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

New York, 4 October 2010

Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the opening of the substantive work of the Second Committee of the 65th session of the General Assembly. On behalf of the Bureau may I pledge our resolve to spare no effort in cooperating with all of you for an efficient and meaningful conduct of our deliberations at this session.

Excellencies,

Two weeks ago here in NY world leaders reaffirmed their commitments to MDGs and launched many important initiatives aimed at accelerating our common work for their timely and full implementation. Our main task now will be to begin the equally challenging and important work of contributing to the effective implementation of those agreements. As PGA His Excellency Mr. Joseph Deiss stressed in his closing remarks of the general debate last week and I quote "What we need now is for our words to be followed up by actions. Too often in the past, these words have gone unheeded. We cannot afford to disappoint the expectations of the millions of men, women and children living in poverty. We will need to closely monitor the fulfillment of our commitments. The General Assembly must – and will – contribute towards this".

As we are well aware of, many of these commitments fall within the purview of this Committee. Hence, we must make better use of our discussions to contribute to the follow-up of the Summit and to accelerate implementation of the goals by 2015. In this regard, one of our planned side events during this session will focus on the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index and implementation of Goal 1, on poverty. It is my hope that the discussions in that side event will galvanize concrete ideas and proposals for realizing our number one goal and, consequently, all other inter-related goals within the agreed timeframe.

It has now become a good tradition for the Committee to inform itself of the prevailing trends and thinking in global economic and social development. Over the years we have benefited from the knowledge and advice of many experts of world renown and so today we will be continuing in that tradition with the presence of Professor Robert Shiller of Yale University. While the world economy is now deemed to be on a path of recovery there are several concerning features. We are surrounded by uncertainty and despite pledges and reaffirmation of commitments, there are some concerns that international cooperation may be waning with a consequent slowing down of development efforts. I trust that through our deliberation, informed in part by Professor Shiller's presentation, we could find a stronger resolve and solutions for the way forward.

Distinguished Colleagues,

As was attested by the General Debate of the 65th session of the GA the central role of the United Nations has been reaffirmed in global governance. Many spoke of the need for open and constructive dialogue between the GA and G20. In this regard, the PGA intends to launch an informal dialogue with the Secretary-General and the G20 host country to take place before and after G20 summits, including the one planned for later this month. I encourage this Committee to take an active part in those discussions so that the voices and needs of the larger membership of the international community are taken aboard at the G20 summits as we find ourselves still grappling with effects of multiple and inter-related global crises.

Climate change continues to affect all countries – large and small, developing and developed, but disproportionately so for the smallest and most vulnerable among us. The international community is still to come to an agreement to direct the future course of global sustainability. I hope that we can send yet another strong message to our Leaders when they meet in Cancun, Mexico in December, on the essential need to adjust our present consumption and production patterns and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet the present and future needs of the world.

Along with the MDG Summit, we have also had important events on the International Year of Biodiversity, as well as on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. As you know, the Convention on Biological Diversity will be holding its 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Nagoya, Japan next month. The Committee may benefit from the outcome of the COP10. With regard to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), we all know their vulnerability and that the impacts of climate change, particularly affecting their economies and people's way of life. I hope that our side

event on the issue will shed more light on the particular needs of SIDS and what needs to be done to effectively address them.

The preparations for the Istanbul Conference on Least Developed Countries and Rio+20 will be in full swing during the course of our session. The Committee will have opportunities to contribute to these important global conferences through the relevant side events, in addition to our formal deliberations. As we proceed with our discussions in these areas we must be conscious of the need to establish a strong link between these processes and the outcomes of the MDG Summit in the lead-up to 2015.

I have attempted to outline for you some of the global challenges that are real and with us today. I urge us all to approach our work in a spirit of cooperation, solidarity and trust, and with the resolve that is needed to address them. As the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized in his opening remarks to the 65th GA session "This is a season for pulling together... for consolidating progress... for putting our shoulder to the wheel and delivering results."

To a certain extent, the fulfillment 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 our deliberations. In this respect, I encourage you all engage in a constructive discussion on the Non-paper on improving the working methods of the Committee scheduled for Friday, 8 October in the morning.

We have a busy schedule ahead. I look forward, therefore, to your active participation in the work of the Committee and to your full cooperation in respect of time limits for debates and deadlines in order to conclude our work as planned, before Thanksgiving.

Thank you for your attention.