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**STATEMENT BY H.E DR.TSOGTSETSEG AYUSH,
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CHIEF DELEGATE
TO
THE SEVENTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

May 24, 2017

Madam President,
Madam Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to reiterate my sincere congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus for his election as the new Director-General of the World Health Organization.

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all of you and wish to express my appreciation for organizing this Health Assembly under the theme of Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Building Better Systems for Health.

Madam President,

Mongolia has joined the global community in the adoption of Sustainable Development Agenda and currently we are in the process of implementing our national long term development policy “Sustainable Development Vision of Mongolia 2030” which was endorsed by the Parliament of Mongolia in 2016.

In January this year the Government of Mongolia has approved the “State Policy on Health (2017-2026)” and launched its implementation nationwide. In the formulation of the Policy, we followed the important principles recommended by WHO namely the “Universal Health Coverage for All” and “Leaving No-One Behind”.

The policy has mapped the system reforms and development of the health sector for the coming 10 years in 8 key areas, that are measures for tackling public health challenges, healthcare service planning based on population health needs, human resource planning and capacity development aligned with introduction of new health technologies, introduction of new health financing mechanisms aiming at improving quality and efficiency of healthcare services, strengthening transparency of health management and development of hospital autonomy.

We developed and started implementation of sub-programs that reflect specific characteristics of local areas and strengthen health systems at sub-national level in order to ensure coordinated management of the policy implementation nationwide.

Madam President,

The Government of Mongolia has approved “Whole Liver-Mongolia” National Program this year with ambitious aim to eliminate new infections of Hepatitis C and to substantially reduce the mortality rate due to liver cancer and cirrhosis by 2020. In order for reaching this aim, we started taking comprehensive measures for detecting and treating Hepatitis C infections, one of the key causes of liver cancer and cirrhosis. Liver cancer is being the number one cause of death in the last 10 years claiming 15 per cent of all deaths in Mongolia. The Government considers “Whole Liver-Mongolia”

National Program a top priority in its health agenda. Because, Mongolia is ranked number one in the world by liver cancer death rate and it is already 6 times higher than the global average.

“Whole Liver-Mongolia” National Program (2017-2020) will be implemented in 2 phases. High risk group population aged between 45 and 60 will be diagnosed and treated free-of-charge in the 1st phase (2017-2018) of the Program, and people of other remaining age groups will be tested and cured also at no cost in the 2nd phase (2019-2020). For the whole duration of the Program implementation, a total funding of more than 200 billion Mongolian tugrug is required and all costs related from diagnostics to liver transplant operations will be covered by the health insurance fund and other government budget resources. We believe that our effort will yield a success in 2020.

Madam President,

Mongolia is facing a number of challenges in implementing the reforms envisaged in the Sustainable Development Vision of Mongolia 2030 and the State Policy on Health (2017-2026) in the coming decade. Experience and support of other countries and international partners, especially the technical assistance and expertise of the World Health Organization are essential to us in overcoming those challenges with lowest possible risk and tackling any issues in the best possible way aligned with policies of other sectors.

Delivery of public health services to the population in order to prevent communicable and noncommunicable diseases taps opportunity to save the costs of healthcare services. Therefore, I would like to emphasize the utmost importance of learning from experience of other countries and ensuring cooperation of all relevant stakeholders.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere gratitude to Dr. Margaret Chan, the Director-General and Dr. Shin Young-soo, the Regional Director for the Western Pacific, for their tremendous support, valuable contribution provided for the past 10 years in improving health and well-being of the people of all countries including Mongolia.

And I wish every success to my fellow Member States of the WHO for building better health systems in the era of SDGs by assuring that no-one is left behind and for achieving Universal Health Coverage for all.

Thank you.