

Statement of Mongolia
by His Excellency Mr.Sodnomzundui ERDENE, Minister for Population
Development and Social Protection
at 29th Special Session of the UN General Assembly
on the Follow Up to the ICPD beyond 2014

22 September 2014, New York

Mr/Ms Chair,

Respected Guests and Delegates,

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia and our delegates, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the organization of the UN General Assembly Special Session on the implementation of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and support the report by the UN Secretary-General on the Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014 and the index report developed by the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Mr/Ms Chair,

In the last 20 years Mongolia is making every effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and implement the ICPD Program of Action. As a result, Mongolia achieved the objectives of reducing infant mortality, improving maternal health and limiting the spread of HIV/AIDS. The first major achievement in implementation of the ICPD PoA that we would like to mention is the fact that the population and development issue was integrated in national development documents including the national population policy fully integrating human rights and sexual and reproductive rights, and the Millennium Development Goals were incorporated at the state policy level and became a basis for a Comprehensive National Development Strategy. Green Development Policy has been approved recently by Parliament to decrease ecosystem degradation, and to ensure inclusive participation and to reduce poverty. Mongolia's success also lies in institutionalizing comprehensive sexuality education in secondary school system.

Our country made significant progress in creating strategies and implementation mechanism for legislation on gender equality, empowering women, promotion of gender equality, in increasing women's participation in politics at the decision-making level, which can be seen from the number of women politicians that has increased 3 times. In

order to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls such laws as the Law of Mongolia on Family, the Law of Mongolia on Combating Domestic violence, the Law on the Rights of the Child and Child protection were enacted since 1994. On 6th March 2013, the President of Mongolia made a pledge to stop domestic violence in our country, which became a major, timely step in prevention and elimination of all forms of domestic violence against women and girls.

A National High Level Meeting on Population and Development organized in Mongolia in 2013 following the Sixth Asia Pacific Population Conference approved the Ulaanbaatar Declaration which became an official document that represents our efforts in implementing the ICPD PoA, in achieving MDG goals of empowering women, increasing their participation in political, social and economic life, in combating gender-based violence.

Mr/Ms Chair,

We have good progresses made towards ICPD PoA, however, there are still a number of challenges to address. Although there is progress in reduction of maternal and infant mortality, we still need to make more efforts to affirm our achievement. Changes in lifestyles of population require better urban planning and reduction of urban-rural disparities. As shortage of workplaces, inaccessibility of social and cultural services are among leading causes of migration, we need to pay attention to a question of providing our people with conditions for favorable life in every part of our country.

Mr/Ms Chair,

We believe that the global community will act together to resolve population and development issues that require strong efforts, effective partnership, serious financing. We support and respect the leading role of the United Nations in this undertaking.

We confirm again the commitment of our country to continue implementation of ICPD Program of Action beyond 2014 and actions and recommendations for implementation of ICPD PoA beyond 2014 and pledge to implement the program effectively. We will make every effort to reduce poverty and unemployment, to combat STI and to decrease adolescent pregnancy, which present the biggest challenges for our country.

Thank you for attention.