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Mongolia

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations¹

Universal human rights treaties ²	Date of ratification, accession or succession	Declarations/reservations	Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies
ICERD	6 Aug. 1969	Yes (art. 17)	Individual complaints (art. 14): No
ICESCR	18 Nov. 1974	Yes (art. 26(1))	-
ICCPR	18 Nov. 1974	Yes (art. 48(1))	Inter-State complaints (art. 41): No
ICCPR-OP 1	16 April 1991	-	_
CEDAW	20 July 1981	_	_
OP-CEDAW	28 March 2002	-	Inquiry procedure (arts. 8 and 9): No
CAT	24 Jan. 2002	_	Inter-State complaints (art. 21): No
			Individual complaints (art. 22): No
			Inquiry procedure (art. 20): Yes
CRC	5 July 1990	-	_
OP-CRC-AC	6 Oct. 2004	Binding declaration under art. 3: 18 years	-
OP-CRC-SC	27 June 2003	-	_
CRPD	13 May 2009	_	_
CRPD-OP	13 May 2009	-	Inquiry procedure (arts. 6 and 7): Yes

Core treaties to which Mongolia is not a party: OP-ICESCR³ (signature only, 2009), ICCPR-OP 2, OP-CAT, ICRMW, and CED (signature only, 2007).

Other main relevant international instrument	Ratification, accession or succession
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	Yes
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	Yes
Palermo Protocol ⁴	Yes

Refugees and stateless persons⁵

Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Yes, Protocol III

Additional Protocols thereto⁶

ILO fundamental conventions⁷ Yes

UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Yes

Education

1. Several United Nations treaty bodies and/or special procedures recommended that Mongolia ratify: ICRMW⁸; CED⁹, OP-CAT,¹⁰ ICCPR-OP-2¹¹, OP-ICESCR,¹² the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol,¹³ the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness¹⁴, and ILO Convention 183 on Maternity protection.¹⁵

No

- 2. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) recommended that Mongolia ratify the amendment to article 8, paragraph 6, of the ICERD¹⁶ and urged Mongolia to make the optional declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention.¹⁷
- 3. The Special Rapporteur on the question of torture recommended that Mongolia make the declaration regarding article 22 of CAT to recognize the competence of the Committee to receive individual communications.¹⁸

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

- 4. In 2010, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was concerned that some legislative provisions were not in conformity with the Convention¹⁹ and reiterated its recommendation that Mongolia continue to harmonize its legislation with the Convention.²⁰ It also encouraged the adoption of a comprehensive legislative act on the rights of the child.²¹
- 5. In 2008, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) expressed concern that Mongolia had not undertake a comprehensive review of laws to determine their conformity with the Convention and that some discriminatory provisions against women might continue to prevail. It urged the review of all existing laws and the amendment of remaining discriminatory provisions.²² It encouraged the adoption of the draft law on gender equality that includes a definition of direct and indirect discrimination.²³ It also called upon Mongolia to enact legislation prohibiting sexual harassment.²⁴
- 6. In 2009 and 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (ILO Committee of Experts) noted that the Labour Code, which provides for equal remuneration for "male and female employees performing the same work" was narrower than the principle of the ILO Convention No, 100, which goes beyond the same work, and encompasses work which is different but is nevertheless of equal value. It asked for the adoption of legislation to ensure equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value.²⁵
- 7. In 2006, CERD was concerned that no clear definition of racial discrimination existed in the legislation.²⁶ It expressed concern at the absence of legislation on racial discrimination in the civil and administrative fields²⁷ and noted the absence of provisions declaring illegal and prohibiting organizations which promote and incite racial discrimination.²⁸ It reiterated its recommendation that Mongolia enact legislation to prevent and prohibit racial discrimination.²⁹

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

- 8. The National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia (NHRCM) was accredited with "A" status by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) in 2008.³⁰
- 9. CEDAW, while welcoming the establishment of the NHRCM in 2000,³¹ was concerned that the majority of complaints submitted was from residents of Ulaanbaatar. It was also concerned at the lack of complaints about discrimination based on sex despite the prevalence of violence against women.³² It recommended that Mongolia increase its efforts to raise awareness of the NHRCM's competence to receive and consider complaints from women.³³ CRC encouraged Mongolia to ensure that the NHRCM is mandated and capable to receive complaints from children through easily accessible and child-friendly complaints mechanisms.³⁴
- 10. CEDAW welcomed the establishment of the National Committee on Gender Equality in 2005 and however, regretted that it did not have sufficient visibility or resources to promote the advancement of women and gender equality.³⁵

