

UNGA 58th session
Plenary
Agenda item: 60

**STATEMENT BY MS. O.ENKHTSETSEG
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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MONGOLIA**

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Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to commend the Secretary-General on his thought-provoking reports on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and on the work of the Organization. Mongolia associates herself with the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

As seen from the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration the results of the first three years have been mixed and uneven. For every goal, be it peace and security, development, or human rights and democracy, there are encouraging signs of progress in some areas along with worrying evidence of stagnation or even reversal in others. But one of the important conclusions we could all draw from the report is that the MDGs, as ambitious as they are, still can be achieved at both national and global levels if there is sufficient political will. There is, therefore, a clear need for political leaders to sustain the momentum in order to avoid setbacks and accelerate progress in the coming years.

The crucial importance of forging strategic partnerships at both national and international levels and an active participation of all stakeholders in implementing the MDGs has been strongly highlighted at the 5th International Conference of New or Restored Democracies held last month in the capital city of Mongolia – Ulaanbaatar. One of the three thematic sessions of the conference, which was attended by 119 Governments and a host of international organizations and civil society organizations, was held under the sub-theme of “Partnership and participation in poverty reduction and attainment of the MDGs”. The main conclusions and findings of the thematic session have been reflected in the final outcome documents – the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action on Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society. The detailed report on the result of this conference and its follow-up will be delivered by my Government early next month to the plenary when the General Assembly will consider the relevant agenda item.

Mr. President,

National MDG reports, in our view, serve as an important tool in measuring the progress made and ensuring that the Millennium Development Goals remain at the heart of development effort. It is encouraging that around 40 Governments have completed their national MDG reports and that additional 60 reports are expected by the end of this year. I am pleased to inform the General Assembly that the Government of Mongolia is being actively engaged in finalizing its first MDG report.

In preparing its National MDG Report, the Government of Mongolia has undertaken a series of preparatory activities over the last two years. In 2001, when we observed the 40th anniversary of Mongolia's membership in the United Nations, a joint conference was organized under the theme of "The 40 Years of Mongolia-UN Cooperation: Implementation of the Millennium Declaration", the main findings of which were subsequently included in my Government's Memorandum submitted to the 56th session of the General Assembly. In June 2002 we set up an MDG national task force composed of key ministries, the National Statistical Office, academia and civil society organizations and entrusted with the task of tailoring the MDGs to a national context, improving the statistical database and system of evaluating and monitoring, and drafting the report through a broad-based consultative process. The first draft of the report has been extensively discussed at a national consultative meeting held last August among all the stakeholders, including our bilateral and multilateral partners, civil society and private sector. The views expressed at the meeting have been consequently incorporated into the report.

It contains overall information on the current status and measures undertaken by my Government to implement the eight development goals and 16 targets. It also outlines the major challenges, obstacles, priorities for future activities and development assistance under each goal. The Government of Mongolia has made poverty reduction its key priority, committing itself to the MDG target of halving absolute poverty by 2015. Further, it has pledged to meet the poverty reduction criteria specified in the Poverty Reduction Partnership Agreement with the Asian Development Bank. We have also finalized the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) emphasizing a private sector-led growth strategy and increased social spending in the context of macroeconomic stabilization. The Government adopted a National Program on Supporting Household Livelihood as a second phase of its poverty alleviation program. To effectively reduce poverty in Mongolia my Government has identified the following core strategies, including ensuring sustained economic growth, addressing urban poverty and disparity, active engagement of local communities and civil society organizations in anti-poverty activities, natural disasters' and risk management, and provision of adequate social protection.

Mr. President, my delegation believes that national MDG reports will be important in reviewing the progress of implementation of the Millennium Declaration scheduled for 2005. It might be advisable in that context to request Member States to periodically report to the Secretary-General on their national progress so that a comprehensive picture could be available for a review.

Mr. President,

Over the last two weeks in the general debate the heads of our delegations have reaffirmed anew their faith in the United Nations and agreed on the urgent need to take decisive measures so that this world organization will be adequately equipped to effectively address the formidable challenges, both existing and evolving. My delegation fully shares the Secretary-General's view that "Member States need to take a hard look at the existing "architecture" of international institutions" and "consider reaching swift agreement on its reform as a national interest of the highest order".

The reform measures ought to include the revitalization of the General Assembly and rationalization of its agenda, the enlargement and democratization of the Security Council, reinvigoration of the Economic and Social Council, review of the interrelationship of the United Nations with the Bretton Woods institutions as well as of the role of the Trusteeship Council in light of the new responsibilities entrusted upon the world Organization over the recent past. Mongolia supports the idea of setting the year of 2005, when the international community is to review the progress achieved in implementing all the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration, as a target date for reaching agreement on the reform measures. In this regard, my delegation looks forward to receiving the results and recommendations to be developed by the High-Level Panel of eminent personalities and actively work with the fellow nations both during the current and upcoming sessions of the General Assembly toward revitalizing the world Organization.

In conclusion, Mr. President, may I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in discharging your onerous task.