

UZBEKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



STATEMENT

**By H.E. Mr. Bakhtiyor Niyozmatov
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Republic of Uzbekistan**

**at the General Assembly High-Level Plenary Meeting
on comprehensive review of the progress made since adoption of the
2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS**

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**Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Protection of health of the population has been and is remaining to be one of the priorities of the state policy in Uzbekistan. The Government is placing the utmost importance to the healthcare issues. The President of Uzbekistan announced the year of 2005 as "The Year of Health" and 2006 – "The Year of Charity and Medical Workers". Accordingly it has played an important role in galvanizing the national healthcare activities, including those in the field of preventing infectious and non-infectious diseases.

The largest number of population of Central Asia resides in Uzbekistan. The country is also distinctive with the non-standard demographic structure of its population – children under the age of 15 and teenagers under 18 constitute more than 45 % of the total inhabitants.

Peculiarity of the demographic situation, tasks for developing healthy human potential, existing infrastructure of the country's population predominantly residing in rural areas, high number of children and juveniles – all this requires specific approach in the system of public health.

For the past few years the country has been witnessing stable epidemiological period or to put it differently "epidemiological well-being". Infections which can be controlled through the specific preventive measures are recorded very randomly. Since 1996 no cases of poliomyelitis and since 2000 no cases of diphtheria or other similar infectious diseases have been recorded in Uzbekistan.

Despite this during past years the problem of HIV/AIDS has created a disturbing situation in the country. First cases of HIV/AIDS were registered in Uzbekistan in 1987. As of the beginning of 2006 the cumulative number of people infected with HIV/AIDS in the country was recorded as 7810 person.

It should be noted that the capital city Tashkent and Tashkent province constitute 40 per cent of all HIV infected in the country. HIV is spreading mostly through unsterilised injection which accounts for 59.8 per cent of total case, and 14.5 per cent through sexual contact. Vertical transmission of infection is 0.1 per cent. 49.2 per cent out of the total number of the HIV infected are people between the ages of 25 and 34.

The Government of Uzbekistan is putting every effort to prevent the spread of epidemiological complications of HIV/AIDS. Currently there is a National Coordination Committee led by the Deputy Prime-Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan which performs numerous programs and projects against HIV/AIDS.

It is worth mentioning the longstanding and productive cooperation of Uzbekistan with World Health Organization, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UN Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, World Bank, US CDC, and the special Fund East-West on numerous aspects of health protection. Since 2005 Uzbekistan has been accomplishing various projects financed by the Global Fund in fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The Republic is establishing pre- and post-assessment medical consultations for pregnant women during which they are explained about the possibilities of the birth of infected child. Therefore, the discontinuation of the

pregnancy with the consent of pregnant women is widely practiced in the country. The continuous spread of HIV/AIDS is observed among the groups of people with risky behavior (consumers of drugs through injections, commercial sex workers and etc.) primarily through unsterilised injection.

The Republic of Uzbekistan along with other UN member-states is firmly committed to the realization of National Program of preventive measures against HIV/AIDS within the framework of three main principles set by the UN (unified national strategy in fight against HIV/AIDS, single coordinative mechanism on HIV/AIDS and standard system of monitoring and examining the activities on HIV/AIDS), and thus consistently accomplishing its obligations outlined in the UN Declaration on fight against HIV/AIDS.

With the support of the Government and donor organizations the country has established 206 Trust Offices for the consumers of drug injections, 30 Friendly Offices (providing services for the representatives of the vulnerable groups) for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

Collaboration with civil society and international organizations is contributing to the effective implementation of the National Program on fight against HIV/AIDS. Involvement of all sectors of the society in realization of the program has become a success for the country.

The existence of the system of monitoring and examination, commitment of the national NGOs and international organizations to the issue of improving the effectiveness of activities in fight against HIV/AIDS is playing an important role on planning and implementing the programs on HIV/AIDS. One of the results of the efforts in this context has become development of so-called "road map of the country" that guarantees common access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment as well as assistance to the HIV infected in the country.

This year Uzbekistan is taking an action to treat 700 HIV infected adults and children through *antiretroinfection* medicine.

A large scale of work is being conducted in the republic in cooperation with international and non-government organizations to prevent the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In particular, currently the following measures are being undertaken:

- establishing epidemiological monitor of the second generation;
- enhancing the scientific-technological capacity of regional HIV centers in the country;
- implementing the post-contact treatment of HIV infected in treatment and prevention centers;
- diagnosing and pre-treating the opportunistic infections
- creating the package of social services and assistance for the people infected with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you for your attention.