



**71st WHO World Health Assembly – May 2018**  
**Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) statement on agenda item 11.8:**  
**Preparation for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending**  
**tuberculosis, Document A71/15**

**Speaker:** Khairunisa Suleiman

MSF is the largest non-governmental provider of drug resistant-TB treatment. We are alarmed that, globally, just 12% of people estimated to be in need of treatment using newer TB drugs bedaquiline and delamanid had access in 2017.

MSF encourages Member States to ensure **high-level representation of their Heads of State** at the UN High-Level Meeting on TB (UN HLM). We also urge Member States to seize the opportunity of the UN HLM to:

1. **Set clear, measurable national and global targets** for testing, treatment and prevention with five-year milestones,
2. **Commit to increased investment** in TB research and development (R&D) that meets public health needs for affordable and effective tools, and
3. **Pledge continued engagement of heads of state** in monitoring progress – and addressing delays – in meeting these commitments.

MSF calls for a **robust political declaration** at the UN HLM, with commitments to time-bound, ambitious and measurable national and global targets to close the TB testing, treatment and prevention gaps.

Only 61% of people estimated with TB were diagnosed and reported in 2016.

MSF urges Member States and donors to make substantial improvements in support and funding for TB R&D in order to equitably deliver TB tools that are effective, affordable and suitable. Member states should consider designating products of publicly-funded R&D as global public goods. A healthy pipeline is imperative and open and collaborative research platforms need support to facilitate the development new drug regimens.

MSF calls on Member States to convene a Global TB Cabinet to regularly analyse and confront the epidemic dimensions of TB as part of a “Decade to Defeat TB,” the world’s deadliest infectious disease killer. Empty pledges will not save lives.