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**Statement by Ambassador Battungalag Gankhuurai,  
Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations in Vienna,  
at the Ministerial Segment of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the  
UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

Vienna, 14 March 2019

Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The Delegation of Mongolia congratulates you, Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet, for your election as the Chair of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. I also extend our congratulations to the other members of the Bureau.

Mongolia aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, as well as the Group of G77 and China.

Mr. Chair,

Today, we gathered here to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem. We share the view that in the past decade, significant progress has been achieved in countering the world drug problem.

However, this is a momentum for the international community to address multi-faceted challenges that we face and shortcomings that persist. Thus, we believe that our deliberations and outcome of this Ministerial segment are crucial to achieve our common goals of a society free of drug abuse.

Mongolia is fully committed to the implementation of the all three international drug-control Conventions, the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, as well as outcome of the UNGASS 2016.

Mongolia is not immune to the drug problem. Therefore, the Government is resolved and has been making its every effort to counter drug abuse. With a view to promoting and protecting the health, safety and well-being of our people, national authorities have been undertaking a host of policy measures, including through increased outreach and awareness programs.

Since the adoption of its first Law on the Control of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 2002, Mongolia has made significant strides in improving the national legislative and regulatory frameworks. In 2017, the Government adopted the National Action Plan on Combating Illicit Trafficking of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. In 2018, a new Law on Administrative Treatment of Persons with Alcohol and Drug Use Disorders was adopted by the Parliament.

With a view to increasing public awareness in preventing drug abuse, a special TV program has been broadcasted on weekly basis. Guidelines and handouts for youth training on preventive measures have been developed. Series of educational workshops have been conducted for university students. On the other hand, last year, cannabis plants in total of 1.800 hectares area in the territory of 49 districts of 11 provinces were destroyed.

However, worrying trends continue to persist and evolve. According to the statistical data, in the last 5 years, the number of criminal offences involving young people aged 18-35 has continuously increased by average of 25-30 percent, and in 2018, this group comprised 82 percent of the total offenders.

Therefore, we stress the need and urgency of protecting children and youth- our future, from drug abuse, and appeal all Member States and relevant international organizations and actors including the UNODC to further enhance their efforts by giving due and full accord to the voices of the young generations.

We welcome the UNODC's Youth Initiative and believe that this year's Youth Forum will be instrumental in our future work.

Mr. Chair,

Mongolia also strongly supports all efforts of reinforcing international cooperation at all levels in all sectors including health, education, social, justice and law enforcement. We believe that with a view to achieving tangible results the following actions would be further undertaken by all Member States and stakeholders including the UNODC:

- To exchange relevant and up-to-date information and best practices including on improving of legal frameworks;
- To support technical and capacity-building assistance;
- To enhance efforts in promoting prevention from drug abuse, including in educational settings.

Mongolia is confident that this Ministerial Segment will deliver a good result.

I thank you.