



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD), having received in October 2004 the report from the joint external team, *"Progress Towards Optimum Iodine Nutrition in Turkmenistan"*, hereby congratulate the Government of Turkmenistan for the success in achieving Universal Salt Iodization: the most effective way to reach the goal of elimination of iodine deficiency disorders as a public health problem.

This remarkable achievement was the result of the necessary legislation, advocacy and technical support provided by the Government to achieve USI within a short period of time. Turkmenistan is the first country of the Commonwealth of Independent States to reach Universal Salt Iodization and optimal iodine nutrition, the main determinants of sustained elimination of iodine deficiency disorders.

We are confident that efforts to sustain these achievements will continue, and with appropriate national public-private-civic oversight, will ensure sustained access to iodized salt and optimal iodine nutrition, thereby protecting the health and well-being of children and the entire population of Turkmenistan for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maria R. Calivis".

Maria R. Calivis

Regional Director  
UNICEF Regional Office for  
Central and

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Danzon".

Marc Danzon

Regional Director  
WHO Regional Office for Europe

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Ling".

Chairman ICCIDD  
Eastern Europe,  
Commonwealth  
of Independent States  
and the Baltic States