



South African Intervention: Committee A

Agenda Item 12.3: Communicable diseases – End TB Strategy

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Chairperson,

1. South Africa aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Member States. We welcome the report and strongly support decision **EB158(3)** to develop a WHO post-2030 tuberculosis strategy for the 81st WHA in 2028.
2. Chairperson, South Africa continues to grapple with a heavy triple burden of TB, TB/HIV co-infection, and multidrug-resistant TB. While we have reduced incidence, our national TB deaths have only declined by 17% compared to the 2015 baseline—falling far short of the 50% target for 2025. Crucially, 56% of TB-affected households in South Africa still face catastrophic, impoverishing costs.
3. To turn the tide, our national strategy recognizes that a novel vaccine is a critical pillar within a broader toolkit of innovation. We are aggressively modernizing TB care by rapidly introducing near point-of-care diagnostics and adopting shorter, safer, and more effective treatment regimens.
4. Rather than implementing these tools in isolation, we are weaving them into the fabric of Primary Health Care (PHC). We are fully integrating TB services with our HIV programs—as TB remains a leading killer of people living with HIV—and within Maternal, Child, and Women’s Health services to protect the most vulnerable.
5. Chairperson, science alone does not save lives; delivery does. As a high-burden country, South Africa cannot afford a repeat of past inequities where life-saving innovations reached our people years too late. We call on member states and the global health community to remain firmly focused on equity over charity. As we prepare for a future vaccine and new therapeutics, we must collectively ensure that pricing is transparent, financing is inclusive, and manufacturing is decentralized to high-burden regions.

South Africa stands ready to implement, lead, and end TB.

Thank you, Chairperson