

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

**Statement of the United States on the Moscow Declaration to End TB**

1. The U.S. Delegation wishes to thank the Russian Federation as the host and the World Health Organization (WHO) as the organizer of this meeting. We applaud the commitment of the participants at this meeting to overcome the challenges of tuberculosis worldwide.
2. The United States sees tuberculosis, particularly multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, as a major public health concern at both domestic and international levels. The U.S. therefore, as the largest funder of TB research and control efforts worldwide, is committed to continuing its strong support for global efforts in TB research, prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment.
3. The United States shares many of the goals expressed in the Moscow Declaration and therefore joins consensus in its adoption. However, the document was finalized before all parties' interests and concerns had been reconciled. For this reason, the document does not accurately reflect the entire position of the U.S. Government and thus requires a need for the following clarifications.
4. The United States strongly supports the proposed development of the Multi-sectoral Accountability Framework, but we wish to stress that such a Framework would only achieve its desired purpose if developed in consultation with Member States of the World Health Organization and the United Nations and endorsed through appropriate oversight and governance mechanisms. We look forward to re-engaging on this topic and comprehensive discussion of its elements at governing body meetings of WHO and the United Nations.
5. We also wish to emphasize that our understanding of universal health coverage, as described in the Declaration, reflects the aspiration of improving access to health through each country's individual path towards nationally-determined goals. The U.S. Government shares the aspiration of increasing access to health care, and we believe countries should do so by reducing costs and expanding healthcare choices. We applaud efforts to encourage universal health access; but, in line with previous UN resolutions, we understand that each country would develop a system within its own cultural, economic, political, and structural contexts and priorities. Universal Health Coverage often is interpreted as supporting mostly government-centric solutions and mandates, which the U.S. Government does not support. Instead, we recognize the necessary role of partnerships with the private sector and other non-governmental stakeholders in achieving universal access to health care.
6. In conclusion, we reaffirm our support for the goal of ending TB as a public health menace worldwide, and look forward to substantial next steps on that path. Thank you for your attention.