

First WHO Global Ministerial Conference
Ending TB in the Sustainable Development Era: A Multisectoral Response
Moscow, Russian Federation, November 16-17, 2017

Statement of South Africa on the Moscow Declaration to End TB

South Africa, in its capacity as the Chair of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and also as mandated by the African Union to be its representative, **supports and endorses** the Moscow Declaration to End TB, to be adopted at the *First WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in the Sustainable Development Era: A Multisectoral Response*, on 17 November 2017 in Moscow. The Declaration, with its clear focus on four key topics and its ambitious commitments and calls for action is inspiring, future-oriented, and actionable to significantly strengthen the response needed to end TB.

African states, which carry a disproportionate burden of TB, consider TB as a very serious global health threat. We sincerely hope that the adoption of the Moscow Declaration to End TB will provide the necessary impetus needed to ensure progress against this epidemic.

By adopting the Declaration, the African Union fully subscribes to the set of concrete objectives that seek to elevate and sustain the fight against TB at the highest political level to be led by Heads of State and Government. Its stated outcomes, in particular the **proposed multisectoral accountability framework**, are very much in alignment with the multisectoral action and rationale of the Sustainable Development Goals. We commit to the Declaration's innovative and forward-thinking steps that will end TB in our lifetime. We salute the commitment of all partners who have already expressed support to this important goal, including Canada and the USA, as we just heard.

This Conference is the first of the envisaged milestones on the path ahead and its Declaration should guide discussions at the **next World Health Assembly and the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on TB in 2018**. We are committed to engage in the development of the multisectoral accountability framework, which will be taken forward both to the World Health Assembly and the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on TB in 2018.