



KAZAKHSTAN

Please, check against delivery

STATEMENT
by H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova,
Permanent Representative of Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations
at the High-level Meeting on the Comprehensive Review of the
progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on
HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS

New York, 10 June 2011

**Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,**

A follow-up to the outcome of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS clearly emphasizes that AIDS remains a key factor of high importance in global development, public health and human rights. It is a major preclusion of the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved since the prevalence of HIV/AIDS deters all sectors of human existence. The devastating impact of this epidemic has resulted in the loss of more than 30 million people, with 60 million infected worldwide over the last three decades.

Despite the visionary accomplishments of the international community with regard to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, the epidemic still remains very high on the agenda of the United Nations. It continues to outpace the response despite enormous financial investments and intellectual efforts, which are offset by the 2008 financial downturn, "donor fatigue" and diminished financial inflows. These financial impediments come at a time when programmes and services are most needed to reach out more vigorously worldwide.

Mr. President,

Since the signing of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS in 2001, Kazakhstan has made significant progress in addressing the problem nationally. The country has enhanced the legal framework by adopting the Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, "On people's health and the health care system, including the prevention and treatment of HIV infection and AIDS" in 2009. The key provisions of the Code related to the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, aim at protecting health and human rights, are harmonized with internationally agreed commitments in the field of public health and the HIV/AIDS response.

Kazakhstan has successfully implemented two multi-sectoral programmes to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic through implementing modern standards for epidemiological surveillance of the infection, expanding the number of voluntary screenings and improving the medical care for persons with HIV/AIDS, as well as high-risk persons. The country has also launched effective preventive measures for the most vulnerable by strengthening awareness-raising and educational outreach services.

The HIV/AIDS response features prominently in several main strategic documents of the Government, such as "The Kazakhstan Development Strategy by 2030", the state programme "Road to Europe" for 2009-2011, the State Programme for the Development of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan called, "Salamatty Kazakhstan" (Healthy Kazakhstan) 2011-2015. Kazakhstan is also promoting social change and transformation to eliminate the stigma and discrimination of persons with HIV/AIDS and to ensure their social protection and inclusion.

Mr. President,

HIV/AIDS issues are under the vigilant control of the Republic of Kazakhstan's National Coordinating Council for Health, which consists of the

heads of relevant state authorities, as well as, representatives of international organizations and NGOs.

The treatment, care and support of those living with HIV/AIDS, including universal access to antiretroviral treatment, are recognized by my Government as an important and essential component of measures for combating the epidemic, with provisions for these services ensured by the state budget as of 2009.

A national monitoring and evaluation system to address HIV/AIDS has been operating in the country since 2005. In 2008, the implementation of substitution therapy for injecting drug users was also launched.

The complexity and scope of tasks require the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, including civil society, whose support is an area of public policy. There are 97 NGOs engaged in HIV/AIDS response in Kazakhstan, which are funded by the State budget. Representatives of civil society actively participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of preventive, care and support measures for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Emphasizing the valuable assistance of the international stakeholders, the Government of Kazakhstan expresses its gratitude to UNAIDS, WHO, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Bank and USAID for their invaluable support, and looks forward to further ongoing and fruitful cooperation in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Mr. President,

Despite the efforts to combat HIV/AIDS made by countries at the national level, the epidemic is out of bounds. Bearing in mind that the current pace of progress is still in jeopardy and remains fragile, my delegation fully supports an ambitious time-bound framework. Focus on HIV/AIDS response will improve the crucial situation of the shortfall and slow progress in the areas of development, poverty eradication, decrease in hunger, maternal and child health. As is obvious, the human, social and economic costs of our inadequate efforts today will be unjustifiably high in the future. In this regard Kazakhstan fully supports the set of Secretary General's recommendations aimed to forge rejuvenated paradigm of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. Kazakhstan deems vital to focus on the key areas, especially on ending new infections, sharing responsibility and achieving universal access.

This High Level meeting demonstrates the importance of consolidating the joint efforts of the Member States of the United Nations to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic in an effective and timely manner. My delegation reaffirms the commitment of the Government of Kazakhstan to the global multilateral fight against HIV/AIDS and thereby achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you, Mr. President.