



# MONGOLIA

## PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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### STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. TSAKHIA ELBEGDORJ  
PRESIDENT OF MONGOLIA

67<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*“Empower the People, Not the Government.”  
Build Opportunities, Not Statues”*

27 September 2012  
New York

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Tsakhia Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia  
67<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

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27 September 2012, New York

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies, and Ladies and Gentlemen.

Last year, Mongolia observed the fiftieth anniversary of joining this important body. Thanks to the choice of our free people, this herder's son is here today - happy to report on Mongolia's progress building a strong and free society.

Over twenty years ago, Mongolia stood at a crossroads. The flag of democracy was firmly planted in our rich and historic soil.

In the cold winter of 1989 and in the spring of the White Horse Year of 1990, decades of rule without the consent of the governed were swept aside. Individual rights and liberties prevailed.

Our revolution did not break a single window. Not one drop of blood was shed.

Mr. President,

More than two decades later, Mongolia is a stable beacon of self-governance, the initiator of the Asia Partnership for Democracy and the leader of the Community of Democracies. We proudly chair this world movement for freedom.

Mongolia has demonstrated a firm commitment to transparency, accountability and the rule of law. We've recognized that this is the only way our democracy can succeed. Therefore, we also cannot tolerate public corruption at any level – from the highest officials to the ordinary citizen.

Corruption is like an infectious disease, growing in the dark, eating away at the public trust, scaring away investors, robbing average citizens of opportunities and attacking the vital immune system of a nation. We must shine a light on corruption and attack it head on.

Additionally, our track record of free and fair elections, and peaceful transfer of power from one party to another, can serve as an example to our sister democracies around the world. Mongolia is moving toward more direct and participatory democracy. We are empowering our people, not the government. Mongolia is proud to be the democratic anchor in the East.

Mr. President,

No democracy is ever perfect. We have experienced similar challenges that other young democracies have. Democracy does not end with casting a ballot. That is just the beginning.