



MONGOLIA

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UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS

STATEMENT BY

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CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENT STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL POLICY,
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AND

**HEAD OF THE DELEGATION TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH-LEVEL
MEETING ON AIDS**

AT THE

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON AIDS

New York, 9 June 2011

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to begin by extending my most sincere greetings to all of you who have come together here in New York to discuss the subject of vital importance, HIV/AIDS, review the progress achieved, define the future goals, and address the status of commitments governments have pledged. It is my honor to be here today with you and convey the best wishes from the Parliament and Government of Mongolia for the success of this High-Level Meeting.

I am pleased to note, Mr. President, that by having endorsed the Declaration of Commitment adopted by the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in 2001 and the Political Declaration by the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2006, my Government has been committed to develop and implement its own country-specific policy to achieve broad multisectoral coverage for prevention, treatment, care and support with active participation of people living with HIV, towards the goal of universal access.

As a result of the strengthened political commitment and continuous actions taken by the Government, Mongolia contains its low HIV prevalence. However, the label "low prevalence" diverts resources and attention. I am deeply concerned that despite the decline in global HIV incidence the epidemic continues to accelerate in some low prevalence countries, including Mongolia.

As such, Mongolia urges international community to advocate and mobilize increased investment for countries currently reporting low level epidemics during these times of decline in international funding for HIV. Global response needs to be dramatically reshaped to increase effective use of resources, and the Government of Mongolia believes the key to this is implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness with a special emphasis on avoiding activities that undermine national institution building, utilizing country systems and procedures to the maximum extent possible, and minimizing overhead costs for HIV assistance.

Mr. President,

Mongolia fully supports a global vision of a world with zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS deaths. It is my privilege to inform you that the Government of Mongolia pledges to work towards zero vertical transmission of HIV and zero new infections as a result of blood transfusion.

We commit ourselves to working towards achieving the goals for 2015 put forward by the UN Secretary-General in his most recent Report (A/65/797), and to the following undertakings in addition to our prior commitments made.

First, measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and to eliminate gender inequalities will be enforced through the amended Law of Mongolia on Prevention of HIV/AIDS, which was initially endorsed in 1994 and is currently being finalized for submission to the Parliament;

Second, the Government is currently in the process of eliminating HIV related restrictions on entry, stay and residence; and

Third, in light of the positive economic growth observed in recent years, and the future trends, my Government pledges to continuously increase financial resources within its national budget for the activities on HIV/AIDS prevention.

Mr. President,

A week prior to this High-Level Meeting, the Government of Mongolia together with the UN agencies, and other stakeholders organized the Fifth National Forum on HIV/AIDS. The forum has played a crucial role in reviewing the current standing of National HIV/AIDS response and the progress made with respect to MDG 6, and discussed the plan of action to accelerate the development in this area.

Participants of the National Forum have expressed their support for the main goal of the declaration to be adopted by the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS, and have pledged to implement its objectives and to contribute to the global movement towards world free of HIV.

I thank you for your kind attention!