

MONGOLIA

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STATEMENT OF H.E. MR. GUNDALAI LAMJAV, MINISTER FOR HEALTH OF MONGOLIA

New York, June 2, 2006, United Nations Headquarter

Honourable Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

And Ladies and Gentlemen,

As of today, Mongolia is considered a low prevalence country with only 21 known AIDS cases. The first five cases were reported over twelve year period between 1992 and 2004. The last 16 cases were reported in the last two years. This is an alarming trend for the country of only 2.5 million people.

We would like to share some of our own experience with you. We have launched a massive media campaign to make people aware of increasing threat of HIV/AIDS and the importance of voluntary counseling and testing and also the 100 % of condom use among the sex workers. Our main tool is radio and TV broadcasting. Nowadays in the era of globalization and rapid information technology development people do not spend much time to read brochures and print outs. Therefore, I want to emphasize all the decision-makers to focus on

radio and TV broadcasts to make your population aware of danger of HIV/AIDS and at the same provide them with information on how to prevent from being infected by HIV/AIDS. Please, involve in the radio and TV short spots your stars and celebrities.

This month we will organize a national seminar that will focus on how to achieve THREE ONES principle in the fight against AIDS.

My Government with the support our national and international partners is committed to implement a national programme "Healthy Mongolian population", which includes emphasis on STI and HIV/AIDS prevention, first aid and especially improvement of primary health care.

Mongolia will be hosting later this year its first international conference on HIV/AIDS among Low Prevalence Countries.

The Government's main task is to make Mongolia a country free from HIV/AIDS. To achieve this goal, we need further support and close cooperation of international organizations and donor countries. Hereby, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I want to express our appreciation to H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan for organizing this very important forum and inviting all of us. Also on behalf of Mongolian people, I want to thank Mrs. Delia Barcelona, UNFPA to Mongolia, Mr. Robert Hagen and Mr. Salik Govend, WHO to Mongolia, The ; Global Fund in Mongolia, Mr. Richard Prado, UNICEF to Mongolia and last but not least, Mrs. Pratibha Mehta, UN Resident Coordinator to Mongolia for their valueable contribution to the health of Mongolians.

I thank you and wish all of you success in your fight against HIV/AIDS.