

UNGA 58th session  
Second Committee  
Agenda Item: 94, 95 and 96

**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. AMBASSADOR CHOISUREN BAATAR  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

20 October 2003

Madame Chairperson,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China on agenda items 94, 95 and 96.

Madame Chairperson,

We are pleased to learn that there is enthusiasm and dynamism involved in the follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit and consensus on sharper focus on implementation as stated in the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the further implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

My Government welcomes the CSD's multi-year programme work for the period 2004-2017, which will be organized as a series of two-year action-oriented Implementation Cycles. My delegation is prepared to be actively engaged in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We are of the view that Governments should continue to provide strong support to the CSD in its two-year implementation cycle and engage in initiatives, events and other activities in preparations for the review and policy sessions.

With a view to strengthening integrated and coordinated implementation of our commitments and objectives, my Government considers that UN organizations, particularly regional commissions should continue reorient their relevant programme activities towards focused implementation. In this regard, we support initiatives of ESCAP, in which my country belong, to promote regional

and subregional cooperation, supporting the development of networks for information exchanges and the sharing and disseminating best experiences and mobilizing resources.

Madame Chairperson,

We are pleased to inform you that my Government is working on the “Concept of Mongolia’s Development up to 2020” that was initiated by the President of Mongolia. The concept is ambitious and based on interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development such as economic development, social development and environmental protection.

Mongolia is a Party to all major UN conventions on environmental issues and has adopted more than 20 national legal instruments on environment protection. Despite Government efforts to formulate laws and policies to effectively manage natural resources, recent transitions to a market economy have accelerated risks to the environment. According to the UNEP assessment 70 per cent of pasturelands, used for livestock grazing and still the main livelihood for people, living in the countryside, are in a degraded state, particularly around towns and cities, bringing erosion to thin soils and loss in plant diversity. Due to global climate change, sand cover has increased 8.7 per cent over the past four decades with more than 40 per cent of Mongolian territory now turned into semi-desert and desert. Therefore, combating desertification and prevention and reduction of land degradation are high priority of our national sustainable development agenda. In this context, my Government attaches importance to the implementation of the Rio Conventions, particularly Convention to Combat Desertification, which has been recognized by the Johannesburg Summit as one of tools for poverty eradication.

My delegation is pleased to note the outcomes of the recently held meetings of the GEF, UN Forum on Forests and the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. We emphasize the importance of further strengthening of United Nations system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination on promoting national efforts and supporting the achievement of specific goals and time-bound targets.

I thank you Madame Chairperson.