

**SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
THIRD COMMITTEE  
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New York**

**STATEMENT BY MRS. ONON SODOV,  
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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF MONGOLIA**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 28 – ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to start my statement by expressing my delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women for comprehensive and insightful reports submitted under the agenda item "Advancement of Women".

My delegation also thanks Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships UN-Women for introductory statement on the work of UN-Women. We commend the effective work accomplished by the UN-Women since its establishment and believe that UN-Women will continue to play a leading role in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Within the context of enhancing women's economic empowerment we are keen to work together with UN-Women in such areas as reducing poverty and increasing employment opportunities for women.

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

Mr. Chairman,

Taking this opportunity I wish to reaffirm once again Mongolia's strong commitment to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly,

and the International Convention against All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol.

Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women have consistently been and continue to be in the centre of development agenda in my country. We have made a progress in achieving MDGs targets on ensuring gender equality in wage employment and reducing maternal mortality by 2015. However, progress in the field of promoting women's participation at decision-making levels has been slow despite the fact that the level of education of the Mongolian women is higher compared to men's.

My Government recognizes the imperative of removing the obstacles that still keep women out of decision-making processes. Just earlier this year, a landmark was achieved as the Parliament of Mongolia passed the Gender Equality Law. This Law makes provisions for up to 40 percent requirement of positions to be occupied by women in the different echelons of civil service. The Law specifically prohibits gender discrimination in relation to hiring, promotions, wages, access to education and scholarships.

During this fall session, the Parliament of Mongolia will discuss the Electoral Law. Central to its debate is the provision of Party quotas to woman candidates. Just as with the Gender Equality Law, we believe that the coming elections in June next year will see more women added to the ranks of parliamentarians.

Mr.Chairman,

My delegation fully shares the view of the Secretary-General's report on Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas that rural women are critical agents in poverty reduction, food security and environmental sustainability and that their full contribution is crucial to the achievement of the MDGs. In this context, we welcome the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its fifty-sixth session in 2012 the theme on "Empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges" as a priority one.

We also support the recommendation of the report of the Secretary General on the integration the perspective of rural and indigenous women into the preparations for

and outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Brazil, with a view to accelerating progress on gender equality and women's empowerment.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, this year, as in previous years Mongolia will table a draft resolution on the Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas. It is our sincere hope that this draft resolution will receive Member States' support and wide co-sponsorship.

Thank you for attention.