**Submission of the Government of Mongolia**

**in response to the Questionnaire**

**on the issue of long-term detention of human rights defenders**

“The Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups, and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms”, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1998, identifies human rights defenders as individuals or groups who act to promote the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms through peaceful means.

            Mongolia, in compliance with its international organizations arising from the international human rights treaties to which Mongolia is a party, ensures the rights of individuals to protect their or others’ fundamental rights and freedoms, and that they have the right to freedom of expression, to publish, to peaceful assembly and association and to an effective remedy by the competent national courts for acts violating their fundamental rights granted by the Constitution or by law. Notwithstanding, due to the lack of clear definition of human rights defenders and their activities in the national legislative framework, no official record regarding human rights defenders is established. Under these circumstances, it is not possible for Mongolia to furnish the information requested by the Office of the SR.

We wish to inform that the draft Law on the Status of Human Rights Defenders, submitted to the State Great Hural in May 2020, was discussed at a plenary meeting of the State Great Hural during its 2020 autumn session and supported for its initial hearing. The discussions on the draft will continue during its 2021 spring session which opened on 15 March 2021. The draft provides a legislative framework to define human rights defenders, to identify their rights and obligations and to restore the rights and provide remedies in the event of violation of the rights of human rights defenders.

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