Agenda Item:
11.8 Preparation for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending tuberculosis

Statement:
The Global Health Council, supported by the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the Global Health Technologies Coalition and Partners in Health, commend efforts to prepare for the HLM on ending TB. We are eager to see strong outcomes from the HLM including a political declaration that includes ambitious targets on finding the missing 4 million cases, scaling up treatment and prevention, and increasing investments in R&D for new & affordable diagnostics, treatments, vaccines and other health technologies critical for ending TB.

We urge the inclusion of child-specific targets on R&D, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment to ensure childhood TB challenges are treated with the urgency they deserve. TB is one of the top 10 causes of child mortality globally - 700 deaths a day that could be avoided by scaling up interventions. Under 15% of children exposed to TB receive preventive therapy, and under 50% of the 1 million children who develop TB each year are diagnosed and put on treatment. New child-friendly formulations are now available, but we lack child-friendly tools to accurately detect TB.

Ending TB as a global public health threat is imperative for addressing antimicrobial resistance. As the leading cause of drug resistance-related deaths globally, and the most prevalent airborne drug-resistant disease, TB and the global AMR crisis are inextricably linked. The global AMR agenda is central to addressing TB, and all efforts must be made to end drug resistant TB as a global health security threat. To prevent the ever-increasing threat of an AMR crisis that spirals out of control, member states must commit to putting forth the resources needed to end drug resistant TB.

To conclude, we urge member states to adopt a political declaration that is based on human rights, equity and medical science, and commit to closing gaps in funding TB detection, prevention, treatment and R&D.