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**Closing Remarks by
H.E. Ms. Enkhtsetseg Ochir, Permanent Representative of Mongolia,
Chairperson of the Second Committee,
65th Session of the General Assembly**

New York, 1 December 2010

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now come to the close of a yet another busy, productive and successful session of the Second Committee. I wish to thank all of you for your hard work, carried out in an atmosphere of collaboration and good will, and particularly for the special efforts that all of you have made in agreeing with the Bureau's call to finish this session in a timely way.

This year, we had the benefit of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, high-level events on the International Year of Biodiversity and on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, held last September. It is gratifying to note that through our constructive deliberations both at the general debate and cluster debates on individual agenda items and most importantly through the many important resolutions adopted at this session we all have endeavoured, building on the important outcomes of these high-level events, to contribute further to their effective implementation.

In other words, the Committee needed to move the broad consensus arrived at in September into policy-making, legislative actions and implementation through, inter alia, adding specificity and rendering decisions more forward-looking. In short, I believe that at this session we have fulfilled our duty of taking the important first steps toward effective implementation of the MDG Summit outcome and the other high-level events.

I know that it won't give justice to grasp just in a few sentences the importance of all hard-won resolutions extensively negotiated through long hours over the last few weeks. Hence, I will attempt to capture the flavour and juices by highlighting a few. On the macro-economic cluster, one of the important results this year is a substantially improved and more streamlined resolution on External Debt Sustainability and Development. The resolutions on the International Financial System and development and on the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for development reconfirmed our resolve to implement numerous important commitments. The discussions relating to the resolution on

Trade and Development were unfortunately, once again, unsuccessful and the text was, in the end, voted upon. All delegations, nevertheless, showed a constructive spirit in the discussions and made huge efforts in order to find forward-looking and mutually acceptable solutions, whenever possible.

On LDCs issue, all partners agreed to work to a successful Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries from 9 to 13 May 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. The resolution on "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)", adopted by consensus, calls, inter alia, upon the international community to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger and to implement the main outcomes related to the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs and the outcome of the Conference on the world financial and economic crisis.

This session the Committee had **five new resolutions** demonstrating the dynamic nature of the Committee as well as the depth and breadth of its work. All of them were adopted by consensus.

- The resolution on "**Innovative Mechanisms of Financing for Development**" stressed that innovative financing mechanisms could make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries to mobilize additional resources for development on a stable, predictable and voluntary basis. It calls for convening of a separate meeting of the Second Committee during the 66th session of the GA to consider the question of innovative mechanisms of financing for development.

The other four new resolutions relate to sustainable development.

- The resolution on "**Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection**" bridges sustainable development with the fight against poverty and hunger. It recognizes the positive impacts of ecotourism on income generation, job creation, education and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger.
- The resolution on "**Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea**" notes the importance of raising public awareness of the environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea.
- By the resolution on "**International year for sustainable energy for all**", the General Assembly "decides to proclaim 2012 as the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All". It encourages all the stakeholders to take advantage of the Year to increase the awareness of the importance of addressing energy issues.

- We are all aware that millions of lives depend on the health of coral reefs and related ecosystems for the sustainable livelihoods, yet, adverse impact of climate change and ocean acidification are threatening their health. Thus, in the resolution on “**Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development**”, the Assembly urges States and competent international organizations to take all practical steps to protect coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development.

Furthermore, the Second Committee gave a strong signal to COP 16 in Cancun through swiftly agreeing on a consensual resolution. Among other achievements we could cite rapid consensus on the Agenda 21 resolution and the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition to the Sustainable Energy Year in 2012, the Second Committee has decided to hold an International Year on Water Cooperation in 2013. The Committee has also decided that the 66th GA will hold a one-day high-level event on desertification on 20 September 2011 and agreed on its modalities. And we should also be proud that the Committee has provided UNEP with a strong mandate in the operationalization of IPBES by requesting it to convene a plenary meeting at the earliest opportunity.

I envision that the Committee is a forum for promoting development dialogue as well as an engine for developing international legislation, where the resolutions and decisions of the Committee provide an added value to both policy-making and international law. Working on our resolutions is not a mere exercise of “going through the motions”. Rather, it is an important contribution to building international instruments and multilateral dialogue to guide further the development cooperation.

At this session the Committee adopted 40 resolutions and 3 decisions. My sincere appreciation is extended to all Member States for their flexibility and resolve, carried out in a spirit of cooperation, resulting in the vast majority of the resolutions being adopted by consensus. Here, I wish to specifically thank the facilitators who skilfully guided those consultations, namely:

- Mr. Abdelghani Merabet (Algeria)
- Ms. Katy Lin (Australia)
- Ms. Carla Espósito Guevara (Bolivia)
- Mr. Pablo Solón-Romero (Bolivia)
- Mr. Fabio M.C. Farias (Brazil)
- Mr. Paulo José Chiarelli Vicente de Azevedo (Brazil)
- Mr. Alain Wilfried Biya (Cameroon)
- Mr. Troy Torrington (Guyana)
- Ms. Suyapa Carias (Honduras)
- Mr. Randhir Jaiswal (India)
- Ms. Kartika Handaruningrum (Indonesia)

