Mr. Chairman,

We associate ourselves with the statement of the Group of 77 and China made by Fiji.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports submitted under this agenda item - “Advancement of Women.” We also appreciate the contribution of the UN-Women in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Mongolia welcomes the progress made by UN-Women on the implementation of its strategic plan for 2011-2013, and the new strategic plan for the next biennium, and we express our appreciation for the establishment of its regional architecture as well as welcome steps being taken by the entity to become fully operational.

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to reaffirm 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, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Much progress has been made by the international community almost 18 years after Beijing and over 30 years since the adoption of the CEDAW. However, we recognize that much remains to be done.

We believe that the "people centered development", in particular the empowerment of women plays an important role in the sustainable social and economic development. In this connection, we look forward to the post-2015 development agenda and the due consideration, as priority, of gender equality and women's empowerment issues.
The Government of Mongolia is implementing the national programmes to enhance and strengthen women's access to education at all levels, health care services, employment, including equal pay for equal work, and social protection, as economic empowerment, that will contribute among others to reduce their vulnerability to violence and different forms of discrimination.

The Parliament of Mongolia adopted in 2011 "The Law of Mongolia on Promotion of Gender Equality." This law drafted in close cooperation with the UN system organizations in Mongolia has been positively evaluated as complying with international human rights standards by international bodies including the Office of the Human Rights and Democratic Institutions (ODIHR), OSCE, which has recently reviewed it upon the request of the National Human Rights Commission. For example, the law makes provisions for up to 40 percent requirement of positions to be occupied by women in the different echelons of civil service and specifically prohibits gender discrimination in relation to hiring, promotion, wages, and access to education.

The efforts to increase women's political participation ensued a three-fold growth of the number of women MPs as a result of the parliamentary election held last year. By the same token, the number of female members in the Cabinet has also increased.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Mongolia is strongly committed to efforts to eradicate violence against women in all its forms. Specific actions have been taken at all levels to prevent and combat the violence against women. Currently, based on lessons learnt through the implementation of national programs on Domestic Violence and on Combating against Trafficking, especially the sexual exploitation of children and women, the Government is starting its next phase of legal reforms. Accordingly, amendments to the Laws on the Protection of Children’s Rights, Family, Crime and Elimination of Domestic Violence are being elaborated for submission to Parliament which would provide girls and women victims with better opportunities for more reliable legal protection.

Mr. Chairman,

As a main sponsor of the bi-annual General Assembly resolution on "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas", my delegation recognizes that rural women continue to be socially and economically disadvantaged. We need to accelerate our efforts to improve their situation. Further actions are needed to address factors that cause inequalities between rural women and men and between urban and
rural women. We welcome the recommendations by Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant institutions to collect, analyze and disseminate sex-disaggregated data, including on time use, and gender statistics in rural areas to serve as a basis to inform policymakers and relevant stakeholders in designing and implementing policies and strategies for the development of rural areas.

Mr. Chairman, as in previous years, Mongolia will table a draft resolution on “Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas.” It is our sincere hope that this draft resolution will enjoy full support of Member States.

Thank you for attention.