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**STATEMENT BY**  
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**MINISTER FOR POPULATION DEVELOPMENT**  
**AND SOCIAL PROTECTION OF MONGOLIA**

**AT THE 57<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMISSION**  
**ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**New York, 6 March 2013**

Madam Chair,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Mongolian Government and my delegation, I wish to express my appreciation to the Secretary General for the very comprehensive report exploring strategies to prevent violence against women and girls and providing recommendations for future actions to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against girls and women.

The Mongolian Government reaffirms its commitment and efforts to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly through national follow-up action to create equal opportunities for men and women, and to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against girls and women. At the same time, I would like to acknowledge that NGOs and civil society organizations have been playing a crucial role in ensuring the legal basis for prevention and fighting against the violence.

Madam Chair,

In recent years, in line with efforts to fulfill its obligations under UN Conventions and other internationally agreed treaties, the country made certain progress in creating the legal basis for ending violence against girls and women. This includes the approval of relevant legislation, including the Law on Combating Domestic Violence, Law on Combating Human Trafficking and Law on Gender Equality. However, despite all the progress made, a number of gender-based challenging issues, in particular the violence against women, sexual harassment and human trafficking persist in the country.

Among them the violence against girls and women caused by certain population, social development and economic factors tends to increase. For instance, statistics evidences that criminal cases stemming from domestic violence constitute 6,0 per cent in total crime records. At the same time, it emerges a worrying issue that the number of children and women victims of the domestic violence has been increasing in last 3 years.

In recognition of this situation, therefore, we emphasize the need for investigating negative changes occurring in a society, identifying and responding to newly emerging types of violence, improving the law enforcement, and strengthening national capacity. Also, it is urgent for us to formulate and ensure the implementation of comprehensive policies and programs focused on the prevention, response and eradication of the root causes and risks of violence, and the protection and psychological rehabilitation of a victim.

Madam Chair,

It was an initiative of the "The Reform Government" newly set up as a result of Parliamentary election 2012 to establish the Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection. Accordingly, the establishment of the Ministry led to creation of the

nationwide population development structure that deals with family development issues and the reformulation of State policy on population development in which the Ministry plays a leading role in ensuring the multisectoral coordination.

Currently, based on lessons learnt through the implementation of national programs on Domestic Violence and on Combating against Trafficking, especially the sexual exploitation of children and women, the Government is starting its next phase of legal reforms. Accordingly, draft Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, Law on Family, Law on Protection of Child's Rights and Law on Crime are being elaborated for submission to Parliament, which provide girls and women victims with better opportunities for more reliable legal protection.

We have been experiencing better coordination among different agencies in fighting against the violence. Clear example of this is a practical step to set up and operate the one stop crisis centers for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

In addition, as one of our recent efforts we held national consultation on women's development policy late February of this year. The main outcome of the forum was the consensus reached on the formulation and implementation of the national program to target the household development and education implying the participation of every member of a society in preventing and combating the domestic violence.

Madam Chair,

We are committed to take the following urgent steps:

- Strengthen national capacity to increase community awareness on prevention of and putting end to violence against girls and women, and to contribute to changing negative approaches;
- Promote household development and education through increase of the number and quality of targeted services;
- Ensure the legal environment for operating of one stop crisis centers to deliver cross-cutting services for victims and for the institutional building for multispectral coordination;
- Ensure conditions for immediate protection services accessible for victims, introducing measures to diversify types of services, and allocate necessary resources.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Mongolia's willingness to expand its cooperation with all stakeholders, including the UN, its diversified agencies and those at bilateral and regional levels. The Government of Mongolia strongly supports the UN Women Commit Initiative and reaffirms its commitment to expanding the multidimensional services to prevent from violence against girls and women, and to ensuring adequate allocation of necessary resources.

Thank you.