



# CERTIFICATION

## OF MALARIA ELIMINATION IN TURKMENISTAN

I have the honour to inform you that based on the assessments of the malaria situation in Turkmenistan by the World Health Organization (WHO) evaluation teams in 2009 and 2010, the subsequent WHO expert review, and the final recommendation from the Chairman of the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Malaria, WHO has decided to add Turkmenistan to the list of countries where malaria elimination has been achieved.

The malaria-free status of Turkmenistan will be published in the WHO *Weekly Epidemiological Record* and given notice during the Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly in May 2011.

The confirmation of malaria elimination in Turkmenistan refers to the situation at present and the likelihood that elimination can be maintained. Turkmenistan 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 (EURO). In addition, in the event of local transmission of *P. falciparum* in Turkmenistan, this must be reported immediately to EURO, so that necessary assistance can be provided and a travel alert raised, should this be indicated.

Furthermore, I enclose as an Annex the observations/recommendations of the members of the WHO Expert Committee on Malaria summarizing important comments concerning technical issues meriting your follow-up in the context of the consultations for the certification of the malaria-free status of Turkmenistan. It is felt that the implementation of these recommendations will facilitate the maintenance of the malaria-free status. WHO will be ready for consultation on addressing the issues pertaining to these recommendations.

In light of the wealth of expertise on malaria elimination in Turkmenistan, we look forward to continued technical cooperation with Turkmenistan on this topic, including international training activities on malaria elimination.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Dr Margaret Chan  
Director-General