**Letter Template to encourage your Country Leader to attend the United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis on 26th September 2018**

* Do use the text below as you wish, but ideally you would edit it to fit your own thoughts, as MPs are more likely to take non-standard letters seriously
* UK MPs also take hand-written letters more seriously so please consider hand-writing a shortened version of the below rather than sending a Word document
* If you live in the UK, you can find out your constituency MP’s name and contact details [here](https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/); you should post your letter to [Their name], House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Dear *[your local government representative’s title and name]*,

My name is *xxxx*. I live in your constituency of *xxxx*. As my local *MP/government representative* *[edit as appropriate for your country]*, I am writing to ask for your help in a matter that is important to me.

The WHO/UN are holding the first ever UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on tuberculosis (TB) on 26th September 2018.

TB causes more deaths worldwide than any other infectious disease, including malaria, HIV, Ebola and Zika. 1.7 million people die every year from TB – that’s more than 4500 people every day. UN Sustainable Development Goal #3 aims to end the TB epidemic, with a global target to eradicate TB by 2030 – currently we are not on track to meet this target. The World’s Leaders need to unite to ensure the global targets are met and millions of lives worldwide are saved.

*[insert local statistics for your country and why eradicating TB is important to your country.*

*e.g. for the UK:*

*In the UK there are approximately 6000 new cases of TB every year. TB is linked to poverty, and there are parts of London that have higher rates of TB than many developing countries. Highly antibiotic resistant strains of the bacteria that cause TB, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, are now found in many European countries. These strains, which WHO has described as ‘virtually untreatable’, pose a significant threat to Europe and the UK. The treatment of drug sensitive TB takes a minimum of six months; highly resistant strains require 2 years’ of treatment. Both drug regimens have significant side effects. If multidrug resistant TB were to establish a foothold in the UK it would place a substantial strain on the NHS. Nine of the 30 countries with the highest rates of multidrug resistant TB are in Europe.* *This poses a significant threat to Europe and to the UK.*

*If we don’t act it is only a matter of time before the UK and Europe have to face significant levels of TB again. It is estimated that bold actions against TB in Europe will save over 3 million lives and US$48 billion in 5 years. Better diagnostics, new drugs, and a more effective vaccine are all urgently needed. In the last 2 centuries TB has killed more people than any other infectious disease, and yet funding for TB R&D has been just 3.4% of total development assistance for health. This compares with funding for HIV, which was 29% in 2015.* *This needs to change. ]*

Given the importance of TB, both for *[insert your country]* and globally, I would greatly value your support for this cause. It is crucial that *[insert your country]* prioritises attendance by *[insert your country’s leader]* at the UNGA TB meeting in September. Please could you use your position as my *MP/government representative [edit as appropriate for your country]* to do all you can to encourage *[insert country]* representation at the UNGA TB meeting by *[insert Country’s leader]* and to secure commitment against TB at the highest level. We need to protect our economy and ensure millions of lives are saved.

Yours sincerely,

[your name and address]