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**STATEMENT BY HIS EXC. MR. LUVSANTSEREN ORGIL, AMBASSADOR AND
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OFFICE AT GENEVA**

**FIFTY THIRD SESSION OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF CONVENTION ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

Geneva, January 12, 2010

On agenda item –consideration of the Third and Fourth Periodic Reports and Initial Reports on the Optional Protocols on Optional Protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict

Distinguished Chairman and Members of the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, representatives of the various UN agencies, international bodies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my Government, I would like to express a great gratitude to the Honorary Members of the United Nations Committee of the Convention of the Rights of the Child for inviting the Mongolian Government delegation to this session to consider the Third and Fourth Periodic Reports and Initial Reports on two Optional Protocols on of the Government of Mongolia.

Since 1990, Mongolian people have been privileged with the new Constitution which endorses the development of the humane and democratic society and promotion of human rights and freedom as fundamental values of this Nation with hundreds years of the Statehood accounted from the time when Gengis Khaan formed the Great Mongolian State.

In accordance with Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Government of Mongolia discussed its periodic reports two times with the Committee. I would like to highlight that the concluding observations and recommendations provided by the Committee upon the sessions have been in accordance with the development policies of Mongolia and the Government has committed to implement the recommendations. The Government not only considers that each citizen, family and community has a responsibility in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child but also recognizes its leadership role in this regard.

During a third reporting period of 2004-2007, the Government of Mongolia has implemented a wide variety of actions to address the suggestions and concerns of the Committee stated in the Concluding Observations. These actions have been incorporated in the *National Action Plan for Child Protection and Development for 2005-2007*.

Positive changes and growth in country' economy, technical and financial support from international banking and financing organizations, and the active participation of civil society and adolescents have shaped the successful implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The GDP growth reached 6 – 10 percent in recent years and the gross national income per capita increased to 950 USD in 2006. During 2004-2006, the Government of Mongolia allocated 13 – 18 percent of the GDP and 47 – 50 percent of the state budget to the education, health and social security sectors.

Based on surpluses of financial resources generated on a growth of prices on some exported goods, Mongolia's Development Fund was established in 2006. 140 billion MNT, nearly a half of all resources contributed to this Fund, have been allocated for families and children. All children under 18 years of age become main beneficiaries of this fund through the direct cash allowance for them.

In order to align national legislation with the principles and concepts of the Convention, the Parliament of Mongolia has developed and amended about twenty laws which regulate issues on children's health and education, as well as protection from violence and abuse at home and school. Several laws including the *Law on Social Welfare* (2005) and *Law on Education* (2006), *Criminal Procedure Law* (2007) were amended. *The Law on Monetary Assistance to the Child and Family* (2006), *Law for Citizens with Disabilities* (2005), *Law on Prevention from Iodine Deficiency by Salt Iodization* (2003), *Law on Breast Milk Substitutes* (2005), and *Law on Prevention of HIV/AIDS* (2004) were enacted in recent years. The Government of Mongolia has included several provisions on protecting the rights of children and supporting families in its Action Plan for 2004-2008. The measures outlined in the Action Plan have been implemented in a timely manner.

Since the Government of Mongolia assigned the Deputy Prime Minister to oversee children's and youth affairs, there has been a favourable environment for improving the coordination of policies and activities between different sectors. The National Authority for Children, an Implementing Agency under the Government of Mongolia, is working to build its capacities for coordinating inter-sectoral collaboration. At the local level, Aimag Children's Centres, an Implementing Agency under the Aimag Governors' Offices, have been implementing their newly developed strategies. The extensive collaboration of different stakeholders for addressing children's issues has been started at the local level.

Programs which are aimed at improving the living conditions of children through their families and communities, including supplying the population with clean water, improving housing conditions and supporting sustainable livelihood have been undertaken. Within the framework of the Regional Development Policy, the road and electricity infrastructure as well as trade and service networks in rural areas are currently being renovated or newly built. This creates a favourable environment for economic and social development and the improvement of living conditions of rural citizens. In order to maximize the direct impact of increased public resources, programs such as the *Child Money and Allowance for Newly Married Young Couples* are being implemented. As a result of the above mentioned measures, families are getting to pay more attention to children.

the National Authority for Children participated in a preparation of the report. A first workshop on the rights of the child not to be involved in armed conflicts was conducted at national level as a part of the report preparation process. Participants of the workshop exchanged their aspirations and ideas and agreed to collaborate in the future.

The Government of Mongolia considers that the Optional Protocol which was ratified by the UN General Assembly, on May 25, 2000 is an important document which addresses one of the key rights of the child in a broad context. Thus, we endeavored to cover the activities concerning the rights of the child within the Military Force in Mongolia. This report was prepared in accordance with the revised guidelines regarding initial reports to be submitted by states parties under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflict.

During the reporting period the Government of Mongolia has undertaken the multistep measures on enabling human rights, restructuring national industry, running a new agricultural campaign to improve a supply of domestically grown grain, potato and vegetables, increasing the exports of raw materials from livestock farming and exploring the strategically significant deposits of natural resources. The Government is putting significant efforts to restructure public service agencies so that they become more compact, efficient, and competent and public services are transparent, accountable and accessible to citizens. In the near future, we are aiming at stabilizing the macroeconomic environment, introducing the reforms on social security and welfare policies, promoting the monetary policies to improve the efficiency of the financial sector and restructuring the conditions for business development. It should be noted that the impact of the economic recession is slowing down the implementation of the Government actions for the economic development.

About 18 percent of Mongolian population is children under 18. The Government is committed to enable children to enjoy their rights on survival, development, protection and participation. The current National Action Plan for children is planned to be implemented until 2012. The Plan has identified special measures such as supporting families to create safe and secure environment for their children, improving parenting skills, and developing alternative care options for children separated from their family.

I am pleased to note that the Committee that the Government of Mongolia greatly appreciates the dedication and collaboration of international and domestic NGOs, business entities and citizens supporting the Government actions for the wellbeing of children.

It is my honor to inform you that the representatives of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour are attending this highly important meeting.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my Government's strong commitment to work along with the Committee as well as the international and national NGOs to implement the Convention and its Optional Protocols. Thank you.