- Mr. Makoto Hayashi (Japan)
- Mr. Shigeki Sumi (Japan)
- Mr. Shoji Miyagawa (Japan)
- Mr. Tobias Ogweno (Kenya)
- Mr. Toufic Jaber (Lebanon)
- Mr. Philippe Donckel (Luxembourg)
- Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis (Mexico)
- Mr. Noel Gonzalez Segura (Mexico)
- Mr. Tarik Iziraren (Morocco)
- Mr. Peter van de Vliet (Netherlands)
- Mr. Pål Klouman Bekken (Norway)
- Ms. Agnieszka Karpinska (Poland)
- Mr. Miguel Silvestre (Portugal)
- Ms. Alexandra Dedu (Romania)
- Mr Abdourahmane Traore (Senegal)
- Mr. Dragan Micic (Serbia)
- Ms. Wu Ye-Min (Singapore)
- Mr. Raymond Landveld (Suriname)
- Mr. Matthias Bachmann (Switzerland)
- Mrs. Nadia Isler (Switzerland)
- Mr. Lukmon Isomatov (Tajikistan)
- Ms. Zeynep Kiziltan (Turkey)
- Mr. Modest Jonathan Mero (United Republic of Tanzania)
- Mr. Omary Rajabu (United Republic of Tanzania)
- Ms. Natalia Novoa (Uruguay)

Distinguished delegates,

As I mentioned in my opening remarks in early October, to a certain extent the fulfilment of the United Nations development agenda rests with the effectiveness of the work of this Committee and the degree of efficiency with which we approach and conduct our deliberations. In this regard, we have made a great stride.

I wish to thank all the delegations in agreeing with me to adopt the decision on the working methods of this Committee. The discussion we held at the beginning of the session, on 8 October, was a very useful first step. The fact that we are concluding with just one week of extension is proof that if we are diligent, the work can conclude in good time. In doing so, I do not think we have compromised the quality of work. The resolutions of this session, in my opinion, are focused and forward looking, with added-value to the good base that the High-level Plenary Meeting in September had set. I am glad that the Bureau of

this session of the Second Committee could make a difference and contribute to the improvement of the work of the Committee, which was graciously embraced by all Member States.

We have made the first important step in organizing our work. Let us not forget, however, that the purpose of adopting this decision on improving our working methods aimed at making the work of the Committee more effective and efficient. While it is important to work towards consensus, pass resolutions and stick to a schedule, it is even more important that the Committee serve to its real purpose of promoting productive dialogue around development issues. This includes serving as an incubator of ideas that help to inform international development policy. It also includes generating and distilling ideas and debates that contribute to the building up of new knowledge on multi-dimensional development issues and that move the development process forward. We hope that the guidance we agreed in conducting our debates will assist the Committee in delivering these functions.

Distinguished Colleagues,

At this session the Second Committee continued its unique tradition of holding side events on key issues and emerging challenges in development. These side events are of particular value: they inform our work and bring the Committee into contact with new and cutting edge thinking from leading figures in academia and development. They infuse the Committee with thinking from outside the UN and allow for addressing new and sometimes controversial issues in an open, interactive forum.

During this session we organized four side events on enhancing international support and the smooth transition of LDCs towards graduation; the follow-up to the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting relating to MDG1 and an introduction to the Multidimensional Poverty Index; examining the economic and other constraints faced by Small Island Developing States in the context of climate change; and addressing what should be the actual achievements of the Rio+20 Summit. The active participation of delegations in these side events was greatly appreciated, and I wish to thank Member States for the resulting constructive discussions.

While the substantive work of the Second Committee concludes today, our work on economic and financial issues will continue, particularly in the lead-up to the key conferences ahead, such as the Fourth Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul in May 2011 and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development a year after. In this, I look forward to our continued constructive collaboration.

Distinguished Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure now to extend my special thanks to my colleagues in the Bureau - distinguished Vice-chairpersons: Mr. Erik Lundberg (Finland), Mrs.Csilla Wurtz (Hungary), Mr. Jean Claudy Pierre (Haiti), and Rapporteur Mr.Paul Empole (Democratic Republic of the Congo) for their commitment, intimate involvement in the relevant cluster-related consultations and tireless efforts to ensure that the Committee would deliver on its expected substantive outcomes.

May I also take the opportunity to thank the relevant United Nations entities for their contributions, including the presentations made to the Committee this year. In acknowledging the substantive efforts of many, may I also recognize and thank Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and his team, in particular, Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director of the Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination, and his colleagues, including Mr. Neil Pierre and Ms. Chikako Takase.

I would further like to extend my thanks and that of the Bureau to Mr. Shaaban Muhammad Shaaban, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, and all the DGACM staff who have supported our efforts to ensure the completion of the work of the Second Committee.

It is important to acknowledge, as well, the invaluable efforts of many U.N. staff members – some who we see and others with whom delegations may not come into contact with – who have facilitated our work (such as the interpreters, conference officers, sound engineers, documentation officers, and the other staff in meetings management who assisted in securing rooms for the numerous informal informal consultations. May I also express our gratitude to the Programme Planning and Budget Division for all their efforts throughout the work of the Second Committee.

Finally, may I recognize the tireless efforts of the Second Committee team - our competent Secretary Mrs. Jennifer de Laurentis and her topnotch team. We could not have concluded the work of the Second Committee without such support.

I thank you all for your contributions to this Committee and extend my best wishes for the upcoming festive season.

Thank you for your attention.