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STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. OCH OD,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION
AGENDA ITEM 64 – REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

New York, 13 November 2013
Mr. President,

Let me first seize this opportunity to thank Ambassador Remigiusz Henczel, President of the Human Rights Council, for introducing the annual report of the Council. The importance of the matters, tabled before the Council for decision, urges all member states to achieve greater international cooperation in promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms across the world.

Promotion and protection of human rights is one of the main pillars of the foreign policy of Mongolia. Mongolia’s principled position was affirmed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in his address to the high level segment of the 22nd session of the Human Rights Council.

Mr. President,

The Government of Mongolia is undertaking legal reforms to harmonize the national laws with the international norms and standards. This inclusive process with active participation of civil society encompasses establishment of adequate national mechanisms, adoption of relevant national programs and improvement of institutional capacity.

As a country which adopted a national specific 9th MDG on strengthening human rights and fostering democratic governance, Mongolia recognizes the centrality of human rights in development planning and acknowledges that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. We are thankful to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its support extended to Mongolia during its presidency of the Community of Democracies in 2011-2013. We welcomed the message from Madame Navy Pillay and participation by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association in the 7th Ministerial Conference. My delegation also expresses appreciation to fellow member states for their support of the UN GA resolution on “Education for Democracy” initiated by Mongolia.

Mr. President,

Mongolia has submitted its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term of 2016-2018 for the first time. Mongolia is guided by the aspiration to make meaningful contribution to the promotion of human rights and freedoms at the regional and international levels. We are willing to share our experience with others. By ratifying and implementing over 30 human rights instruments, including 7 core conventions, Mongolia demonstrates its strong commitment to the strengthening of the international human rights system. Last year Mongolia ratified the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the Abolition of the Death Penalty. Accordingly the legislation will be amended to permanently eliminate the capital punishment. Mongolia became a co-sponsor of the General Assembly Resolution on “Moratorium on the use of the death penalty” and joined the initiative of the Human

Our Government consistently supports the work of special mandate holders, welcomes the expansion of the mandates and is ready to cooperate and assist Special Rapporteurs in ensuring their independent mandate and providing them with follow-up information. The latest visit of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights was extremely important and useful, and we expect a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

Mongolia recognizes the unique role played by the Universal Periodic Review mechanism in providing the means to submit a comprehensive report on human rights situations of all UN Member States. We commend efforts of the Council on the improvement of the working methods of the UPR working group. The Government adopted a plan of actions to implement the UPR recommendations and collaborates with other stakeholders in the implementation process, including consultations with the National Human Rights Commission, civil society and UNDP.

Mr. President,

The principles of non-selectivity, practicality, timeliness and effectiveness with regard to the human rights issues and situations of human rights violations are of crucial importance. We welcome open dialogue on ensuring transparency, independence and inclusiveness in the work of the Council, as well as strengthening treaty bodies.

Significant progress was made under the ongoing open-ended intergovernmental process towards identifying concrete and sustainable measures needed to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. My delegation supports extension of the process and welcomes initiatives on improvement of the working methods of the system and effective participation of Member States in the treaty implementation reporting process. My delegation is prepared to take active part in the discussions on the ways forward recommended by the co-facilitators of the process.

We welcome the mandate of the Human Rights Council to promote advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building in implementation of human rights instruments and note the need of small countries for higher institutional capacity and improved professional skills to participate in the process of improving the Council and strengthening treaty bodies.
Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my Government’s commitment to continued cooperation and readiness for enhanced dialogue with the Council. Mongolia aspires becoming a responsible and committed actor in the activities of the Council. We maintain the standing invitation to all international human right mechanisms.

We emphasize that international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations as declared in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. Mongolia is convinced of positioning the Council as a platform for enhanced and open discussion and better international cooperation on the various complex issues with positive implications to national policies on human rights.

I thank you.