

Side event to the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Ending HIV, tuberculosis and viral hepatitis
through Intersectoral Collaboration in Europe and central Asia

Thursday, 27 September 2018, 8:00–9:30
Conference Room 5, United Nations Headquarters

The meeting is by invitation only
RSVP by 20 September 2018ⁱ

Background

Substantial health improvements have been reached in the WHO European Region, with a growing life expectancy and gradually decreasing inequities across countries. However, not all parts of the population are benefiting equally from this trend, especially the poor and those in vulnerable situations.¹ This is also the case with regard to tuberculosis (TB), HIV and viral hepatitis, which are of key concern in the Region.

Despite having the fastest decline of TB rates among all WHO regions, the European Region, which includes central Asia, still bears the highest proportion of multidrug-resistant TB globally and is the region with the fastest rate of increase in the number of new HIV infections. Hepatitis B is estimated to have chronically infected more than 15 million people in the region and hepatitis C 14 million, most of whom are unaware of their status.

Ensuring health and well-being for all at all ages and “leaving no one behind” are core values embedded in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, an Issue-based Coalition on Health and Well-being for All at All Ages was established to foster cross-sectoral cooperation on health in the European Region. Led by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, with inputs from all relevant United Nations agencies and after a public consultation, the United Nations Common Position on Ending HIV, Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis through Intersectoral Collaboration was finalized and endorsed by the United Nations Regional Coordinating Mechanism on 9 May 2018. This Common Position aims to guide multisectoral collaboration across health and non-health sectors to end these epidemics through a sustainable development approach. In the light of the first ever United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting (HLM) on TB and the third HLM on noncommunicable diseases, the current side event presents a unique opportunity to launch the aforementioned Common Position and to exchange good practices.

Scope and Purpose:

The event aims at presenting and discussing how intersectoral collaboration at different levels, strengthened by a UN Common Position, can leverage further progress both towards ending HIV, TB and viral hepatitis and both towards the SDGs. The event presents an opportunity to showcase and learn from existing examples of cross-sectoral collaboration on social, economic and environmental determinants of TB, HIV and viral Hepatitis policies and practises in countries, in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

Expected outcomes:

- Examples of cross-sectoral collaboration on social, economic and environmental determinants of TB, HIV and viral Hepatitis policies and practises are presented and discussed;
- Lessons learned are identified and potential operational leverage of the UN Common Position is outlined for action within the Europe and central Asia region.

¹ The United Nations Common Position on Ending HIV, Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis through Intersectoral Collaboration clarifies that “the poor and those in vulnerable situations, including children, youth, people with disabilities, older people, people living with HIV, people with TB, indigenous populations, refugees, internally displaced people and migrants, stateless people, and in particular prisoners, homeless people, people who use drugs, women and girls, victims of human trafficking or of sexual or gender-based violence, sex workers, men who have sex with men, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGTBI) people” are among those who are not benefiting from the health improvements that have been reached in the European Region.

Provisional programme

<p>08:00 – 08:20</p>	<p>Opening Remarks</p>	<p>H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the United Nations General Assembly (<i>tbc</i>)</p> <p>Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General</p> <p>Ms. Argentina Szabados, Regional Director for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, IOM</p> <p>H.E. Prof. Stanislav Špánik, State Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Slovak Republic</p> <p>Mr. Safar Naimov, former TB patient, community perspective</p>
<p>08:20 – 08:30</p>	<p>The UN Common Position on ending HIV, TB and viral Hepatitis through Intersectoral Collaboration in Europe and Central Asia</p>	<p>Dr. Nedret Emiroglu, Director of Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for Europe</p>
<p>08:30 – 09:00</p>	<p>Stakeholders Roundtable Dialogue</p> <p><i>Heads of Country Delegations (in alphabetic order), UN partners and Civil Society Organizations (in alphabetic order).</i></p>	<p>Moderated by Dr. Masoud Dara, Coordinator, Communicable Diseases, WHO Regional Office for Europe</p> <p>H.E. Dr. Lena Nanushyan, Deputy Minister of Health of Armenia</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Adam Vojtěch, Minister of Health of the Czech Republic</p> <p>H.E. Dr. David Sergeenko, Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Georgia</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Lutz Stroppe, State Secretary of Health of Germany</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Fernando Araújo, Secretary of State for Health of Portugal</p> <p>Mr. Francesco Rocca, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</p> <p>H.E. M.P. Mr Serhiy Kiral, Head of the Parliamentary Platform on TB, Ukraine</p> <p>Prof. Michel Kazatchkine, Special Advisor to UNAIDS for Eastern Europe and Central Asia</p> <p>Mr. Rastislav Vrbenský, UNDP Deputy Regional Director for Europe and the CIS</p>

		Prof. Ivan Solovic, National Institute for Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and Thoracic Surgery, Slovakia
09:00 – 09:20	Questions and answers	Moderated by Dr. Masoud Dara
09:20 – 09:30	Closing Remarks	H.E. Prof. Stanislav Špánik, Slovak Republic Ms. Argentina Szabados, IOM Dr. Nedret Emiroglu, WHO Europe

Note: The working language will be English.

Please be informed that **secondary pass** is required for this event. Should you need an additional secondary pass, please contact Ms. Lenka Andrejko Dobošová, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic, Lenka.Dobosova@mzv.sk or +212 2868 880.

ⁱ To request participation and/or for further queries, please contact Ms Vittoria Gemelli on gemelliv@who.int and eurotb@who.int