, ex-miners and their communities in the fight against TB in the sub-region.

West and Central Africa are benefiting from WHO support and approach of creating regional networks to effectively tackle the TB burden. They have created the West African Regional Network for Tuberculosis control (WARN-TB) involving all major partners in the fight against TB in the sub-region. Through the West African Health Organization (WAHO), West Africa has identified TB as one of its diseases for regional interventions in the 2016–2020 WAHO Strategic Plan. Discussions are on-going to operationalize a sister network in Central Africa, the Central African Regional Network for TB control (CARN-TB). The networks work towards sharing best practices and lessons learnt in TB case finding and treatment.

The East African Community (EAC) is guided by the HIV and AIDS/STI and TB Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan and Implementation Framework (2015–2020) in the implementation of regional interventions to tackle TB. The EAC region is targeting the development of a regional roadmap to facilitate eradication of TB within the WHO target of 2035 by focussing on innovations in diagnostics as a way of preventing TB, early detection and treatment in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda through the Tuberculosis: Working to Empower Nations Diagnostic Efforts (TWENDE) project. EAC is also renovating public health laboratories, including national TB reference laboratories to control the spread of communicable disease, including TB through the East Africa Public Health Laboratory Networking Project.

At its recent Summit in Nouakchott, Mauritania (1-2 July 2018), the Aids Watch Africa (AWA) Heads of State and Government endorsed a Common African Position on TB to be presented at the forthcoming first ever UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on TB, a Continental End TB Accountability Framework of Action to energise country level responses to past and present political commitments to end TB, and an annual Scorecard to track key End TB indicators by country.
The different projects and efforts above represent some of the interventions aimed at eliminating TB at the regional level. In addition to the regional intervention, AU Member States are also implementing projects directly at national level to address the burden of TB and other diseases.

**OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the side-event is to galvanise commitment by leaders at the highest level of government, private sector and civil society on innovative regional collaboration/partnership towards ending the challenge of TB in Africa. This side event will provide a platform for learning and sharing on innovative policy measures and programme implementation for TB prevention and control in Africa.

Specifically, the meeting will address the following objectives;

1. Highlight the strides being made to control TB in Africa through meaningful partnerships for ending TB, and raise awareness of opportunities for regional collaboration that exist
2. Mobilise support towards interventions that will move Africa towards ending TB by 2030

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The side event is expected to achieve the following outcomes;

1. Increased awareness among stakeholders, partners and funders about the importance of and opportunities for multi-country collaboration/partnership for TB control on the African continent.
2. Renewed commitment by governments, stakeholders, partners and funders to fight TB towards ending it on the continent by 2030.

**EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS**

The meeting will bring together a cross section of Presidents, Ministers and senior officials, champions, RECs, UN Agencies, representatives of NGOs, civil society and TB clients, development partners, AUC, NEPAD Agency and ECSA-HC.

**VENUE AND DATES**

The side event will be convened at Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel in New York, USA, on 25 September 2018 and will consist of a high-level panel input and an interactive plenary discussion from 12:30 – 15:30 Hours.

**PROGRAMME**

Please see next page for the programme;
Session Moderator: Ms Yvonne Chaka-Chaka, NEPAD Agency TB Goodwill Ambassador

12:30 - 12:35: WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE SESSION
   – H.E. Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD Agency CEO

12:35 - 12:50: TOWARDS A TB-FREE AFRICA - THE AFRICAN UNION (AU) PERSPECTIVE
   – H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and African Union Chairperson

12:50 - 13:05: THE COMMON AFRICA POSITION ON TB
   – H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa

13:05 - 13:20: LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY AS DRIVERS FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST TB IN AFRICA
   – Right Hon. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho

   – Phumeza Tisile and Dalene von Delft, Multi-Drug Resistant Survivors - TB Proof

13:40 - 14:20: PANEL DISCUSSION ONE: MULTI-COUNTRY COLLABORATION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST TB IN AFRICA
   – Health system approach to addressing TB
     Hon. Nazira Karimo Vali Abdula, Minister of Health of Mozambique
   – Regional Networks for TB Control Research
     Dr Matshidiso Moeti, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa
   – Private sector participation: Addressing TB in the Mining sector as a regional challenge
     Mr Nikisi Lesufi, Minerals Council of South Africa
   – Prevention of TB through inclusive workplace action
     Dr Sofia Kisting, Executive Director, National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) - South Africa

14:20 - 15:00: PANEL DISCUSSION TWO: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, FINANCING AND ACCOUNTABILITY
   – Strategic partnerships towards ending TB in Africa
     Mr Peter Sands, Executive Director, Global Fund (GF)
   – Models for sustainable financing of the fight against TB in Africa
     World Bank (WB)
   – Parliamentarians on the move to defeat TB on the African continent
     Hon. Dr Nazar Khalid, Chairperson - Pan African Parliament TB Caucus
   – Mobilizing key populations and ensuring accountability for results
     Civil Society Organization (CSO) representative
   – Key elements of the political declaration at the UNHLMTB - what needs to be achieved globally and in the African Union region to achieve the targets
     Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director - Stop TB partnership

15:00 - 15:20: HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSION
