

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE TO PACIFIC HEALTH SUMMIT****Seattle, 16 June 2009**

Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (M/XDR-TB) is spreading significantly in many regions. Half a million new cases of M/XDR-TB emerge each year. Of these cases, only 3 per cent of sufferers are receiving treatment. This is undermining our global efforts to control diseases and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The emergence of M/XDR-TB is a threat to health security. It represents both huge expense and social tragedy for patients, their families and their communities. The H1N1 influenza outbreak has reminded us that diseases know no border and that we must respond to their threat by joining forces and acting collectively.

Concerted action is needed now. At the Ministerial Meeting of High M/XDR-TB Burden Countries in Beijing earlier this year, health ministers recognized that national disease control programmes cannot by themselves solve the systemic issues that impede the control of TB and its multi-drug resistant and extensively drug resistant variants. We need bold leadership and innovative thinking at the highest levels. It is a challenge for scientists, policy makers and industry alike.

The corporate sector must play a major role. Industry is critical to addressing system failure issues in an innovative, holistic and efficient way. We need new drugs, new diagnostics and a vaccine, and we must massively scale-up research to deliver new products and new tools. This cannot just take place in a public sector and philanthropic environment.

Public-private collaboration is the key. I call on the Pacific Health Summit to work to define the incentives industry needs to boost research on tuberculosis, to combat this and the other diseases of the poor – from malaria to neglected tropical diseases – and particularly the deadly combination between HIV and TB.

Failure to act now will mean the further spread of multi-drug resistant and extensively drug resistant TB. We cannot allow this to happen.

BAN Ki-moon