D. Policy measures

- 11. While noting the National Action Plan for Child Protection and Development (2002-2010)³⁶ CRC recommended the adoption of a new plan with adequate resources, follow up and evaluation mechanisms.³⁷
- 12. CRC was concerned that the National Programme on Protection from Trafficking of Children and Women with the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation did not cover violations of all provisions of the Palermo Protocol.³⁸
- 13. In 2005, Mongolia adopted the United Nations Plan of Action (2005–2009) for the World Programme for Human Rights Education focusing on the national school system.³⁹

II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

Treaty body ⁴⁰	Latest report submitted and considered	Latest concluding observations	Follow-up response	Reporting status
CERD	2005	August 2006	-	Combined nineteenth to twenty-first report due in 2010.
CESCR	1998	August 2000	-	Fourth report overdue since 2003.
HR Committee	1998	March 2000	-	Fifth report overdue since 2003, submitted in

Treaty body ⁴⁰	Latest report submitted and considered	Latest concluding observations	Follow-up response	Reporting status
				2009.
CEDAW	2007	October 2008	Due in October 2010.	Eighth and ninth report due in 2014.
CAT	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2003.
CRC	2008	January 2010	-	Fifth report due in 2014.
OP-CRC-AC	2008	January 2010	_	_
OP-CRC-SC	2008	January 2010	-	_
CRPD	_	-	-	Initial report due in 2011.

2. Cooperation with special procedures

Standing invitation issued	Yes	
Latest visits or mission reports	Special Rapporteur on the right to education, 1–8 October, 2009 ⁴¹ ;	
	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (24 September–1 October, 2009 ⁴² ; 15–21 December 2007 ⁴³ and 18–23 December, 2006) ⁴⁴	
Visits agreed upon in principle	-	
Visits requested and not yet agreed upon	-	
Facilitation/cooperation during missions	Special Rapporteur on the right to education expressed his appreciation to Mongolia for the assistance in carrying out a successful visit. ⁴⁵	
Follow-up to visits	Special Rapporteur on the question of torture in 2008^{46} and 2010^{47}	
Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals	During the period under review, 7 communications were sent. The Government replied to five communications.	
Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues	Mongolia responded to 2 of the 23 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders, ⁴⁸	

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Equality and non-discrimination

- 14. CEDAW regretted that insufficient measures had been taken to address traditional discriminatory practices and strong stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in family and society and that such stereotypes continued to be reflected in legislation and policies.⁴⁹ The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) expressed similar concerns.⁵⁰
- 15. CEDAW expressed concern at the high rate of unemployment among women⁵¹ and called upon Mongolia to ensure equal rights for women in the area of employment.⁵²
- 16. CEDAW was concerned at discrimination against women in public and private employment with respect to recruitment, equal pay for work of equal value, and maternity protection and discriminatory provisions in the Labour Law.⁵³ The ILO Committee of Experts recalled that special protective measures for women (in labour law) which were based on stereotyped perceptions regarding their capacity and role in society gave rise to violations of the principle of equality of opportunity and treatment. It asked Mongolia to ensure that protective measures are strictly limited to protecting maternity.⁵⁴
- 17. In 2010, the ILO Committee of Experts noted that, while women had been successful in taking advantage of educational opportunities, there was a gap in their participation in the highest paid sectors, and they were less likely to be in managerial positions.⁵⁵ The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) made similar observations and further noted that women were concentrated in low-paid jobs in agriculture, sales, manufacturing, service sectors, education and health.⁵⁶
- 18. UNCT noted that discrimination on the basis of age, sex and social status existed and that some job announcements in local newspapers specified age and sex.⁵⁷
- 19. CEDAW was concerned about difficulties of rural women in accessing adequate health services, clean water and sanitation services and in participating in decision-making.⁵⁸ It urged Mongolia to pay special attention to the needs of rural women by ensuring that rural women participate fully in decision-making processes and have access to health, clean water and sanitary services, without discrimination.⁵⁹
- 20. While noting measures taken to protect vulnerable children from discrimination, CRC remained concerned that gender-based discrimination affected both boys and girls and that children experienced unequal treatment, inter alia, based on a child's ethnic group, disability, living standards, family and residential location.⁶⁰ It was also concerned at the social exclusion of children with disabilities due to improper infrastructures and to their lack of access to education, social welfare and health services.⁶¹
- 21. The Special Rapporteur on the right to education observed the segregation of children with disabilities who were placed in non-formal education centres⁶² and recommended that Mongolia design and implement educational programmes to allow for the gradual inclusion of students with disabilities in the education system.⁶³

