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Your reference:

Dr Salidat Kairbekova
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Entrance, The House of Ministries
Left Bank
Astana 010000
Kazakhstan

20 MARS 2012

Dear Minister,

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE MALARIA-FREE STATUS OF KAZAKHSTAN

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 14 February 2012, requesting the World Health Organization (WHO) to certify Kazakhstan as a malaria-free country.

I wish to note with appreciation the commitment of your Government to the prevention of reintroduction of malaria in Kazakhstan, and to the regional initiative aimed at eliminating malaria in the WHO European Region by 2015. The outcome of this commitment is evidenced by the durable success of Kazakhstan in maintaining the national territory malaria-free, with a total of only twenty locally-acquired malaria cases reported since 1980, including a small and successfully controlled outbreak of 7 local cases in the year 2000. Moreover, no locally acquired malaria cases have been reported on the territory of Kazakhstan since 2001.

In view of the long-standing absence of malaria transmission in Kazakhstan, and taking into consideration the ongoing national efforts to maintain this success, I am pleased to include Kazakhstan in the list of countries that are officially acknowledged by WHO to be malaria-free. Kazakhstan's inclusion in this list will be published in the *World Malaria Report 2012*.

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cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations office and other
International Organizations at Geneva
The WHO Head of Country Office, WHO Country Office, Astana

The acknowledgement of the malaria-free status of Kazakhstan refers to the situation at present and the likelihood that the success can be maintained. Kazakhstan will be expected to continue reporting on the maintenance of the malaria free status on an annual basis to the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

In light of the good experiences on malaria elimination in Kazakhstan, we look forward to continued technical cooperation with Kazakhstan on this topic, including international training activities on vector control and the prevention of reintroduction of malaria.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Margaret Chan
Director-General