



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Release

Plenary Speakers announced for the 46th Union World Conference on Lung Health in Cape Town

Imbizo community space featuring performance and discussion will be open to the general public

Thursday, 19 November, 2015 (Cape Town, South Africa)--An opening plenary session on HIV/TB coinfection on Friday, 4 December featuring UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé, Global Fund Executive Director Mark Dybul and the Deputy-Director of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre Linda-Gail Bekker will open day one of the [46th Union World Conference on Lung Health](#) programme taking place in Cape Town from 2 to 6 December.

The conference is expected to attract more than 3,000 delegates from some 130 countries, including ministers of health, UN officials, clinicians, scientists, health workers and communities affected by TB.

The three announced plenary sessions are as follows:

- **Plenary I:** 09:00–10:00 SAST, Friday, 4 December 2015

Panel Discussion: The state of TB and HIV on the 27th anniversary of World AIDS Day

Mark Dybul, Executive Director, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Switzerland)

Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, UNAIDS (Switzerland)

Linda-Gail Bekker, Deputy-Director, Desmond Tutu HIV Centre; President Elect, International AIDS Society (South Africa)

Constance Manwa, TB survivor from a Union-supported project (Zimbabwe)

Moderator: Meera Senthilingam, journalist and broadcaster, CNN Vital Signs/BBC World Service

- **Plenary II:** 09:00–10:00 SAST, Saturday, 5 December 2015

Tackling tuberculosis in Key Affected Populations

Drug resistance and the contribution of zoonotic TB

Paul van Helden, Director of Stellenbosch University's Medical Research Centre (South Africa)

Ubuntu and research involving communities with a high burden of TB

Nicholas Bhengu, Pastor, Uniting Presbyterian Church in Pietermaritzburg (South Africa)

Defeating XDR-TB, disability and stigma: an ordinary call for extraordinary measures

Phumeza Tisile, first South African female survivor of XDR-TB and activist (South Africa)

Chairs: **Aaron Oxley** (UK), **Stacie C Stender** (South Africa)

- **Plenary III:** 09:00–10:00 SAST, Sunday, 6 December 2015

Taxing health harming products and creating health promotion funds: A win-win health strategy for governments

Kaul Singh Thakur, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Law and Revenue, Government of Himachal Pradesh, India (India)

Luong Ngoc Khue, Director of VINACOSH (Viet Nam)

Jeremias Paul, Undersecretary, Department of Finance, Government of the Republic of the Philippines (The Philippines)

Moderators: **Yussuf Saloojee** (South Africa), **José Luis Castro** (France)

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The conference organisers are also delighted to announce that this year's event includes [Imbizo: my Space, your space and our space](#). Imbizo is a space where communities involved in the fight for lung health will come together for discussion, support, learning and inspiration throughout the conference. Imbizo – meaning a gathering, usually called by a traditional leader – will offer a range of sessions, displays, discussions and performances organised by community organisations and civil society. It is open to the public and located in **Hall 4B** of the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

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Media Registration

Members of the media wishing to register for the conference can do so [here](#)

Programme

The Final Programme for the conference can be downloaded [here](#)

Media Kit:

A media kit containing programme Highlights, media releases and factsheets will shortly be available [here](#)

Photographs:

High-resolution photographs can be download [here](#)

Further Information:

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About the organisers:

For nearly 100 years, the [International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease \(The Union\)](http://theunion.org) has drawn from the best scientific evidence and the skills, expertise and reach of its staff, consultants and membership in order to advance solutions to the most pressing public health challenges affecting people living in poverty around the world. With over 20 000 members and subscribers from 146 countries, The Union has its headquarters in Paris and regional offices in Africa, the Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America and South-East Asia. The Union's scientific departments focus on tuberculosis and HIV, tobacco control and operational research.

For more information, please visit theunion.org.