

**Letter from Civil Society to the Governments of the Americas Region.
UNION Conference 2017, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico**



Mileni Romero, Venezuela.

I stand up here with my civil society and community comrades from the region and around the world, with an urgent appeal for those of you in this room and our governments back home. We are asking you to work in partnership with us so we can:

- Increase funding to support tuberculosis program activities in order to achieve national goals in each Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- Ensure uninterrupted access to diagnostic tools, including Xpert, smear, culture, and DST, including for second-line drugs.
- Work with regulators and legislators to establish policies that promote consistent access to quality-assured supplies of first- and second-line TB medicines, including pediatric formulations, and that expedite the availability of new and repurposed drugs.
- Guarantee protections for patients' livelihoods, including housing and employment, and establish accessible clinic hours and/or community based programs to ensure patient treatment success.
- Give programmatic priority to vulnerable populations, including people who use drugs or are incarcerated to ensure timely diagnosis and comprehensive non-stigmatizing, rights-based care;
- Meaningfully involvement of the affected communities and civil society at all levels of TB program and research planning and implementation.

It is only together that we will End TB. Thank you.