**Template Advocacy Letter to Decision-Makers**

[Insert address]

[Insert date]

Dear [Decision-maker],

I am writing on behalf of [name of your organization] and the RHD community to call on [decision-maker’s organization] to support the proposal of a World Health Assembly Resolution on RHD.

RHD stands for **rheumatic heart disease**, which is a significant health burden in this country. On 01 June 2017, **the Executive Board of the World Health Organization recommended a Resolution on ‘Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease’** for adoption at the World Health Assembly in May 2018. The government of New Zealand is leading this process, supported by 19 Member States\* and the wider RHD community.

**It is time to tackle RHD**: this preventable disease affects over 33 million people around the world, killing 320,000 each year. RHD affects the world’s most vulnerable communities, and particularly targets women, children and adolescents.

There is a significant burden of RHD in [country]. Evidence shows that [insert statistics or relevant information about your local burden of RHD]. Addressing RHD through a global policy Resolution would save time and money as well as many lives around the world.

We offer our full support to the government of [country] in our shared efforts to reduce the burden of RHD. This disease can have a devastating impact on the lives of those it affects, yet is completely preventable through adequate primary care.

Therefore, we urge you, your government and your fellow decision-makers to recognise RHD as a priority. **We respectfully ask that you will support the proposed global Resolution on ‘Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease’** at the **World Health Assembly in May 2018**. This global policy provides an opportunity to champion this issue and mandate WHO to provide further technical support and guidance on RHD to all countries.

We are keen to discuss this important issue further and can be contacted at [insert contact details]. We offer our full support to your efforts to address RHD and remain at your service.

With best wishes,

[insert name]

[insert email address]

\*The 20 Member States co-sponsoring the Resolution are: Australia, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Cook Islands, Ecuador, Fiji, Japan, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Samoa, South Africa, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, and Zambia.