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**STATEMENT**

by Her Excellency Aksoltan Ataeva,  
Head of the Delegation of Turkmenistan,  
Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations

at the  
High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS  
during the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 2 June 2006

*Ataeva*

Esteemed Mr. President,  
Esteemed Mr. Secretary-General,  
Esteemed Heads of States and Government,  
Esteemed Heads of the Delegations,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all on behalf of the President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov, I would like to express profound gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan for convening the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS and to wish success to all the participants.

The importance of the convening of this Meeting is due to the fact, that the trans-border and devastating spreading of infectious diseases begins to constitute a real danger to the security of mankind. Aware of the enormous magnitude of this problem, Turkmenistan supports the UN Secretary-General's efforts in achieving the global goals of the international community to combat HIV/AIDS and actively participates in fully implementing the commitments set out in the Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted on June 27, 2001.

Although Turkmenistan ranks among the countries with a low level of HIV/AIDS prevalence, we realistically evaluate the present-day regional and global situation regarding the spreading of the infection and its consequences and undertake adequate measures at the national level.

Immediately after the adoption of the above-mentioned Declaration by the UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan adopted the National Law "On the prevention of diseases caused by HIV". The Law defines prevention as the main tool for combating HIV/AIDS in cooperation and with the assistance of the international organizations and foundations. The Law provides for:

- participation in international cooperation programs on HIV/AIDS;
- provision of voluntary, confidential and anonymous medical testing;
- public awareness campaign among the population regarding measures for the prevention of HIV-infection, access to the information and appropriate HIV/AIDS education;
- mandatory medical testing of blood donors, biological liquids, organs and tissues;
- provision of timely diagnostic, medical and consulting assistance to persons infected with HIV and people living with AIDS;
- social security for persons infected with HIV, people living with AIDS and their families;

The book "Rukhnama" written by Turkmenistan's President Saparmurat Turkmenbashi, a philosophical work that deals with historic, spiritual and moral values of the Turkmen people, exert a tremendous influence on the education of the young people and bringing them up according to the norms of proper behaviour.

In order to implement the provisions of the UN Declaration on HIV/AIDS concerning the elaboration and adoption by the year 2005 of preventive measures, especially for the youth, we approved the new National Program for the period from 2005 to 2010, which takes into consideration national identity, ethical norms and national values as well as accumulated international experience. The new program represents a logical continuation of the previous 4-year term program and provides for:

- enhancement of the prevention, especially among the young people between 15 – 24 years of age as they are the most vulnerable part of the population, raising of their educational and awareness level, encouraging responsible behaviour, healthy way of life, strengthening of the family and moral bases of society;
- prevention of the HIV/AIDS transmission, provision of prophylactics;
- provision of growler access to voluntary and confidential counseling and testing;
- prevention of the drug addiction through the use of syringes;
- prophylaxis, early and efficient treatment of sexually transmitted diseases;
- protection of the reproductive health of the family

In order to realize the targets set out in the Program, our country adopted the working plan for the period 2005-2010, which defines concrete measures, levels of responsibility, implementing agencies and duty of execution, as well as financial sources. The National service for the prevention of HIV/AIDS was reinforced and supplied with modern equipment for more flexible and efficient management of the Program.

Cooperation with different bodies of the UN such as UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, IMO, UNHCR and other international structures also contributes to the successful implementation of the Program.

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is almost five years since the day when the Declaration on HIV/AIDS was adopted. During those years the world became more convinced that only internationally agreed efforts can put a solid barrier against the HIV/AIDS epidemic both at the national and international level.

Adoption of a political Declaration at the end of this meeting should provide an impulse to the realization of the Declaration on HIV/AIDS and should enhance global activity as well as contribute to the implementation of the measures at the national level.

We are confident that the efforts undertaken by the UN in this regard combined with an adequate response at the national level, will not only stop the spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic, but will ward off, and eventually, eliminate this danger.

Thank you.