

Media Release

For Immediate Release

The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease expresses its disappointment at the no-show of European Heads of State attending the first ever United Nations High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis in New York on Wednesday September 26.

Wednesday, 26 September 2018 (New York City, U.S.) – The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) today expressed its concern at the no-show of Heads of State from Europe attending the inaugural United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting (HLM) On the Fight To End Tuberculosis (TB) taking place today at UN headquarters in New York.

“Ahead of the HLM we’ve seen tremendous leadership from Japan, sub-Saharan Africa and philanthropist Bill Gates in particular, but the fact that as of this morning not a single Head of State from Europe aside from Turkey was confirmed to attend is attending is a huge concern,” said Paul Jensen, Director of Strategy and Policy at The Union.

“Today the world will take urgently needed steps toward ending TB, the world’s biggest infectious disease killer, but for this to become a reality we need to have a serious conversation around TB research and development. TB will not be eliminated unless we have better diagnostics, better drugs and an effective vaccine. That conversation must include more high-level involvement from the European Union and from more of the G20 countries. TB is at a crossroads – we cannot tolerate a status quo where investments in TB care from the world’s wealthier countries are low and on the decline.”

TB can be prevented and cured yet is now the biggest infectious killer in the world. Each year TB takes the lives of some 1.6 million people and 10 million people develop TB disease, including some one million children.

ENDS

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