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**Statement by Mr. Enkhbold BATZORIG,**

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**and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**Forum on Minority Issues, 10th Session**

**30 November, 2017**

Item 2.Inclusive education to empower minority youth

Mr. Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank today’s speaker for the informative and insightful remarks. I also would like to wish the Special Rapporteur every success in his future endeavors.

Mongolia is fully committed to protecting and promoting human rights of all people, including members of the minority groups and their right to education.

I would like to highlight few points in this regard.

Mongolian population mainly consists of Khalkha ethnic group. The biggest ethnic and linguistic minority Kazakhs, who comprise about 3.9% of the total population of Mongolia, and Tuvans, about 0.1%, live mostly in Bayan-Ulgii Aimag.

The right of national minorities to use their native languages is reflected in domestic laws and constitutional protections. Article 8 of the Constitution of Mongolia, stipulates that besides Mongolian language is the official language, this shall not affect the right of national minorities of other tongues to use their native language in education and communication. Article 5 of the Law on Education provides that all citizens shall be given an equal opportunity to receive an education in the mother tongue and article 4 of the State Policy on Education for 2014-2024 states that “when most of the students communicate in minority language, which is other than national majority language, such students shall be provided by chance to obtain primary education in their mother tongue and bilingual educational policy and program shall be implemented in such a society”.

In recent years, Mongolia has adopted and implemented a number of measures to address the issue of education of the linguistic minority children. Educational textbooks have been developed in Kazakh and Tuvan languages since 2008. A Research Sector for Education of Social Minority Children has been established in 2011 within the Institute for Educational Research of the MinistryofEducation, Culture and Science of Mongolia. This sector conducts researches, involving ethnic minority groups to address issues of language and education, implementation of state policies, improving methodology and standards for educational contents as well as the learning conditions for ethnic minority children.

The Government of Mongolia has increased the average normative variable cost for each student of elementary and secondary level of high schools and for each dormitory student of dormitories of high schools and vocational schools in 2012. For Bayan-Ulgii aimag, abovementioned normative variable costs for each student have been set highest among other areas of Mongolia.

Despite bilingual education programs for instance for Kazakh minority youth, the lack of Mongolian language knowledge constitutes a main obstacle in entering higher education institutions and integration into the society. This fact is also conditioned by lack of Mongolian Language of the teachers and educators, who prefer to speak in the predominant language. Moreover, remoteness of Bayan-Ulgii Aimag and financial difficulties related to moving and living in urban area also play a negative impact on education of minority youth.

In our view, the linguistic diversity shall be harmonized in order to achieve inclusive education. Inclusive education also requires improving the education system with the participation of the minority youth to reflect their special needs. It is also important to establish mechanisms to support and ensure effective implementation of the existing respective legislations, policies and strategies at all levels of the education system.

In conclusion, I am pleased to note that Mongolia is honored to be serving the second year of its membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council. As part of our endeavor to protect human rights and dignity worldwide, we reaffirm our firm commitment to protect and promote the rights of minority.

Thank you!

Charge d’Affairs