Agenda item 10 (EB 146/10 and EB 146/11)

Ending Tuberculosis

Progress in Implementing the global strategy and targets for tuberculosis prevention, care and control after 2015

Intervention

Chair,

On behalf of the Sri Lanka, we note the importance of the progress report by the Director General on implementing the global strategy and targets for ending tuberculosis by 2030. We, the SEAR bear more than 40% of the global burden of incident TB cases and almost 35% of the Latent TB Infections. While noting the diversity in the region and the populations, Sri Lanka is committed as a region to end TB, acknowledging the challenges imposed by rising NCD burden.

Tuberculosis case gap is a common challenge for the entire region. To overcome, we have adopted many strategies towards passive and active case finding. Expansion of quality diagnostic services including WHO recommended rapid molecular diagnostic testing, reaching the unreached population through primary health care reform, universal Drug Sensitivity testing to improve MDR TB case detection are some of the leading efforts. As noted in the report, multi-stakeholder engagement is always being promoted in the region by empowering private sector, civil society organisations, communities and all the other partners on prevention and control of TB.

My country clearly believe that the required rate of decline in TB incidence can be achieved only if the treatment of active TB disease is combined with the treatment of TB infection. The region has developed the regional action plan for
programmatic management of Latent TB Infection in 2019 which will be rolled out soon in all the member countries.

Towards research and innovation, the region as a whole has taken many initiatives to overcome the bottle necks in order to create an enabling environment for high-quality tuberculosis research and innovation. Though sustainable financing for research and innovation is a challenge, the Sri Lanka will certainly consider the recommendations on research and innovation in the DGs report to move forward from 2020.

Thank you.