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ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
ACCESS TO MEDICATION IN THE CONTEXT OF PANDEMICS
SUCH AS HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

This addendum summarizes contributions received from two States after the report had been finalized.

I. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM STATES

1. The Government of the **Russian Federation** reported that the aims and objectives set out in resolution 2005/23 are being implemented in the Russian Federation primarily within the framework of the Anti-HIV/AIDS subprogramme of the federal programme for the prevention and control of social diseases for 2002-2006. The Government reports that the epidemiological situation in the country with regard to HIV and AIDS is beginning to stabilize, as can be seen in the decline in the rate of new cases of HIV infection.

2. Discrimination against people living with HIV is prohibited by law, including any restriction of rights relating to opportunities for employment or study. Recent amendments to legislation provide for the provision of medical care to people living with HIV in accordance with the programme of State guarantees for the provision of medical care to citizens of the Russian Federation free of charge, including free medication on an outpatient basis at specific institutions. In 2006, approximately 15,000 HIV-infected people are expected to receive a course of treatment, and some 7,000 people are expected to receive treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission. Children born to HIV-infected mothers are provided with breast milk substitutes in accordance with the existing practice in the country. A federal subprogramme on HIV/AIDS for 2006-2007 is being developed in order to improve the quality of medical care provided to people living with HIV and AIDS, along with improvements to the legal basis for the provision of such care and social assistance. Government funding for prevention and treatment programmes increases annually, with 3.1 billion rubles earmarked from the federal budget for 2006, increasing to 6.2 billion rubles for 2007.

3. In recent years, the safety of blood and other products as well as of medical interventions have been ensured. Employees of the State health-care system who are involved in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV infections, or who work with materials containing HIV, benefit from specific employment conditions and insurance.

4. The Government highlighted international cooperation in the area of HIV and AIDS. A Russian-Canadian project implemented in four regions of the country, focuses on developing ways to encourage people with HIV to access and adhere to drug treatments. In 2005, US\$ 87 million was provided to the country under the Globus project of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, with a fourth instalment due to reach US\$ 120 million. The World Bank has also provided assistance in the fight against HIV infection, and has loaned the Government US\$ 47 million for that purpose.

5. In its reply, the Government of the **United Arab Emirates** highlighted a ministerial decision under which all tests and drugs required to identify and treat HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (among other diseases), are to be provided free of charge to nationals and non-nationals.
