Mme. Chairperson,
Slovakia aligns with EU statement on this agenda point and thanks the Secretariat for the report highlighting the Global partnerships action and initiatives. We acknowledge the importance of multi-sectoral actions to address social and economic determinants of the disease, including overall poverty reduction.

When assuming the Presidency of Visegrad Group (consisting of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) in July 2018, fight against Tuberculosis was set as one of the main priorities in the health agenda. Slovakia has organized a number of events focused on TB and engaging affected communities, among them the V4+ roundtable discussion in Bratislava ahead of the High Level Meeting in New York 2018 and follow-up Visegrad multi-stakeholder conference in February this year in High Tatras. We firmly believe that the success of TB control depends largely on effective prevention strategies and early diagnosis, including screening and adequate treatment. We should not forget about the need to progress further in the integration concept of TB/HIV and Hepatitis health services.
Slovakia as low incidence country contributes to this mission and endeavor by activities of its regional WHO Collaborating Centre in Vysne Hagy.
With reference to draft Global Strategy for TB Research and Innovation, Slovakia reiterates the efforts to avoid stigmatizing language, which is still common in research and practice.

Thank you.