

A delegation of Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) left here yesterday to attend the World First Lady Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from June 8 to 10, which is part of the United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS.

The delegation was headed by CRC President Lok Chumteav Dr. Bun Rany Hun Sen. According to the schedule, she will deliver a speech on June 8 by focusing on Cambodia's success story in reducing the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate and measures to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV.

During its stay in New York, the Cambodian delegation will also meet with the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon and join the opening ceremony of the universal action plan campaign on the elimination of HIV transmission from mother to child and keeping mothers alive.

The HIV response in Cambodia has been acknowledged as a global success by the international community, receiving the Millennium Development Goal Award for achievements in halting and reversing the spread of HIV. Prevalence amongst adults aged 15 – 49 years continues to decline from an estimated 2 percent in 1998 to 0.7 percent in 2010. Coverage of access to treatment and care has dramatically improved with 90 percent of people living with HIV now receiving antiretroviral treatment.