



Treatment Action Group

## High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis – TAG Statement

This statement is delivered by David Branigan on behalf of Treatment Action Group (TAG).

1. TAG is an independent, activist, and community-based research and policy think tank, in consultative status with ECOSOC, committed to accelerating the vital research and innovation required to end the TB epidemic.
2. Today, the General Assembly adopted a political declaration that is the first ever in this forum to recognize the human right to science, under which governments are obligated to increase investments in TB research and development, fill unmet innovation needs of groups most vulnerable to TB, and ensure all people with TB have access to the best available TB innovations.
3. An investment of at least \$5 billion *per year* in TB research is required to accelerate delivery of the innovations we need to end TB. To meet this goal, all member states must contribute their fair share to TB R&D. In the political declaration, however, member states only commit “*toward reaching*” \$5 billion *per year by 2027*. Failing to commit adequate resources to research threatens the feasibility of introducing a new TB vaccine within the next five years, which models show is essential to ending TB by 2030.
4. Recent investments in TB R&D resulted in dramatically improved regimens for TB prevention and treatment, bringing cure rates for drug-resistant TB from 20-60% up to 85-90%. For these innovations to reach 90% of people with TB in accordance with the political declaration, member states must close large TB diagnosis and treatment gaps, which will only be possible if health technologies including drugs like bedaquiline and diagnostic tests like GeneXpert are made more affordable and accessible.
5. 70% of funding for TB research comes from the public sector. TAG calls on member states to go beyond the political declaration and commit to requiring access conditions on all publicly funded TB research to maximize public return on public investment and ensure resulting innovations are priced affordably and accessibly and reach TB-affected communities.
6. Recognizing the right to science is not enough – member states must now take urgent action to fulfill this right for all people affected by TB.