

**Statement of Mr. Chultem Ulaan, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia
at the 39th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child**

Geneva, 26 May 2005

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Members,

I would like, first of all, to thank the Committee for taking up the Second Periodical Report of Mongolia since 1990 when Mongolia signed and ratified the Convention among the first countries.

It is an honor and also a challenge for me to face the outstanding international experts in the field of the rights of the child.

Distinguished Members,

The current report covers the period from 1995-2000 and follows the Committee's General guidelines regarding the form and content of periodic report to be submitted by States parties under article 44.

I should admit that our late reporting and the quality of the document are affected by our limited human resources and capacity. Nevertheless, we have done our best and are open to a constructive dialogue with the distinguished members.

Since the Committee has already studied our report, I wish only walk you through some main challenges which are indicative for the reporting period and continue to be faced today by Mongolia in terms of protecting the rights of children.

Mongolia is traditionally a society where children are revered and given all the best privileges and immunities from among whatever the society has. This tradition is enshrined in all basic laws of the country and remains in tact in most families.

However, the transition of Mongolia to a market economy since the 1990s has been painful, especially to children.

It is true that political instability and economic hardship always affect children negatively. Nevertheless, the successive governments of Mongolia have always had the rights of the child at the center of their social policy and as a priority in their action. Both nationally and internationally.

Mongolia is a party to over 30 international conventions related to the topic of human rights and freedoms, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Additional Protocols, and the ILO Convention 182.

Mongolia has been working consistently within the framework of the Mongolian Constitution on the adoption and implementation of domestic laws regarding provision of human rights and freedoms, especially the rights of the child.

I would like to draw your special attention to the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Children which was adopted by the Mongolian Parliament in 1996. Its main objectives are:

- To ensure the right of the child to special care;
- To protect families and create favorable environments for the child's growth and development;
- To have children fully prepared to live an individual life in society and brought up in the spirit of harmonious and humane ideals;
- To take children living in difficult circumstances for social protection;
- To use international cooperation for environment of children's living conditions.

Based on this law the Government is developing a strategy for a National Program for the development of children up to 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

According to our experience of the past decade, the main destructive force of the wellbeing of children emanates from poverty. Therefore, the Government of Mongolia has been working hard to alleviate poverty. The assistance of the international community has been instrumental in raising not only financial resources, but also awareness among the public of the need to pay a serious attention to the wellbeing of children. I wish to highlight the role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in this respect. Your recommendations and advices will be valuable and respected not only in Mongolia, but also in the donor community.

Secondly, the values and traditions of a particular society have to be upheld and nourished. The efforts of the international community to protect the rights of the child worldwide have to be built upon these factors which are always base on the principle: children first.

Last but not least, the effective role of national and international non-governmental organization has to be recognized and supported more intensively. In this regard we believe that the Mongolian National Human rights of Commission set up in 2001 in accordance with the Paris Principles should play major role in monitoring implementation of the human rights, especially the rights of the children enshrined in legislation of Mongolia and international conventions joined by Mongolia.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my Government, I assure you that Mongolia is expecting to benefit from the consideration of our report and words of wisdom of the distinguished experts today. We will take on board and do our best to implement all your recommendations and suggestions.

Thank you for your kind attention.