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National Conference “Labour migration. HIV/AIDS and Human Rights” dedicated to International Migrants Day

18 December is the International Migrants Day. This day was proclaimed on 4 December, 2000 by the UN General Assembly because of the rising number of migrants all over the world. On 18 December, 1990 the Assembly signed the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It is suggested to state parties, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to mark the International Migrants Day especially with information distribution activities about human rights and basic freedoms of the migrants, experience exchange and measures for the development of the protection of migrants.

Labour migration can increase the risk of an HIV/AIDS epidemic development in Tajikistan, because most of the migrants are seasonal workers and shuttle traders, who travel between origin and host countries, where STIs and HIV incidences are high. HIV/AIDS is a disease of the social category, and the prevalence and effectiveness of combating it depends on socio-economical and life conditions, social behavior and state policy.

On 15 December, 2006 International Organization for Migration with the financial support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will conduct a National Conference named “Labour migration. HIV/AIDS and Human Rights” dedicated to the International Migrants Day.

The main goals of the conference are:

- to inform conference participants about STIs/HIV/AIDS prevention activities among labour migrants and their families within the framework of the grant of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- to discuss the legal aspects of labour migration and the impact of the legal status to labour migrants' vulnerability related to STIs/HIV/AIDS
- to identify immediate measures in the fight against the HIV epidemic among labour migrants and their families, including effective legislation mechanisms and the development on labour migration regulation on the national level and in the host countries.

As a result of the conference there will be a resolution that draws the attention of the parliamentarians, heads of the interested departments and structures to the HIV/AIDS problem among labour migrants and their families. The resolution will also give recommendations on improvements of the existing legislation measures on labour migration regulation and combating the HIV epidemic among labour migrants and their families.

Dushanbe,
15 December, 2006