

## **Declaration of intent on TB care for migrants by parliamentarians of the Europe and Central Asia region**

We, the undersigned, as political representatives from the Europe and Central Asia regions, reaffirm our commitment to the Global TB Caucus' vision of a united parliamentary response to tuberculosis (TB) that transcends political and geographic boundaries, and:

1. Affirm that migration (economic, forced and/or labor migration) is a historic and long-lasting global process that requires structural adaptation and inclusive government policies involving the national health systems of countries of origin, transit and destination.
2. Challenge Heads of States and Governments to take rapid action to demonstrate their resolve to deliver fully on their own commitments on the issue of migrants' TB treatment.
3. Recognize the need for implementing the unified effective and accessible package of services for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of TB among refugees and migrants in the Europe and Central Asia regions.

And, recognizing that we, as political leaders in our own right, have an important role to play in holding our governments to account for the promises that they have made, hereby commit:

4. To build sustainable, non-partisan, political initiatives in our national parliaments to drive sustained cross-border cooperation in the area of TB care for migrants in Europe and Central Asia regions, and ensure that such initiatives work in collaboration with civil society, scientists, clinicians, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other key stakeholders in the response to TB;
5. To urge the immediate establishment of a national, cross-departmental initiative to promote the implementation of a Minimum Package for Cross-Border control and care in the region, developed by WHO Regional Office for Europe; and to make a concrete action plan to accelerate and monitor progress;
6. To improve cross-border collaboration along the entire migration trajectory, with focus placed on implementing a minimum package of TB screening and care for migrants;
7. To work with partners to develop a more holistic approach to migrant health across the region, recognizing the rights of migrants to health, and work towards removing legal, social and cultural barriers to health services to facilitate better TB care for migrants;
8. To work through inter-parliamentary platforms at the regional level with the focus placed on migrant health;

9. To urge Europe and Central Asia regions and other countries' governments to lift all remaining norms for deportation and undesirable stay of people affected by TB and replace them with options of access to TB care;

10. To promote the creation of regional cross-border funding mechanisms that would help to provide migrants with TB care until full recovery while they are away from home;

11. To assist in strengthening approaches to data collection, education, clinical and research cooperation to provide an intercountry evidence base on TB in refugees and migrants for monitoring, support and evaluation within national health systems;

12. To raise awareness that TB can be associated with other diseases as HIV and hepatitis C and encourage cooperation on management of these co-infections

And to this effect WE HEREBY AGREE to establish a strong parliamentary collaboration between our countries to press for a more effective response to the TB epidemic, working with:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Labour, Social Affairs, Education and Health, whose policies and interventions have implications across sectors;
- official organizations, including the World Health Organization, the Global Fund, The International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration;
- and with non-governmental organizations and regional initiatives such as TB-REP 2.0 - managed by the Center for Health Policies and Studies (PAS Center) of the Republic of Moldova, in collaboration with partners: WHO/Europe, Global TB Caucus, TB Europe Coalition, TBnet and TBpeople.

As we recognize that multisectoral, multilevel and transnational approaches are the way forward to enable coordinated, structural and sustainable change in the **TB treatment of migrants**.