**TO:** [HEAD OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT]

[HEAD OF STATE/GOVERNMENT ADDRESS]

**CC:** [MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

[MINISTER OF HEALTH]

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

[MINISTER OF WELFARE]

[MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY]

[RELEVANT PARLIAMENTARIANS]

[DAY] [MONTH] 2018

**SUBJECT: The United Nations High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis**

Dear [TITLE—E.G., PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER][LAST NAME],

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) will hold a high-level meeting on tuberculosis (TB) on September 26, 2018 during the second day of general debate of the 73rd session of the General Assembly in New York. On behalf of the undersigned civil society and community-based organizations committed to the fight to end TB in [COUNTRY], we are writing to encourage you to personally attend the TB High-Level Meeting and lead our country’s national delegation at this important event.

The High-Level Meeting comes at a critical time in the fight against TB. At the current rate of progress, it will take 150 years to achieve the target of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.3 to end the TB epidemic. TB kills more people every year than any other infectious disease and is the ninth leading cause of death globally. It is the only major drug-resistant infection transmitted through the air and the leading cause of death due to antimicrobial resistance. TB is a cause and consequence of poverty, and its deadly persistence demonstrates the imperative of supporting the research and development (R&D) of new health technologies and ensuring their accessibility and affordability to all people in need. For these reasons, TB sits at the heart of the SDGs, making progress against TB an essential measure of the successful realization of the SDG agenda at large.

TB remains a major obstacle to attaining the SDG vision of health, development, and prosperity for all in [COUNTRY]. Our country has an estimated [NUMBER] new cases of TB each year, and [XX PERCENT] of these are drug-resistant. [XX NUMBER OF DEATHS] [NATIONALITY] die of TB each year despite it being preventable and curable. Funding for research on TB in [COUNTRY] is minimal, and new tools to prevent, diagnose, and treat TB are urgently required. [ADD ANY OTHER BRIEF BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF COUNTRY TB CARE, RESEARCH AND ACCESS ISSUES].

Engagement at the highest levels of government between now and the UN High-Level Meeting in September 2018 is critically important for ensuring that this meeting becomes a true turning point in inspiring the urgent investments and actions the world needs to defeat TB. It is our belief that ending TB will require multi-sectoral solutions carefully coordinated across government ministries and departments at the Head of State level. We therefore appeal to you to:

1. Attend and lead [COUNTRY’S] national delegation to the High-Level Meeting on TB on 26 September 2018 during the second day of general debate of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York. We ask that membership in the national delegation demonstrate an all-government prioritization of TB, including Cabinet-level officials from relevant ministries, parliamentarians, mayors and governors of cities and states in [COUNTRY] with a high TB burden, other relevant officials, and representatives from civil society organizations and persons in [COUNTRY] personally affected by TB;
2. Convene a national consultation in advance of the High-Level Meeting to inform the selection of the national delegation and the development of priority actions and commitments to take forward to the United Nations General Assembly in September. We ask that the national consultation include the same diverse constituencies highlighted for membership in the national delegation discussed above.

Among the actions required to end TB in [COUNTRY] and globally, we call your attention to the following priorities as determined by our organizations. We respectfully ask for your support elevating these issues to the highest level of political dialogue in advance of and during the High-Level Meeting:

1. **Funding for TB R&D must increase to accelerate the development and introduction of the new preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic tools required to end TB by 2030.**

* Together with other stakeholders, we have proposed that all countries devote at least 0.1% of annual gross domestic expenditures on research on development to TB research. If achieved, spending at this level would close the longstanding TB R&D funding gap and accelerate the development of urgently new tools.
* When research results in new health technologies, it is important that these technologies be available, accessible, and affordable to all people with and at risk of TB in order to ensure that the public can benefit from public investments in TB R&D.

1. **Special attention is owed to ending TB in children and young people, who face a higher risk of TB infection, disease, and death. To this end, we are asking that all states commit to:**

* Establishing an inter-ministry task force and developing a funded action plan to comprehensively address child TB across maternal, child, and adolescent populations.
* Ensuring that at least 90% of children with TB and drug-resistant TB are diagnosed, put on appropriate treatment, and reported to the National TB Program.
* Ensuring that at least 90% of children exposed to TB, usually within the household, receive TB preventive therapy and reported to the National TB Program.

Third, [ANY OTHER ASKS IMPORTANT TO YOUR COUNTRY/CONSTITUENCY]

We are committed to working together to leverage the unprecedented opportunities presented by the High-Level Meeting on TB and welcome further engagement with your administration as preparations get underway. To further discuss any of the points raised in this letter, please direct correspondence to [CONTACT NAME, EMAIL, PHONE].

Respectfully submitted,

[INSERT LIST OF SIGNATORIES]