

Preparation for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending tuberculosis

The Seventy-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the reports on the preparation for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending tuberculosis;¹

Noting with concern that tuberculosis remains the leading infectious disease killer in the world today, responsible for an estimated 1.3 million deaths and an additional 374 000 deaths among people living with HIV/AIDS in 2016, and that the epidemic, including drug-resistant tuberculosis, poses a serious threat to health security and is a priority in the response to antimicrobial resistance;

Reaffirming resolution WHA67.1 (2014) adopting the global strategy and targets for tuberculosis prevention, care and control after 2015, subsequently known as the End TB Strategy; and resolution WHA68.7 (2015) adopting the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance; as well as recalling the General Assembly resolution 71/3 (2016) “Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Antimicrobial Resistance”;

Recalling the General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), which adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and defined the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the associated target of ending the tuberculosis epidemic by 2030;

Recalling further the report submitted to the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017 on the implementation of the End TB Strategy, which concluded that global, regional and country-level actions as well as investments were falling far short of those needed and that high-level global support and regional and national commitments were required; and noting that progress is slow on all three targets of the Strategy (reducing TB incidence, reducing TB mortality, and eliminating catastrophic costs among TB patients and their households);²

Recognizing that to achieve the tuberculosis targets and milestones of the Sustainable Development Goals and of WHO’s End TB Strategy, care and prevention-related actions should be reinforced, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups, taking into account national contexts and circumstances, in the context of each country’s path towards achieving universal health coverage and taking into account social, economic and environmental determinants and consequences of tuberculosis;

¹ Documents A71/15, A71/16 and A71/16 Add.1.

² Document A70/38, section E.

Welcoming the decision contained in the General Assembly resolution 71/159 (2016), to hold a high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis in 2018;

Welcoming also the first WHO global ministerial conference on “Ending TB in the Sustainable Development Era: A Multisectoral Response”, organized jointly with the Government of the Russian Federation and held in Moscow on 16 and 17 November 2017, and the resulting Moscow Declaration to End TB,¹ with commitments and calls to action regarding, notably: advancing the response to tuberculosis within the Sustainable Development Agenda; ensuring sufficient and sustainable financing; pursuing science, research and innovation; developing a multisectoral accountability framework; and, acting immediately to prepare for the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 on the fight against tuberculosis;

Noting the commitment made in the Moscow Declaration to End TB to support the development of the multisectoral accountability framework, and recalling in this regard resolution EB142.R3 (2018);

Welcoming the Secretariat’s report on a draft multisectoral accountability framework to accelerate progress to end tuberculosis,²

1. URGES Member States:³

(1) to support preparation for the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 on the fight against tuberculosis, including enabling high-level participation; and

(2) to pursue the implementation of all the commitments called for in the Moscow Declaration to End TB, which will contribute to reaching the targets of the End TB Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals target to end the tuberculosis epidemic;

2. CALLS UPON all international, regional and national partners, as appropriate, to pursue the actions called for in the Moscow Declaration to End TB and invite those who have not yet endorsed it to add their support;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue to support the United Nations Secretary-General and the General Assembly, upon request, in the preparation of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in 2018 on the fight against tuberculosis;

(2) to support, together with all relevant stakeholders, the implementation of the Moscow Declaration to End TB as a direct contribution to the success of the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting in 2018 on the fight against tuberculosis, and to advance tuberculosis prevention and care and the specific actions requested of WHO in the Moscow Declaration, including: actions to strengthen health systems towards achieving universal health coverage, including for tuberculosis prevention and care; to urgently support high multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) burden countries in their national emergency

¹ Available at http://www.who.int/tb/Moscow_Declaration_MinisterialConference_TB/en/, accessed 16 May 2018.

² Documents A71/16 and A71/16 Add.1.

³ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

response and to address MDR-TB as a major threat to public health security by supporting implementation of the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, including tuberculosis-specific actions in all countries;

(3) to continue to provide strategic and technical leadership, assistance, advice and support to Member States, as well as working with international institutions and all other relevant stakeholders, towards sufficient and sustainable financing;

(4) to develop a global strategy for tuberculosis research and innovation, taking into consideration both ongoing and new efforts, and to make further progress in enhancing cooperation and coordination in respect of tuberculosis research and development, considering where possible drawing on relevant existing research networks and global initiatives;

(5) to continue to develop, in consultation with Member States, the draft multisectoral accountability framework, working in close collaboration with all relevant international, regional and national partners as recommended in the Moscow Declaration to End TB (2017), and to provide technical support to Member States and partners, as appropriate, including for national adaptation and use of the draft multisectoral accountability framework to accelerate progress to end tuberculosis, taking into account national context, laws, regulations and circumstances, in order to enable the monitoring, reporting, review and actions needed to accelerate progress to end tuberculosis, both globally and nationally, leaving no one behind, through an independent, constructive and positive approach, especially in the highest burden countries, and the independent review of progress achieved by those countries;

(6) to present the draft multisectoral accountability framework to accelerate progress to end tuberculosis at the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 on the fight against tuberculosis;

(7) to report to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly on the implementation of this resolution.

Seventh plenary meeting, 26 May 2018
A71/VR/7

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