



71st World Health Assembly

11.8 Preparation for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending tuberculosis

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, which represents 9 million physicians around the world.

The WMA welcomes the Report of the Director General. We appreciate WHO's leadership and efforts towards Tuberculosis control.

We take this opportunity to reiterate the following:

-The WMA would like to call on all member states to increase investments in efforts to prevent, contain and control, curb resistance, as well as research, namely the development of new anti-TB agents. Additionally, an adequate public health infrastructure is crucial to any intervention.

-A comprehensive integrated approach to Tb drug resistance should use the momentum and infrastructure being put in place in the broader agenda of antimicrobial resistance.

-In the recent past TB had a high coincidence with HIV/AIDS and affected especially those from lower socio-economic demographic, prisoners and migrants, today Tb is also a significant threat to patients with cancers, organ transplants and those receiving immunologic therapies for various diseases.

-We also reiterate the call on member states to ensure that health workers have access to adequate personal protective equipment while caring for patients with active tuberculosis.

The WMA has worked with WHO in the past on capacity building for healthcare providers around the world through regional workshops. We would like to extend our expertise and network to assist in further efforts towards ending Tb.

Thank you for your kind attention