



# MONGOLIA

PERMANENT MISSION OF MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

6 East 77<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, N.Y. 10021

Tel: (212) 861-9460, (212) 472-3357

Fax: (212) 861-9464

e-mail: [emission@un.org](mailto:emission@un.org)

## STATEMENT BY MR. D. NYAMKHUU, VICE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND LABOUR OF MONGOLIA AT THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

In line with the concept of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action agreed by the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Government of Mongolia agreed a number of national programmes, namely "National Programme on Advancement of Women's Status" (1988-2002), "National Programme on Gender Equality" (2002-2010) and "National Plan of Action on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Women" (2008-2014).

Although "National Plan of Action on Gender Equality" drafted by the Prime Minister and composed of Cabinet Members and leaders of relevant state and civil society institutions was adopted in 2002, in order to strengthen the national strategy on gender equality, and ensure inter-sectoral coordination on gender issues, following the establishment of the National Committee, in 2008 all ministries have appointed an officer responsible gender equality issues in their respective sectors.

One of the latest achievements is the development of the Civil Law on Gender Equality, based on the need to pursue comprehensive gender sensitive policies in all areas, increase gender sensitive decision making, ensure gender equality at all levels, provide everyone with an opportunity to enjoy equal participation in development process, as well as in allocation and management of resources. The Law was drafted by the Government with financial and technical support of international organizations and submitted to the Parliament for approval last year.

New York  
2 March 2010

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers for convening this important event to discuss the achievements and lessons learned since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action place 15 years earlier, and to draw the attention of world community to the issues of women and gender equality.

Since its admission to the United Nations as a member State in 1961, Mongolia has been taking active participation in activities of the world community, initiating a number of UN resolutions including that on empowerment of the woman in Rural Areas and on the role of women in development. In addition, it is proud to mention that it has been elected member of the UN Economic and Social Council for the second time, representing the countries in the Asia Pacific Region and has been appointed to the Commission on the Status of Women. The Government of Mongolia is practicing explicit policies in regard to equal participation of men and women in development processes and provision of gender equality, as well as strengthening legal instruments to protect and promote the UN conventions, declarations and resolutions related to protection of the rights of women and provision of gender equality and to fulfill successfully the obligations.

In the context of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action agreed by the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Government of Mongolia approved a number of national programmes named: "National Programme on Advancement of Women's Situation" (1996-2002), "National Programme on Gender Equality" (2002-2015) and "National Plan of Action on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Women" (2006-2014) and succeeded considerable achievements.

Moreover, "National Committee on Gender Equality" headed by the Prime Minister and composed of Cabinet members and leaders of relevant state and civil society institutions, was established in 2004 to coordinate and monitor the implementation of national programmes and to ensure high coordination on gender issues. In addition, the establishment of the National Committee in 2006 in ministries have appointed an officer responsible gender equality issues in their respective sectors.

One of the latest achievements is the development of the Draft Law on Gender Equality based on the need to pursue comprehensive gender sensitive policies in all sectors, increase gender sensitive decision making, ensure gender equality in all levels, providing everyone with an opportunity to enjoy equal participation in development processes, as well as in allocation of empowerment and social wealth. The Law was drafted by the Government with financial and technical support of international donor organizations and submitted to the Parliament for approval last year.

It is expected that the approval of the Law on Gender Equality will create a favorable legal environment for our efforts to eliminate gender-based discrimination, improve relations between men and women in all spheres of society, including political, economic, cultural and family relations. This is more important for the future of our country. Gender equality is anticipated to contribute in reduction of gender-based violence and related physical, mental and health deterioration, in decrease of divorce and prevention of children from a number of negative consequences due to family separation and unbalanced relations between parents. This is to have a positive impact on creation of healthy society on the whole.

However, despite the above mentioned achievements in relation to the creation of favorable legal environment and national institutions, there are still constraints in terms of the approaches in policy and decision making at all levels, and in assessing the existing situation of gender equality due to lack of proper sex-disaggregated data and information on the Mongolian women. There are a number of challenging gender-based problems, such as poverty, human rights violations, domestic violence, disease, sexual harassment and human trafficking.

Currently, our country is experiencing severe winter disaster. It is expected that we will have to cope with additional challenges related to worsening of lives of citizens, increase of domestic migration, environmental degradation. These challenges will have negative impacts on our fight against gender based violations. We will support our efforts to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals and overcome successfully the financial crisis.

We emphasize the cooperation with and support of women community in our country from experiences and lessons of other countries. We are eager to closely cooperate with United Nations to ensure promote equality and protect the rights of women by engaging the policy and decision makers see the world through 'gender lens'.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude my speech by reaffirming on behalf of the Government of Mongolia our commitment as government members of the "Commission on the Status of Women" and to take on my country's sincere participation in this meeting.

Thank you for your attention.

It is expected that the approval of the Law on Gender Equality will create a favorable legal environment for our efforts to eliminate gender based discrimination, thus to sustain equal relations between men and women in all spheres of society including political, economic, cultural and family relations. Furthermore, the Legal Act on Gender Equality is anticipated to contribute in reduction of gender based violence, and related physical, mental and health deterioration, in decrease of divorce, in prevention of children from a number of negative consequences due to family separation and unpleasant relations between parents, thus to have positive impact on creation of healthy society on the whole.

However, despite the above mentioned achievements in relation to creation of favorable legal environment and national institutions, there are still constraints in forming gender sensitive approaches in policy and decision making at all levels, and in assessing the existing situation of gender equality due to lack of proper sex aggregated data and information. To be frank, Mongolian women still face a number of challenging gender based problems, such as poverty, human right violations, domestic violence, divorce, sexual harassment and women's leadership.

Currently, our country is experiencing severe winter disaster. It is expected that we will have to cope with additional challenges related to worsening of lives of herders, increase of domestic migration towards the city and rise in environmental degradation. These challenges will have negative impacts on our rights (gender based objectives) and efforts to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals and therefore successfully the financial crisis.

We emphasize the cooperation with counterparts with and support of world community in order to learn from experiences and lessons of other countries. We are eager to closely cooperate with United Nations to ensure provide equality and protect the rights of women by ensuring the policy and decision makers see the word through 'gender lens'.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude my speech by re-affirming, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia, our commitment to ensure the full participation of women in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and to have every woman to achieve the objectives of the meeting.

Thank you for your attention.