

(Translation)

Written Statement by Professor Peng Liyuan
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS
To the WHO World TB Day 2026 Online Talk Show

Beijing, March 18, 2026

Your Excellency Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

Greetings to you all.

As we commemorate the 31st World TB Day, it is of great significance that WHO is hosting this virtual event to hold discussions under the theme “Led by countries, powered by people,” as it will facilitate joint actions among the international community against TB as a public health challenge.

TB is a major infectious disease that has long endangered people's health. With a firm commitment to the mission of protecting people's health and the goal of ending the TB epidemic, WHO has done a great deal of effective work, and reversed the recent upward trend in global TB cases. As WHO Goodwill Ambassador for TB and HIV/AIDS, I wish to pay my high tribute to all those from different sectors around the world who have devoted themselves to this worthy cause.

The Chinese government always places great importance on preventing and treating TB. It has coordinated government departments to implement response measures, and facilitated rapid technical and operational progress through scientific and technological innovation, enabling new advances in China's TB response. Moreover, the country's healthcare network that covers 1.4 billion-plus urban and rural residents has effectively improved access to TB prevention and treatment services, contributing to a sustained decline in TB incidence, and positioning China as a country with moderate to low TB prevalence.

This year has been designated by the U.N. General Assembly as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. It also marks the 15th year of China's large-scale volunteer campaign to raise awareness for TB prevention and control. Over the past 15 years, more than one million volunteers have participated in this campaign, carrying out over 80,000 programs. I have been joining many of them on visits to local neighborhoods, schools and healthcare facilities, and I am a proud witness of their compassion, commitment and contribution, as well as the progress in China's fight against TB.

It is even more encouraging that young students are becoming the backbone of China's volunteer service. Beyond campus-based volunteer activities, they also participate in outreach programs to bring knowledge to families and communities. With students inspiring their families, and families in turn supporting community efforts, young volunteers have become impactful “sparks” that ignite progress in public health. There are also volunteers who used their own success stories against the disease to help others shore up confidence in recovery.

Eliminating TB and safeguarding health is our shared pursuit and aspiration. I call upon all of you from different sectors and different countries to act, to support and to participate in global efforts against TB.

Let us share with each other warmth and care, and build together confidence and hope. Let us work for progress in TB response to the benefit of all humanity, and join hands to build a community of health for all.

I wish this event a full success.

Thank you.