Minutes of Civil Society Task Force on TB meeting in Liverpool, UK: 27 October 2016

1. Opening
Mario Raviglione welcomed everyone and expressed his happiness at the progress of the CSTF. He urged members to ensure they consult with those they represent and take back key messages to the same audiences so that their engagement is not just individual but representative of a broader, collective view. Mario referred to the Russian Federation Ministerial Conference on TB and the SDGs planned for November 2017 as well as the possible UNGA High Level Meeting on TB; these offer important opportunities to boost the visibility and prominence of TB in the global agenda. Haileyesus Getahun thanked Mario for his support, energy and commitment to engaging civil society and noted that there is a perceptible change in culture within WHO.

2. Review of progress
Each of the CSTF members made brief presentations of their work and progress so far. Members have been active in national strategic plan development, mobilising CSOs, creating and supporting networks and coordinating bodies, creating new documents to support the work of CSOs in TB, sharing experiences at meetings and conferences at all levels, pushing for greater monitoring of CSO contributions in national M&E systems, engaging with TB in mining, presenting papers at international conferences on how community based approaches impact treatment outcomes, developing new alliances among CSTF members, developing media initiatives to broadcast messages about TB, reviewing countries against the 12 TB HIV collaborative activities, engaging in national TB programme reviews, and working locally to train TB patients, change harmful behaviour and increase case detection and successful treatment outcomes. Mario felt it could be possible to have a special session at STAG to share information about the work of the CSTF. Haileyesus referred to the broad range of activities and the richness of CSTF engagement. He much welcomed the initiative of CSTF member from South Africa who expressed the need for an investment case to be developed for community engagement in TB. He also felt that CSTF members should share information about their work and progress widely so that others also become aware and the CSTF becomes more visible, with greater ability to influence.

3. Identifying best practices
In the session, members focused on discussing the draft paper on Community Engagement. The purpose of the paper, as agreed it this meeting, is to demonstrate to NTPs/STAG and other audiences why community engagement is critical to the TB response. The paper must address the “why” besides the “what” and “how.” The following outline was agreed on for the next version of the draft:
- Introduction:
  o Acknowledge the 2015 Addis meeting and statement of action
  o Provide a brief description of community engagement
  o Call for community engagement in key mechanisms, processes and activities: these should be specific
- Describe and quantify the gap in TB response
- Provide snapshots of meaningful community engagement to enable readers to understand the “how” of community engagement
- Describe the benefits of meaningful community engagement to allow readers to appreciate “why” community engagement is important
- List and describe existing opportunities for community engagement
- Describe additional needs in community engagement
- Provide a convincing conclusion

Members also discussed and agreed a timeline for finalisation as follows:
- Mandy to develop second draft and distribute by 16 November 2016
- Members to provide written input by December 16 2016, providing examples to help the paper come alive
- Mandy to develop third draft and distribute by 15 January 2017
- Members to provide final inputs by 30 Jan 2017 to Sameer, who will finalize the paper
- Sameer to produce and distribute the final paper by 10 February 2017
Minutes of Civil Society Task Force on TB meeting in Liverpool, UK: 27 October 2016

4. STAG 2016 review
Members discussed how the CSTF could play a role in ensuring the actions agreed vis-à-vis civil society at STAG 2016 could be monitored and reported on in the next STAG. It was agreed that such monitoring should start from the CSTF itself, reviewing what it had done in support of the recommendations. There was already good progress on establishing an NGO Coordinating Body and several members advocating the wider adoption of the ENGAGE-TB approach. Lana Syed committed to producing a draft paper by 30 November on country-specific package of requirements, including the technical assistance needed for unengaged NGOs to become engaged.

Members agreed that changed job descriptions for WHO country staff working on TB was vital to the overall success of increasing engagement with CSOs globally. They noted the support for this provided by the Chair of STAG and also the Director of the Global TB Programme. It was agreed that CSTF should write a formal letter to WHO enquiring about the progress of this action as well as those contained in other recommendations agreed at STAG. Once agreed, the letter will be sent to Mario formally from CSTF. James Malar will produce and distribute a draft letter for comment from members by 14 November 2016.

5. Issues from key events
Thomas Joseph provided a recap of the main issues and ideas from previous events. In his presentation he listed the six actions for CSOs in the Addis Ababa Statement of Action. He also listed the 12 actions agreed at the first meeting of the CSTF. These provided the scope of work for the CSTF and were adequate for the present. He reminded members of the supportive voices that had spoken forcefully about the importance of community engagement which included USAID call to NTPs to partner with CSOs, Mario’s repeated emphasis on CSO engagement, the NTP managers own plea for increased support from CSOs to assist increased domestic financing and inter-ministerial collaboration; the acknowledgement from the Kenya NTP of the critical role played by CSOs in enabling FLD supplies and the general acknowledgement from all stakeholders that CSOs can add value and help make political commitment a reality. Having a CSTF member (JB) make the formal presentation on behalf of BRICS was an important indicator of how CSO influence was gaining ground. This is, therefore, a critical moment for the CSTF and it should seize the opportunity by taking systematic action to make further progress.

Members committed to the following:

i. They would periodically review the agenda for action described in the 18 points above and ensure implementation of the activities listed
ii. Members would increase commitment and time to securing results for the CSTF
iii. Oluseyi Oyebisi would write to ministers and follow up on inter-ministerial coordination in TB - Oyebisi would write to Nigerian ministers of planning, finance, health and the presidency and share this with CSTF for other members to imitate
iv. Jacqueline Bodibe would connect with the STAG Civil Society representative (Thato) in Cape Town and apprise her of developments and progress since the last STA
v. The work of the CSTF will be publicised, particularly at the Regional Network meeting in Asia/Pacific by James Malar
vi. Sameer Sah will connect with Nick Herbert and discuss the status of community engagement at the Global Fund

6. CSTF priorities and next steps
In the concluding session, members described their individual commitments. In general, all re-affirmed their commitment to implementing all the actions listed in these minutes. In addition,

a. James Malar would set up a closed group Facebook page for the CSTF – immediately.
b. Lana Syed would set up monthly calls for more routine exchanges.
c. CSTF members would report as and when they conducted any activity as well as provide a more structured quarterly report
d. Jacqueline Bodibe and Lana Syed will finalise the quarterly reporting format and send to all CSTF members by the end of November