We, the representatives of youth from around the world and different walks of life, have gathered together at the first-ever Youth Town Hall to End Tuberculosis (TB), in Jakarta, Indonesia, to define our vision for a world free of TB and our role in achieving this. TB remains the top infectious killer claiming millions of lives each year and causing untold suffering to people with TB, their families and their communities. TB is also the leading cause of death among people with HIV and a major contributor to antimicrobial resistance. Young people between the ages of 15-34 are disproportionately affected and carry among the heaviest burdens of the disease. They are also often the largest population group in developing countries with their role and potential contributing immensely to a nation’s social and economic capital. Enabling their access to care and ensuring their meaningful participation in efforts to end TB at all levels will pave the way to a better, safer and healthier world free of TB.

We commit to stand together with Heads of State, Ministers, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other stakeholders in reaching the commitments set out in the political declaration of the first United Nations (UN) highlevel meeting on the fight to end TB held in September 2018. These include the bold targets to reach and treat 40 million people with TB by 2022 including 3.5 million children and 1.5 million people with drug-resistant TB, to reach 30 million people with TB preventive treatment, and to increase funding for TB to reach USD 13 billion per year for implementation and USD 2 billion per year for research and development by the year 2022. We further affirm our support to and align our efforts with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its allied target of ending TB, the WHO End TB Strategy, the UN Youth Strategy and the declarations of previous WHO Youth Townhalls.

We are mobilizing ourselves and now appeal to leaders, decision makers at all levels, the World Health Organization and other stakeholders others to:

- Ensure that no young person is left behind
- Recognize young people as agents of change
- Harness the unique abilities and skills that young people especially can bring to the table, such as intercultural communication and innovative use of technology
- Enable meaningful inclusion and engagement of young people in planning, decision-making, as well as monitoring and review at all levels.
- Advocate for and enable young people to have a stronger role in national and local efforts to empower their communities to end TB

Together we are stronger. We urge other young people from around the world to join this movement and call on the international community to work with us to do more, do better, reach further and save lives.
We recognize that despite being the world’s top infectious killer, awareness about TB is poor, especially among young people who are among those most affected.

We pledge to build greater awareness and promote the “right to know” about TB, its impact, and the cost benefits of investing to end TB, through information campaigns, increasing peer education and community participation.

We commit ourselves to utilize the power of social media and emerging technologies to increase awareness and reduce misconceptions about TB in our communities.

We commit to advocating for greater information sharing on TB especially at early ages through targeted grassroot-level awareness campaigns, including in schools and universities, incorporating elements from local cultures, utilizing youth communicators and being inclusive of persons with disabilities.

We commit to advocating for TB to be included in the curriculum of the future health workforce, scientists and researchers.

We recognize that people with TB face immense stigma and discrimination in society, which hampers their access to care.

We pledge to fight against stigma faced by people with TB, and to respect and uphold their human rights and dignity, including but not limited to the right to health in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that they are able to freely access care without fear of discrimination.

We commit ourselves to encouraging greater empathy and understanding of the disease to enable peer, family and societal acceptance through campaigns, including in the community, on social media, as well as through one-on-one support.

We urge countries to put in place laws and measures to protect TB survivors from discrimination especially in the world of work and education and dismantle existing stigmatizing policies.

We recognize that people with TB including young people face a challenging recovery period and need psychosocial and socioeconomic support to complete their treatment and lead fulfilling lives after surviving the disease.

We pledge to cultivate and enable a diverse base of youth volunteers or take individual leadership, to support and empower those ill with TB and their families in accessing prevention and care, in completing treatment, as well as benefiting from any financial benefits/incentives offered to those ill with TB.

We commit to advocate for access to free counselling and psychosocial support for people with TB and their families, and the setting up of TB survivor groups for patient support and wellbeing.

We urge countries and WHO to develop national and global policies that focus on the rehabilitation of TB survivors and their families, especially those who face added challenges in returning to normal life due to side effects and/or disabilities, to ensure they are able to lead fulfilling lives.

We recognize that despite being an old and deadly infectious disease, there is still no point of care test, few new drugs and no effective preventive vaccineagainst TB. The use of innovations to end TB has remained low.

We pledge to advocate strongly for an acceleration in research and development for new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines, as well as their rapid uptake, to make TB and drug-resistant TB diagnosis and care safer and more effective, as well as for the scale up of new technologies and innovations for TB care.

We call for the building and strengthening of capacity of young scientists and researchers to engage in research to end TB, especially those who come from developing countries which bear the highest burden of TB.

We recommend that TB research also builds on insights from behavioural sciences to improve treatment adherence, patient support and wellbeing.

We recognize that gaps in funding impede efforts to end TB and that it is essential for countries to uphold their commitment to increase funding for TB implementation and research.

We pledge to advocate strongly for increased resources at national, regional and global levels, including from the private sector, to close funding gaps for TB prevention and care, as well as research, highlighting that ending TB is highly cost-effective with a return of USD 43 for ever USD 1 invested.

We urge countries to include TB in universal health coverage efforts and social protection mechanisms/packages, given the catastrophic financial burden that TB and drug-resistant TB places on patients and their families. This will enable TB patients to complete their treatment without worrying about financial repercussions.

We request countries and donors to ensure that financing for TB implementation and research also includes a component to support youth participation and capacity building. This will enable young people to play a greater, more sustainable role in efforts to end TB.

We recognize that TB is a problem that requires engagement of sectors beyond the health sector. As outlined in WHO’s Multisectoral Accountability Framework, an effective and accelerated response to end TB will require multisectoral and multistakeholder collaboration and action with strong accountability.

We pledge to advocate for multisectoral collaboration to end TB that extends beyond the Ministry of Health to include other ministries such as for disabilities, for women and child health, for education, for labour, for finance, local governments as well as the private sector, civil society including indigenous peoples and affected communities, non-governmental organizations, unions, associations, and other stakeholders.

We urge countries to provide young people especially TB survivors with seats in national review bodies and mechanisms to be able to demand accountability and responsiveness from officials and organizations.

We call for increased participation of young people in the WHO’s 1+1 youth initiative to end TB that was launched as part of its collaborative multi-stakeholder and multisectoral platform to accelerate action to end TB. This will enable meaningful involvement of young people in policy making and action.