

Welcome remarks

Eliminating TB in 2030: Amplifying Cross-Sectoral Collaborations in Resource Mobilization

New York, 24 September 2018

Excellences,

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening

On behalf of Stop TB Partnership Indonesia, I would like to welcome everyone to this dinner dialogue. It is an honor for me, as Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Indonesia to host this very important gathering of TB activists, policy makers and health advocates. As we gather here tonight, anticipating the first ever High-Level Meeting on TB at the UN GA, the urgency to accelerate efforts to end TB rings very clear.

Every day, thousands of people worldwide dies from TB. In Indonesia, despite the availability of free TB medications, it still kills 300 people daily — an indication that all is not well with the management of TB patients in the community.

Though progress is under way, we still have a long way to go before ending TB, a goal that no doubt we are all here for. There are at least two aspects we need to bear in mind. First, there is increasing evidence of a rise in the rates of drug-resistant TB. Second, it remains a challenge to mobilize needed resources. The latter concern me more as it may fuel the severity of the first.

The High Level Meeting this coming Wednesday is a rare opportunity. There have been only four other health topics discussed in the UN General Assembly in the past: HIV in 2001, NCDs in 2011, Ebola in 2014 and anti-micro bacterial resistance in 2015. This

signifies how important and urgent it is for the global community and of course Indonesia to end TB by 2030, as agreed under the sustainable development goals. Today, almost half of the world's burden of TB is found in the WHO South East Asia region. Among three highest burden countries, two are from the region. The majority of the region also consists of developing countries, each with its' own socio-economic challenges, adding complexities to the already enormous burden of TB.

At the other side of the spectrum, regions with a majority of developed countries have managed to overcome TB, some even decades ago. They established dedicated clinics to offer better diagnostics and clinical care, and managed to massively mobilise public resources and facilities that resulted in a steady decline of TB.

The stark contrast serves us both lesson and warning. It shows that eliminating TB is not impossible, as long as well-targeted and massive resource mobilization is channelled. However, decades of socio-economic gap between developed and developing countries should not be acceptable. And yet today, 12 years prior to 2030, TB situation in developing world shows minimum progress.

And so this is where collaborations come in. Partnerships are essential if we want to create innovations breakthroughs that will escalate existing efforts to end TB. And it requires partnerships that go beyond the health sector. From a business perspective that I often use, I find that there are immense opportunities, even beyond private sectors that are directly related to TB, to mobilize their resources, be it on untapped funds, technology expertise, innovation, or efficient management

Across developing regions, detachment between the public and private sector has been found unproductive, and fuels further spread of TB. Coming from a private sector background, I too can feel that too often, the private sector is perceived as the main challenge by the public sector.

Perhaps it may ring true to many, but if we look into the context of resource mobilization, along with economic growth, private sector more often may manage to mobilize more resource, and in regards to health care, they are capable of reaching out and serving more patients. It is here that we can turn challenge into opportunity.

A strategic approach to explore the model would include mapping the private sector in terms of core competence. At Stop TB Partnership Indonesia, we partner closely with the Ministry of Health in mapping and stakeholder's engagement in a comprehensive way. As we find behavioural and technical barriers within the public and private sector, we now gradually devise strategies on case reporting simplification, and exploring the possibilities of rewarding private facilities that offer the best standards of care and innovative public education.

I hope our dialogue tonight will put us all in on agreement that investing in fighting against TB is everybody's business. It is the time for us to catalyse cross-sectoral collaborations and start a new beginning where we can leave a legacy for future generations. A world with no suffering from TB. If a nation with the third highest TB burden can step up to this commitment, there are no reasons for others not to do the same.

Thank you, and I hope we have a fruitful discussion

Arifin Panigoro

Chair of Forum Stop TB Partnership Indonesia