

## Joining your country's delegation for the UN High-Level Meeting on TB

If your organization does not have ECOSOC consultative status with the UN and was not granted accreditation to attend the High-Level Meeting on TB, another option for you is to be part of your country's delegation.

The following are some ideas/tips on how to engage with your country delegation and hopefully secure a spot with them in New York.

### BE INFORMED

- Make sure you are familiar with the Key Asks on behalf of civil society and affected communities that are included in this guide
- Map the key stakeholders for UN HLM in your country (civil society, government, Members of Parliament, Ministries, etc) so you can make use of any existing relationships, and identify the government focal points for the HLM
- Connect with other members of civil society, affected communities, CSOs and NGOs in your country to ensure that you are aligned in your efforts and messaging with regards to your country's priorities for the HLM, and also to find out who else might be making a similar request to join the delegation
- Find out how your Ministries have engaged with civil society and affected communities around past HLMs (such as the HIV HLM in 2016) – have they brought members of civil society as part of the delegations before?
  - If YES, emphasize the precedent that they have already set
  - If NO, emphasize the importance of changing this trend and working more closely with civil society and affected communities

### ENGAGE WITH YOUR MINISTRIES

- Request a meeting with your Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as they are the ones most directly involved with the mission in New York
- Present to them the Key Asks on behalf of civil society
- Explain why the voices of affected communities and civil society are crucially important within the context of the HLM
- Emphasize how you want to work with them on an ongoing basis to help improve the state of TB prevention, care, and treatment in your country
- Present your request to join the country delegation as an offer of partnership – it should not just be about wanting to attend the HLM, but about showing a united front for your country in the fight against TB

- Encourage the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health to work closely together to identify the country's national priorities for the HLM, to ensure that the Political Declaration is representative of what your country needs and can follow through on
- Time matters! The earlier you engage with your Ministries, the more time you have to build a meaningful relationship with them, and the more likely they'll be to consider having you join the delegation

### **ENGAGE WITH YOUR NTP**

- Request a meeting with the NTP manager and present them with the Key Asks
- Ask them how they are engaging with the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs specifically regarding the HLM
- Offer to hold a joint briefing for NTP and Ministry staff on the role of civil society and affected communities in the HLM process, and why it's important for everyone to be working together
- Share your request for joining your country's delegation, and ask for the NTP's support and endorsement

### **FOLLOW UP**

- After a meeting with a Ministry, always send a follow-up email to thank them for meeting with you, and reiterating your request to join the delegation
- If they requested further information or resources during your meeting, ensure you can supply them in a timely manner. Sending additional resources is also a good way to maintain contact
- If they indicated that there may be someone else better to discuss your request with, ask that they refer you to them personally and help arrange a meeting
- Don't be afraid to request additional meetings to re-emphasize your request and continue building the relationship
- **Even if they reject your request to be included in the country delegation, this is not the end!** You have started to build a very important relationship, so be sure to keep in contact and emphasize how you can work together after the HLM to make sure your country is able to deliver on the commitments made in the Political Declaration.