STATEMENT BY MRS. VANGANSUREN ULZIIBAYAR,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MONGOLIA,
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF
THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 October 2013
New York
Mr. Chairman,

I wish to congratulate you and other Members of the Bureau on your unanimous election and assure you of our support in guiding the work of the committee.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the distinguished representative of the Lao PDR on behalf of the Group of LLDCs.

Mr. Chairman,

We fully share the view that outcomes of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and High Level Meeting on the Post MDGs have become a move forward in reviewing the current situation and defining the post-2015 global development agenda.

Mongolia has been engaged in the SD dialogues from the outset and actively created related policy and institutional frameworks. Nowadays, based on lessons and experience of the previous years, we are updating and improving them in line with the outcome document of the Rio+20 Summit "The Future We Want."

Our delegation underlines the important role of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on SD financing created at Rio+20 with the aim of proposing effective financing strategies for SD. We also recognize the significance of development financing which has been extensively discussed during the recent High Level Dialogue on Financing and Development held on 7-8 October.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia’s economy experienced a double-digit growth in the last three consecutive years as the country has been un-tapping its vast natural resources. However, the economy still remains one-sided and fragile, heavily depended on import of oil and some consumer goods; raw materials make up the biggest chunk in our export. The price changes frequently affect the economy, and as a land-locked country Mongolia is physically remote from world markets.

On the other hand, like other countries, Mongolia is facing environmental challenges including effects of global warming, desertification, soil degradation, water shortage and air pollution in urban areas. Consequently, we see this economic growth as both opportunities and risks. So, today, we need to make strategic decisions on allocating income from mining
rationally and investing into other competitive industries in order to decrease the dependence on the mining. In other words, it requires resolute actions on the part of the Government, political parties, business sector, research institutions, NGOs and media and they see green economy as the main pillar of country’s sustainable development. A policy document entitled National Policy Framework for Green Economy has already been submitted to the national parliament for approval. Issues of improving the related legislation, building infrastructure and supporting energy sector are the most salient ones in our green development agenda.

We realize that the green economy should be constructed first in the brain, so, positive attempts were observed toward instilling a green-oriented and participatory policy making approach at every level of government with the involvement of all groups of the population including youth, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

At the same time we need concrete policy actions to attract foreign countries, foreign investments. To that end we initiated the holding of the World Economic Forum Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Mongolia, which was successfully organized on 14-15 September this year. It brought together representatives of the Mongolian Government and WEF Strategic and Industry Partners, selected Foundation Members, Global Growth Companies, Young Global Leaders and Global Shapers to explore future economic pathways for the country.

Mr. Chairman,

Among other priorities, I wish to single out the target on addressing the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked countries and small-island developing states. Along with other landlocked developing countries Mongolia endeavors to intensify our cooperation in the implementation of the Almaty Program of Action.

Geographical landlockedness makes our countries more vulnerable to commodity price volatility, climate change and other external shocks. The landlockedness challenges not only economic growth, but, also has negative implications on the social and environmental dimensions of development and hurdles the implementation of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

In this respect, my delegation values the recommendation of the Secretary-General in his report A/68/157 that international community should continue to provide technical, financial and capacity-building assistance to LLDCs in order to alleviate their structural vulnerabilities.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation shares the concern with regard to the multilateral trade negotiations within the framework of the Doha Development Agenda that are still lingering to reach a tangible outcome. We are hopeful that the WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Bali in December 2013 will produce a successful outcome in favor of developing countries.

Thank you for your attention.