

## **Opening Remarks by Ms. Khajidsuren Bolormaa, First Lady of Mongolia, at the Scientific Forum**

September 21

Vienna

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished guests and delegates,

I extend the greetings of this auspicious day to you, dear delegates, who have convened in this beautiful city of Vienna with a noble mission to unite and consolidate our minds and actions against one of the most serious challenges to humankind - against cancer.

I sincerely thank Director General Yukia Amano for the invitation extended to me to participate in this important event. I have the pleasure to convey to the Director General and this respectable audience the hearty greetings of the people of Mongolia and of President Tsakhia Elbegdorj.

Cancer has become a grave concern for almost all countries, and all the more so for developing countries. I shall not take your time by reading out statistics or citing alarming numbers and figures. Certainly, scholars, scientists and researchers gathered in this hall know well of this reality. It would suffice to mention that for my country, a developing country, cancer ranks the second major cause of mortality.

Last July, the First Ladies of some African countries issued an appeal calling for a united action against cancer. In August, I sent to the First Ladies of the Asian continent a letter with a call to consolidate efforts against cancer, and especially against cervical and breast cancer, which take more and more lives of girls and women- the future of any nation, in fact, the future of humankind.

In March this year, jointly with like-minded Mongolians, I launched a charity- „Hope“- Cancer-Free-Mongolia National Foundation. We aim to promote a nationwide campaign to prevent cancer, improve quality, scope and accessibility to screening and treatment, to introduce advanced technologies and equipment for diagnosis, enhance the competence and skill of medical personnel, and an array of other activities. Equally important for us is developing and strengthening of palliative care and services in Mongolia:

Development and prosperity of any country are defined by the healthy and happy lives of its people. It is unacceptable that we are letting our people die at

their prime age, at the age when they would have otherwise lived and enjoyed the beauties of life and contributed to the good of humankind. And they die of a disease which is both preventable and treatable. I am convinced that we have the possibility to do away with this disease provided we act timely, collectively, and apply vision and care.

The words “crisis”, “deficit” which are lately used almost routinely, should be deleted from the vocabulary of all of us, who are committed to fight this common enemy. I do believe that with vision and a coherent action plan we can effectively control and coordinate our resources to prevent any crisis of inaction and lack of resources.

At this moment and time, New York is hosting the UN Summit on Implementation of MDGs. MDGs include goals to substantially reduce maternal and child mortality by 2015. The success of MDGs, therefore, shall depend on the success of our campaign against cancer. With our best wishes for success to the Heads of States and Governments attending the Summit, let us call on the Summit to appeal to the nations of the world and their leaders to consolidate our efforts and resources in the fight against cancer.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I extend my best wishes for your most noble cause to safeguard the health of humankind. Let us make our green earth a place of peace, friendship and happiness.

I thank you for your attention.