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As per attached list

In reply please
refer to:

Your reference:

15 May 2019

Dear Sirs, Madams,

Response to Open Letter: Serious concerns about errors in the World Health Organization (WHO) Guidance for the Treatment of Rifampicin-Resistant and Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (RR-/MDR-TB)

Thank you for your open letter of concern regarding the recent WHO Guidelines for the treatment of rifampicin-resistant and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. WHO acknowledges the need to continue to improve our processes for the development of guidelines as a core function of our mandate as lead agency in Global Public Health.

Refinement of the policy development process is part of the current ongoing transformation at WHO to ensure that countries have the most up-to-date and clear guidelines developed based on the best available evidence.

Engagement of the civil society, stakeholders and partners in a constructive dialogue is an essential part of these processes and cultural changes in WHO. It is for this reason that we launched with the Stop TB Partnership and the Global Fund the Joint Initiative “Find. Treat. All. #End TB”. We also revamped the WHO Civil Society Task Force on TB, intensified engagement with TB community through their active participation in different WHO activities, including TB related activities, Guidelines Development Group (GDG) meetings, products development and other major events. We are committed to continue and strengthen this work and collaboration.

On 22 May 2019, the WHO Global TB Programme will be hosting a webinar open to all TB stakeholders to discuss the points listed in your letter and the ways to optimize processes and policy recommendations.

The WHO also anticipates that fresh new data on drug resistant TB treatment will be available soon for WHO review, making it likely that some of your suggested changes may be reflected in the next update of the guidelines.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General

ENCL: (1)

To: Dr Gary Gottlieb, Chief Executive Officer, Partners in Health
Dr Joanne Liu, International President, Médecins sans Frontières
Mr Mark Harrington, Executive Director, Treatment Action Group
Dr Vivian Cox, Chair, Drug-Resistant TB Scale-Up Treatment Action Team
Ms Mercedes Becerra, Director, Sentinel Project on Pediatric Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis
Mr Patrick Agbassi, Co-Chair, Global Tuberculosis Community Advisory Board
Ms Carolina Moran Jara, Co-Chair, Global Tuberculosis Community Advisory Board

cc: Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General, WHO
Dr Ren Minghui, Assistant Director-General for UHC/Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO
Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO
Dr Tereza Kasaeva, Director, Global Tuberculosis Programme, WHO
Ms Susan Norris, Guideline Review Committee Secretariat, WHO
Mr Nathan Ford, Guideline Review Committee Chair, WHO
Mr Andreas Mlitzke, Director, Office of Compliance, Risk Management and Ethics, WHO
Dr Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director, Stop TB Partnership
Ms Cheri Vincent, Chief, Infectious Diseases Division, U.S. Agency for International Development
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Members of the WHO Civil Society Task Force