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

22. In 2005, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture was concerned about the circumstances surrounding the death penalty, particularly that it was considered a State secret. He noted that despite his repeated requests, he was not provided with any official information regarding the number, time and place of executions and that the families were also not notified of the exact date or places of execution and did not receive the bodies of

executed persons for burial.⁶⁴ In 2005 and 2008, he recommended that (a) the death row prisoners be detained in accordance with international standards, and in particular they should not be handcuffed and shackled in detention, and (b) a moratorium on death penalty imposed.⁶⁵

- 23. In January 2010, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomed an announcement by the Mongolia's President of a formal moratorium on the death penalty and noted that people currently on death row would have their sentences commuted accordingly. She encouraged Mongolia to ratify the ICCPR –OP2 to draw a firm and permanent line under Mongolia's commitment to end the death penalty.⁶⁶ The Special Rapporteur on the question of torture also welcomed the moratorium of the death penalty and hoped for its abolition in law.⁶⁷
- 24. In 2005, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture noted that the law did not define the term torture in accordance with CAT and concluded that torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials persisted.⁶⁸ In 2010, he welcomed Mongolia's legislative efforts to criminalize torture but regretted that the definition of torture was not in line with the requirements of the Convention. He noted with concern that the Criminal Procedure Code did not ensure that evidence obtained from torture is not invoked in any proceedings.⁶⁹
- 25. While commending the work of the NHRCM and the Office of the Prosecution in receiving complains and undertaking investigations, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, in 2010, underlined the need for adequate funding of those mechanisms and non interference in their work in order to guarantee their functioning.⁷⁰ He urged Mongolia to establish a National Preventive Mechanism.⁷¹
- 26. On 2 July 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General expressed concern at the violence resulting from the demonstrations in Mongolia and regretted the consequent loss of life. A joint communication was sent by special procedures mandate holders regarding the state of emergency declared in 2008 and the killings of four demonstrators. On 1 July, about 700 people were reportedly arrested during the post election protests in Ulaanbaatar. A four-day state of emergency was declared by the Government after rioting erupted. Many detainees were allegedly beaten, detained without food and water, and forced to sign self-implicating statements. Four persons were shot dead in a central street in Ulaanbaatar and were allegedly beaten before being shot. In its response the Government indicated that: the President had declared the state of emergency to authorize the police to forcefully disperse demonstrations by adhering to the legal requirements, and that the police abided by this in all its activities of restoring public order. It also informed that 106 police officers were interrogated and 10 officers were detained as suspects with regard to four deaths.
- 27. CRC reiterated its concern that corporal punishment was observed in all settings of children's lives and urged the introduction of legislation to prevent and end all forms of corporal punishment as a method of discipline in all settings.⁷⁴
- 28. CEDAW was concerned that the incidence of domestic violence remained high and that the prosecution rate was very low. It regretted that Mongolia had not criminalized marital rape.⁷⁵ It urged the placing of a high priority on the implementation of the Law on Fighting against Domestic Violence and called upon Mongolia to ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection.⁷⁶
- 29. CRC was concerned that existing legal provisions to prohibit rape and incest were insufficiently enforced, sanctions for offences against boys and girls were not equal and that children victims of sexual abuse, including rape, often did not receive adequate protection and/or recovery assistance, but may be treated as perpetrators of a crime. ⁷⁷ It urged Mongolia, inter alia, to prohibit child abuse and violence in the family and to enforce the prohibition of rape and incest. ⁷⁸

