



Global Coalition of Tuberculosis Activists (GTCA) Constituency Charter

Background:

Tuberculosis remains one of the leading causes of death with an estimated 9 million new cases every year. In 2011, 1.4 million people died from TB, including almost one million deaths among HIV-negative individuals and 430 000 among people who were HIV-positive. TB is one of the top killers of women, with 300 000 deaths among HIV-negative women and 200 000 deaths among HIV-positive women in 2011.

There have been remarkable achievements in the past decade. The MDG target for halting the incidence of TB is on track and prevalence and mortality are falling slowly.

Yet without dramatic increases in funding and political commitment between now and 2015:

- Over 50 million people will develop active TB disease
- Over 10 million lives will be lost to this preventable, curable disease; over 4 million of them will be women
- Over 2 million cases of multidrug-resistant TB will emerge for want of proper care
- Millions of children will be orphaned needlessly
- There is current global shortfall of nearly US\$ 3 billion per year to fight TB¹

Experience throughout the world has proved that where TB patients, activists and communities are actively involved in TB prevention and care efforts, research, crucial issues of new case detection, community health services, regulatory affairs and provision of timely services, are addressed effectively. However, unlike the HIV/AIDS community, the engagement of TB affected community is very limited at the global, regional and national levels.

To bridge this gap, as well as to ensure continuity from the Community Task Force and to evolve to the next level based on the current realities, needs and challenges, the Global Coalition of TB Activists (GCTA) was created.

¹ www.stoptb.org



GCTA is a coalition of TB affected communities and their representatives aiming to bring together activists from diverse backgrounds and regions to ensure TB affected communities are at the center of all processes on TB. The GCTA aims to develop regional, national and local alliances for collaboration with all stakeholders.

The Stop TB Partnership (STBP) is a unique international body with over 1 000 partners, and strives to bring these diverse stakeholders from all over the world on a platform to unite in the fight against tuberculosis (TB).

Stop TB Partnership, since its inception has strived to engage with communities and civil society organizations to ensure that the patient perspectives are reflected in the decisions and policies. To realize this vision, the STBP has two community representatives on the Coordinating Board (representing the Communities Constituency) and two community representatives on each of its seven Working Groups.

Vision:

A World Free of Tuberculosis

Mission:

To be an advocacy platform and effectively represent TB affected communities in order to influence global TB control agenda through patient empowerment, strategic advocacy and community mobilization.

Strategic Objectives:

- To advocate for increased resources for addressing TB
- To improve community engagement, networking and strengthen partnership with all TB stakeholders
- To strengthen the capacity of activists and representatives affected communities for effective engagement at all levels
- To promote effective communication of TB issues at all levels

Core Values:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Mutual respect
- People centered approach

Structure:

Global Coalition of TB Activists will be governed at the global level by a Steering Committee comprising of a Chair, Vice-Chair, the 2 community representatives on the STBP Coordinating Board and 6 Regional Focal points as shown in the diagram below. All these positions will be filled through a transparent selection process.

Regional and national coalitions are and will be encouraged to develop their own structure and terms of reference as per regional or national context.



Steering Committee:

The steering committee will comprise of a chair, vice chair, the 2 community representatives on the STBP Coordinating Board and 6 regional focal points.

Steering Committee members will serve on a voluntary basis.

ToR of the Steering Committee:

- Participate regularly in Steering Committee meetings and teleconference
- Provide high level policy support, strategic guidance and expertise to inform the work of GCTA;
- Facilitate the development of GCTA annual plan and budget priorities on behalf of the members – in line with the code of conduct and set standards;
- Facilitate the implementation of the GCTA work plan;
- Support mobilization of the necessary resources for GCTA
- Undertake other activities as assigned by the Chair or members of GCTA

Members of the Steering Committee are expected to give at least 10% of their time to GCTA

Chair and Vice-chair of the Steering Committee:

The chair and vice-chair will be selected from the GCTA members through a transparent selection process. They will serve for a period of two years (with possible two years extension based on satisfactory performance).

The Vice-Chair will support and assist and represent the chair in case of his/her absence.

ToR of the Chair:

- Preside over all regular Steering Committee and other GCTA meetings at the global level
- Facilitate strategic planning and provide guidance for effective steering committee
- Represent GCTA in events and forums as required
- Facilitate development and dissemination of regular reports (at least one annual report) of GCTA activities
- Support and facilitate resource mobilization, partnership and networking activities
- Ensure membership compliance with GCTA core values, code of conduct and processes.

Regional Focal Points:

Regional focal points will be selected from the regional networks or coalitions. Six regions will be represented based on regional categorization as stated below:

- Africa
- Europe
- Americas
- South-East Asia
- Western Pacific
- Eastern-Mediterranean

GCTA will encourage formation of national and regional coalitions for effective and sustained engagement with the constituency.

Membership:

GCTA membership is open to individuals who are personally affected with TB and/or representing high burdened communities. Membership is also open to organizations working on TB issues at ground level. Membership registration will be through web-based application process.

GCTA Secretariat:

The Secretariat will support the Steering Committee and manage communication. The secretariat will comprise of one communication focal point reporting to the steering committee of GCTA.

ToR of the Secretariat:

- Support communication between the steering committee, regional and national coalitions, global partners and members.
- Manage application for membership and maintains database and profile of members
- Provide administrative and logistics support for meetings and other activities of GCTA
- Moderate and manage GCTA list serve

GCTA list serve

The list serve is a platform for sharing information, best practices and highlighting challenges on TB issues at the global, regional and national levels. It will also be a mechanism to provide feedback to Steering Committee and the Community Representatives on Coordinating Board.

Membership is open to all those interested but the list serve will be moderated to ensure members adhere to internet etiquette and GCTA communication guidelines.