On 09th June 2022, the WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus held a dialogue with the WHO Civil Society Task Force on Tuberculosis (CSTF-TB) in Geneva, Switzerland. The dialogue was followed by an online town hall with civil society and affected communities on the priorities for the CSTF-TB and its engagement with the broader civil society and affected communities working on TB. Recognizing the importance of the 2023 United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on Tuberculosis (2023 UNHLM on TB) in fostering high-level political will, enhancing collaboration, mobilizing resources for people-centred services for TB affected individuals, households and communities, and to end TB by 2030, CSTF-TB requested WHO to take the lead in leveraging the multistakeholder taskforce to set collective priorities in preparations for the 2023 UNHLM on TB.
IN THIS JOINT STATEMENT OF THE WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND CSTF-TB, WE COMMIT TO:

• Foster partnerships and synergies between WHO, United Nations agencies, partners, donors and other stakeholders for strengthened multisectoral engagement at the 2023 UNHLM on TB, as well as for ambitious priority-setting in countries;

• Support preparations for the 2023 UN High Level Meeting on TB through WHO’s multisectoral and multistakeholder taskforce on ending TB in close partnership with CSTF-TB, to facilitate more meaningful engagement of civil society and TB-affected communities in the meeting;

• Support the rapid adoption of WHO guidelines at country level to increase access to the best evidence-based interventions for people and communities affected by TB, including prevention, detection and treatment of people with TB and related comorbidities, with the involvement of civil society and affected communities.

THUS, CSTF-TB URGES GOVERNMENTS, PARTNERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO:

• Ensure multisectoral consultations involving the highest level of policy makers in preparation of the 2023 UNHLM on TB with inclusion of civil society, TB-affected community and sectors beyond health in each country;

• Identify and document successes and lessons learnt on the multisectoral collaboration and accountability to end TB in countries, in order to inform strategic action to further strengthen multisectoral engagement to end TB;

• Mobilize funding for the meaningful engagement of civil society and TB-affected communities in preparations for the 2023 UNHLM on TB, as well as for participation in country delegations;

• Mobilize funding for the development of new TB vaccines, including meaningful community engagement throughout the process including trial design, implementation, evaluation and community preparedness;
WE, THE MEMBERS OF WHO’S CIVIL SOCIETY TASK FORCE ON TB WILL ACTIVELY WORK IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH WHO AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO SUPPORT WHO MEMBER STATES TO ADVANCE MULTISECTORAL AND MULTISTAKEHOLDER ACTION IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2023 UNHLM ON TB AND GET PROGRESS TO END TB BACK ON TRACK THROUGH INCREASED POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

WHO CIVIL SOCIETY TASKFORCE ON TB

WHO’s Civil Society Task Force on TB provides a platform for discussion and exchange between WHO and civil society, building on commitment of the WHO Director-General, with emphasis on strengthening collaboration towards accelerating progress to end TB. Its fifteen civil society members, mainly from TB high-burden countries representing all WHO regions reflect diverse interests, skills, and backgrounds.