

Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia in the general debate  
of the 37<sup>th</sup> session of FAO Conference

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Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,

Allow me at the outset to join the previous delegates to extend my delegation's sincere congratulations to Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva of Brazil, one of the architects of Brazil's "Zero Hunger", on his election as the next Director-General of the FAO and wish him every success in discharging the challenging tasks of heading this important specialized agency of the United Nations. The FAO is an essential organization if the international community is to meet the first and most urgent Millennium Development Goal – to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. This goal has been reiterated at the Global Food Summit and can be achieved only through close adherence to the Five Principles of the Rome Summit and the guidelines of the Committee on World Food Security. Much needs to be done if the 925 million people, i.e. 13.5 % of the world's population that suffer from hunger and malnutrition is to be reduced to 8% by 2015.

Much has been done in the past 65 years by the international community to increase and improve food production. Average per capita food production has increased by 40 percent. Much is being done by FAO to address the challenges of food security, increase of productivity in agricultural production and better access to food. Though yesterday the FAO and OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) adopted the FAO Declaration on Global Freedom from Rinderpest and thus officially declared the world free of the world's number one cattle plague, still much needs to be done to eradicate the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), the PPR (pests des petits ruminants) and other trans-boundary animal diseases that affect agricultural production and thus hamper attaining of the MDG objectives. With respect to FMD, IAEA/FAO joint activities in introducing nuclear techniques in animal nutrition and disease prevention needs to be welcomed. Mongolia is working with that division to address some of its FMD challenges. Mongolia is also working to become free of CBBP (contagious bovine pleuropneumonia).

The other challenges include consumption of food, energy, water and other natural resources at an unsustainable rate that could lead to their depletion. The climate change is also affecting global food production, while world population is expected to reach 7 billion very soon and 9 billion by 2050. Against this background the goals of making food available, accessible and affordable to all and ensuring food security are challenging indeed.

As for Mongolia, like in many other developing countries, the backbone of its economy is still animal husbandry. It is working hard to increase livestock production not only through maintaining its quantity but improving its quality through vaccination and introduction of other progressive technology. The demand in animal husbandry production is expected to increase not only with the mechanical growth of the over-all world population but also with the increase in income and living standards of peoples as well as with the expected rise in the demand for animal protein.

My country has been and shall be working with FAO and interested member states in increasing its animal husbandry production and thus contributing to the common goal of greater and safer food production. In this spirit it is looking forward to working with the newly elected Director-General from January 2012 when he assumes his office.

Mr. President,

My delegation fully supports the main focus of the State of Food and Agriculture report for 2010-2011: “Women in agriculture: closing the gender gap for development”. This issue is very close to Mongolia where the role of women in the society has traditionally been important. Some poor households are headed by women. It is for this reason for almost three decades Mongolia has been the lead country at the United Nations to raise awareness of the importance of the role of rural women in development, including in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.

The key concept is political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women, their education and participation in the development, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of rural macroeconomic policies. Together with some other like-minded countries, Mongolia is working at the United Nations to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures, provide wider microcredit and other financial/business services, to ensure that they are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land, and other property, etc. In order to put this issue firmly on the political and economic agenda of the international community, 15 of October of each year has been declared and is observed as the International Day of Rural Women (see United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/136). This political and socio-economic support of rural women can practically be realized if the FAO and its members are to make their contribution. Empowering rural women is not only an issue of human right but, as seen from the report, it is also crucial for agricultural development and food security. Mongolia is prepared to continue to work with others in this regard.