

## **Statement on agenda item 11.8—Preparation for high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on ending TB**

*Delivered at the 71<sup>st</sup> World Health Assembly*

GHC supported by IDSA, EGPAF, GHTC and PIH are eager to see an HLM political declaration focused on finding the missing 4 million cases, scaling up treatment and prevention, and increasing investments in R&D for new & affordable diagnostics, treatments, vaccines and other technologies.

We urge the inclusion of child-specific targets to ensure childhood TB challenges are treated with urgency. TB is a top 10 cause of child mortality, killing 700 children daily. Under 15% of children exposed receive preventive therapy, and under 50% of the 1 million children who develop TB each year are diagnosed and treated. We now have child friendly formulations, but we lack child-friendly tools to accurately detect TB.

As the leading cause of drug resistance-related deaths, and the most prevalent airborne drug-resistant disease, TB and the global AMR crisis are inextricably linked. Tackling TB is central to addressing AMR, and all efforts must be made to end DR-TB as a global health security threat. To prevent the ever-increasing threat of an AMR crisis that spirals out of control, member states must commit the resources needed to end DR-TB.

We urge member states to adopt a political declaration based on human rights, equity and medical science, and commit to closing funding gaps in TB detection, prevention, treatment and R&D.