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STATEMENT BY MR. NEMUUN GAL,

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

20 July 2006

Mr. President,

Few issues have proved to be as contentious and hard to solve as the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council. We all recall how a good part of the 59th session was dedicated to discussions, negotiations and deliberations on various formulae on the Security Council reform with numerous proposals, counter-proposals, arguments and counter-arguments having been presented and championed by different groups. At some point it even led to expressions of concern on the part of many Member States that this sole issue was going to overshadow the overall negotiations in the run-up to the 2005 World Summit. In retrospect, we now know that it did not.

In your recent letter dated 28 June 2006, Mr. President, you have rightly pointed out the highlights of our efforts to implement the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, but one essential element is missing from the list of reforms that we were able to attain and it was the Security Council reform. In fact, this issue has laid dormant for quite some time now and we thank you for holding this most timely debate. It surely will reinvigorate the interest of Member States and given the sufficient time we had to reflect on this issue, it may as well bring us closer to reaching a broad understanding on the way forward. The sheer number of speakers in today's debate is a testimony to its timeliness and significance.

Mr. President,

Mongolia's position on the reform of the Security Council is well known. We believe that a reformed Security Council will be better equipped to counter the challenges of the new Millennium, as its decisions would wield greater legitimacy due to its more effective, democratic, representative and accountable nature.

Mongolia is of the view that the composition of the Security Council has ceased to reflect the current world realities and changes in the membership of the Organization since the end of the World War II, collapse of the colonial system and the bipolar world order. Indeed, this sentiment is shared by the general membership of this Organization as can be seen from the

Outcome Document, where it supports the "early reform of the Security Council" in order "to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions". Aside that laudable unity, Member States have, however, different points of view on how to solve the current situation to put it in the right way, at what pace to move, and most fundamentally what *is* the right way to reform the Security Council.

I deliberately will not mention particular models on expansion that proliferated during the course of our deliberations last year. The point of departure for Mongolia remains to be a just and equitable expansion of the Security Council in both its permanent and non-permanent categories of membership, ensuring due representation of both developing and developed countries.

As for the criteria for selection of additional permanent members, they must, in our view, include equitable geographical distribution, genuine commitment of the aspirant countries to the goals and objectives of the United Nations, as well as capacity to contribute to maintenance of international peace and security. In this respect, Mongolia continues to support Japan, Germany and India, in what we see as their legitimate aspirations. Mongolia believes that Africa and Latin America has also to be duly represented on the Council.

Mr. President,

Improving working methods of the Security Council is an essential element of the reform. The core of our efforts in this area should be to ensure that the Security Council is more mindful of the views of the general membership of the United Nations in the decisions it takes and that a more harmonious and mutually complementary and cooperative relationship exists between the Security Council and the General Assembly. The reform of the Security Council, its enhanced legitimacy and effectiveness, should go parallel, not in detriment to the increased authority and role of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative body of the United Nations. In the same vein, Mongolia is supportive of a so-called review clause to be included in any expansion scenario.

My delegation takes note of the steps taken in the Security Council on improving its working methods, particularly through the work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions under the chairmanship of Japan, results of which we are about to see. We also note with interest the proposal of the S-5 countries contained in the draft resolution A/60/L.49. Increased transparency of the Council's work, increased involvement of States not members in its work as well as its enhanced accountability to the membership are measures that will benefit all, and first and foremost the Council itself.

Mr. President,

Many a lance was broken last year over the issue of the reform of the Security Council. It is now time to move on, past old differences and towards fresh ideas. Today's debate should not be a one-off exercise but should rather be followed by wide-ranging consultations with a view to arriving at a solution that enjoys widest possible understanding among Member States. My delegation stands ready to take active part in such consultations.

I thank you.