

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**REMARKS AT KHMER SOVIET FRIENDSHIP HOSPITAL  
Phnom Penh, 28 October 2010**

Your Excellency, Dr. Mam Bun Heng, Minister of Health,  
Your Excellency, Prof. Eng Huot, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health,  
Dr. Say Sengly, Director of the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital,  
Dr. Chhit Sophal, Director of the Methadone Maintenance Therapy Programme,  
Dear United Nations colleagues and implementing partners,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to see this Government initiative to help heroin addicts.

This Methadone Maintenance Therapy Programme is providing an important service, not just to people struggling to conquer addiction, but to the broader community.

I commend the Government of Cambodia for launching this pilot programme. Evidence shows that such initiatives are more effective than incarceration in addressing the social problems caused by addiction.

I look forward to continued partnership between the Government and the United Nations system to deliver evidence-based approaches to drug-related problems.

One such example is the Community-Based Drug Treatment Programme, initiated by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, with the support of the World Health Organization and UNAIDS, which has now been formally adopted by the UN Country Team in Cambodia.

I would like to congratulate the Government of Cambodia on receiving the MDG Award in September for its achievements related to Millennium Development Goal Six, and particularly its work on HIV/AIDS.

The UN System will continue to assist the Government to maintain its achievements and to focus on developing a continuum of prevention, care and treatment for HIV/AIDS for populations most at-risk -- including entertainment workers, men who have sex with men, and drug users.

I have been very moved by what I have seen and heard today. I have the profoundest respect for the dedicated health workers I met here as well as the people they are helping to overcome their challenges.

I would like to reaffirm the commitment of the United Nations to helping the Government of Cambodia to provide health, social protection and greater well-being to all its citizens.

Thank you.