**WHO Executive Board 146th session**

**EB146/****10 - 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.

We recognize tuberculosis as a crucial global health challenge and support WHO’s ambitious goal of ending this epidemic by 2030. We therefore encourage governments around the world to implement similar strategies nationally.

Nevertheless, we would like to express concern over the many challenges still faced in addressing this problem. We note the persistence of several factors slowing progress towards the 2020 goals of the Global Plan to End TB, such as difficulty in accessing diagnostics, challenges in treating MDR-TB and the paucity of new treatments and faster diagnostic technologies available.

The WMA stresses that TB is a disease that is associated with socioeconomic factors and calls on member states to implement social policies and programs that tackle barriers to access to existing interventions. These barriers include but are not limited to poverty, poor housing, malnutrition and stigma.

We have seen some progress and are looking forward to seeing effective solutions shared more widely with the world. We believe that many lessons can be learned from TB with respect to research prioritization, equitable resource distribution, and global collaboration. These lessons should be adapted to other fields to improve our global health policy infrastructure.

The WMA supports calls for adequate financial, material and human resources for tuberculosis research and prevention, including adequately educated healthcare providers and effective public health infrastructure: Together with our members and other health professionals, we are committed to contribute to ending tuberculosis worldwide.

Thank you