

**STATEMENT BY H.E.MR.JAZAG AMARSANAA, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH OF
MONGOLIA AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 47TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, I wish to express my delegation's high appreciation to the Secretary-General for the thought-provoking reports on the assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

I wish to reaffirm my Government's strong commitment to the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

We align ourselves to the statement made by Bolivia on behalf of the Group 77 and China.

I appreciate this opportunity to share the national experience in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA).

Mr.Chairman,

The ICPD POA has played an indispensable role in providing a coherent framework for all our development efforts., Also, we would like to thank the UN system, which under UNFPA, worked closely with member states through the global survey design process and the regional reviews to produce the report titled, "Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the ICPD beyond 2014." The framework of action is consistent with the General Assembly Resolution 65/234. We appreciate the efforts of UNFPA, as the lead agency for the review, to arrange a number of consultations to keep member states informed of the process and to receive guidance.

Mongolia fully supported the outcome document of the Asia and Pacific Population Conference held last year, and as a follow up to the conference, Mongolia organized a National High-Level Meeting on Population and Development, which was culminated to the "Ulaanbaatar Declaration." It was jointly signed by the government, Parliament, civil society representatives, and the international community, re-affirming to further advance ICPD agenda.

Mr Chairman,

Mongolia has made remarkable progresses toward the achievement of the ICPD goals. For example, the Maternal Mortality Ratio, one of the key ICPD targets, was reduced by 75 percent between 1990 and 2015. Another noteworthy success is that Mongolia incorporated the concepts of reproductive health and reproductive rights into its public health programmes at all levels. We recognize the importance of providing comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school. Key challenges for the coming years include: increasing the accessibility and quality of reproductive health and family planning services in rural areas and among disadvantaged groups; especially women, young people, migrants, people living with HIV and AIDS, and persons with disabilities, in both urban and rural areas, including youth-friendly services, raising the quality and range of reproductive health services in all areas; decreasing the adolescent birth rate; eliminating unsafe abortions, recognizing sexual rights and reducing the unmet need for family planning.

In 2004, our Parliament approved the Law to combat Domestic Violence, and in 2011, the Parliament approved the Gender Equality Law which was a big step toward achieving the agenda of gender equality and women's empowerment. In December last year, our President made a ground-breaking statement to end domestic violence in the country, and last month, he signed the UN COMMIT initiative under the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign, marking Mongolia as the 63rd country in the world to join.

Mr. Chairman,

Although Mongolia's economy has grown at a rapid rate in the past decade largely as a result of the mining industry, youth unemployment has remained unacceptably high. Unless more jobs are created in coming years, the potential economic advantages of the "demographic window of opportunity" that Mongolia is currently passing through will not be realized.

The age structure challenges that Mongolia is presently facing are not limited to a large number of youth but also include a growing population of the elderly. We are mindful of the consequences of below replacement fertility for the future age structure of the population and the challenge that this will create in providing care to the elderly.

The ICPD POA recommends that countries sending and receiving migrant population engage in cooperation and dialogue in order to maximize the benefits of international migration for all. It urges Governments to extend to migrants and their families basic human rights, including equal working conditions, health, education, cultural and other social services. Recognizing that migrants and displaced persons have limited access to sexual and reproductive health and may face serious threats to their sexual and reproductive health and rights, the ICPD calls on services to be particularly sensitive to their needs, with particular attention to those who are victims of sexual violence. Mongolia has already engaged in such a dialogue and has signed agreements with several countries to ensure that the rights of migrants are protected. Migrant workers in Mongolia contribute their skills to develop the necessary infrastructure to support the mining sector on which the economy depends, while Mongolians working abroad help to reduce poverty and raise incomes by sending remittances to their family members at home.

Mr.Chairman,

The ICPD POA recognizes that the rights to development is a universal and inalienable rights and an integral part of fundamental human rights. Mongolia has made efforts to implement a human-rights based approach to development, which ensures equality and non-discrimination for all, including social and gender equality. Steps include establishing the legal environment for public participation, including the creation and

implementation of MDG 9 on human rights, democracy and governance, participation of citizen in budget planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, implementing a state procurement law and procedure that incorporates people's participation, establishment of citizen's hall in every province and county, and of complaint hotlines on government's performance, and other enabling laws with clear provisions and procedures on public participation in local and national development issues. This also includes recognizing CSO's important role in effective public participation.

The ICPD Programme of Action was an extremely critical initiative that has provided invaluable guidance to countries in the world, including Mongolia, over the past two decades. Although much progress has been made, the implementation of the POA remains incomplete while new conditions and challenges have emerged. It is very important that the ICPD POA be fully incorporated into the post-2015 agenda in order to ensure ongoing progress in the area of population and development.

We look forward to contributing to the negotiations on the draft resolution presented by the Chairman of the Commission. We expect that the outcome would recognize the outcomes of all the regional review outcomes and the findings and recommendations of the ICPD beyond 2014 review, and that these will be taken into account in the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. We also believe that the outcome must recognize the linkage between the outcomes of the review and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Thank you.