Kazakhstan: Global Health

I thank you for calling attention to health as an important policy issue on the international agenda, demanding particular attention by States in their foreign policy. The virulence and frequency, and the potential widespread nature of Ebola, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), avian influenza and H1N1 influenza, and HIV/AIDS have added to our list of unprecedented challenges. They are transnational in character and so their combat must constitute an integral aspect of foreign policy. These new health challenges go beyond intraregional cooperation and have proven to be effective and timely only through collaboration with outside partners.

Progress in global health depends primarily on international partnerships, including public-private partnerships, to bridge the existing gaps in realizing every person’s right to internationally accepted standards of physical and mental health care. This calls for coordination by each Member State with its neighbours and other countries of the region, and a review of the institutional environment, including forums for interaction, and the various instruments and means that could be used. At the same time, the international community will have to seek ways of enhancing the quantity and quality of health information available to decision makers, thoroughly analyzing the influence and impact of foreign policy on global health. Thus, developing the capacity and training of health officials and orientation of diplomats in global health, foreign policy and development cooperation will have far reaching positive effects.

Modern contemporary outbreaks of diseases require sustainable international responses to shared health risks, which do not know borders. Thus, achieving global health outcomes contributes to providing human, national and international security, and prosperity of States, among other related goals. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals required coherent global and national health programmes as well as international cooperation.

This will become even a greater imperative in the post-2015 phase, not only for health-related SDGs, but also for overall security and progress. Focus will have to be paid to reducing the mortality rate of infants and pregnant women, which still far short of the targets set in the MDGs, and on fostering women’s health and gender equality, providing safe water and sanitation, and providing environmental sustainability, as outlined in the Secretary-General’s Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health and also in the Health for All Strategy. This strategy will have to be implemented by a wide range of partners in a multi-sectoral, well-harmonized and integrated manner by developing countries, donors and regional international organizations.

Kazakhstan has reached the number of MDGs and is now working on MDGs Plus. The Kazakhstan President’s new strategy entitled, The Road for the Future, has new standards to reach with a multi-sectoral approach for health care, combining it with social protection, education, agriculture, scientific development and technology, infrastructure development, due to their inter-related nature.

Kazakhstan is also collaborating together with other countries of the region on health issues. It works most closely with WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN-Women and UNFPA, all of whom have plans to use the proposed UN Hub to be located in Almaty to reduce poverty and enhance standards of health care. The overarching goal of the UN system through its multi-country outreach, out of Almaty, is also to reduce risks and build health resilience for the countries of Central Asia through sharing of best practices, technical collaboration and thereby promoting capacity building. On the global level, as a responsible member of the United Nations, Kazakhstan has made a contribution of $ 50 000 to Ebola Response Fund and is planning to make another contribution in the amount of $ 300 000 through the African Union, and will continue to step up its efforts to promote global health also through knowledge and technology sharing and all forms of cooperation.

To conclude, knowing fully well that all gains in sustainable development could be reversed by challenges to health systems, Kazakhstan is committed to all international initiatives that impact health for the fight against poverty and the pursuit of peace and human security.