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

Delivered at the 71st 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.