- 30. CEDAW was concerned about the increasing incidence of trafficking and exploitation of women and girls and the low rate of prosecution. It was also concerned that no mechanism existed to ensure rehabilitation and social reintegration for victims. UNCT⁸⁰, CRC⁸¹ and ILO⁸² made similar observations. CRC reiterated its recommendations to Mongolia to, inter alia, strengthen efforts to address the root causes of sale and trafficking. In 2010, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea encouraged victim-sensitive procedures to ensure that victims of human trafficking and/or human smuggling are not criminalized. CEDAW urged Mongolia to, inter alia, enact legislation on trafficking entrenching a national oversight mechanism.
- 31. CRC expressed concern at the number of victims of sexual exploitation, in particular girls, who were treated as offenders and not provided with adequate protection services, and the lack of investigation and prosecutions of perpetrators. ⁸⁶ It recommended that Mongolia strengthen measures to prevent sexual exploitation of children; ensure that investigations of reported crimes of sexual exploitation and abuse were promptly conducted and perpetrators sanctioned; protect victims and provide them with adequate recovery and social reintegration services; and ensure that victims are not criminalized. ⁸⁷
- 32. According to the UNCT, children were used in income generating activities such as horse racing and circus performances. 88 The ILO Committee of Experts expressed its concern at the continued use of children under 18 years of age in horse racing, which was likely to harm children's health and safety. 89
- 33. CRC remained concerned about the increasing number of street children and regretted information on police persecution to keep children off the streets. 90 In 2000, CESCR was also concerned about the situation of street children. 91

3. Administration of justice

- 34. In 2010, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture reiterated that confessions made in the absence of a lawyer should be inadmissible.⁹²
- 35. In 2008, the Special Rapporteur reiterated its recommendation that custody registers be scrupulously maintained, recording of, inter alia, the time and place of arrest, the state of health of the person and information about the compulsory medical examinations undertaken upon arrival at the detention centre. He also recommended that the pretrial detention be authorized by a judge only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.⁹³
- 36. CRC remained concerned about inadequate conditions in pretrial detention centres faced by children, including complaints about forced convictions, police violence during detention, and the lack of separation from adults in police detention.⁹⁴ It reiterated its recommendations that Mongolia bring the system of juvenile justice in line with United Nations standards. It also recommended that Mongolia, inter alia, protect children's rights in pretrial detention, establish specialized juvenile courts, and appoint trained juvenile judges.⁹⁵
- 37. In 2005, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture noted that the impunity was the principal cause of torture and ill-treatment and that the lack of effective mechanisms to receive and investigate complaints provided shelter to perpetrators. In 2008, he recommended that Mongolia declare, inter alia, that torture and ill-treatment by public officials would not be tolerated and would be subject to prosecution. In 2010, he urged Mongolia to undertake all efforts to combat the persisting culture of impunity.

4. Right to family life

- 38. CRC noted the increase of families headed by single mothers and the formation of new groups of children without parental care, including children left behind due to migration of parents and children temporarily heading their families.⁹⁹
- 39. While noting steps taken to introduce alternative care services for children separated from their families, CRC was concerned about, inter alia, the lack of supervision and oversight in care institutions and the absence of placement review.¹⁰⁰
- 40. CRC expressed concern, inter alia, at the absence of support services for prospective adoptive families and the absence of mechanisms to review, monitor and follow up adoptions. It recommended that Mongolia, inter alia, establish a comprehensive national policy and guidelines governing foster care and adoption, and suggested the establishment of a national authority to deal with the implementation of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption. 102
- 41. CRC remained concerned that nearly ten percent of births were not registered due to, inter alia, internal migration, remoteness of birth registry locations and the lack of awareness among herder families on the importance of birth registration. 103

5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, and right to participate in public and political life

- 42. In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts was concerned about information that dismissal of civil servants on the ground of political opinion was frequent after general and local elections¹⁰⁴ and noted, in 2010, the Government's confirmation of this information.¹⁰⁵ It requested that Mongolia provide information on the measures taken to end dismissals of civil servants based on political opinion.¹⁰⁶
- 43. CEDAW was concerned at the low and declining rate of representation of women in decision-making positions, especially in the Parliament and at the high level decision-making positions, and that the legal provision that introduced a 30 per cent quota on women candidates for nomination by parties and coalitions was eliminated by the Parliament in 2007. The Special Rapporteur on the right to education noted a lack of participation of women in public affairs and the persistence of certain gender-based stereotypes. He stressed the need to move away from traditional gender-based stereotypes and highlighted the importance of creating a human rights culture, not only in schools, but also among the general population. 109

6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

- 44. UNCT noted that the current minimum wage in the public and private sectors was insufficient for decent living. Health and safety standards were poor, particularly in construction and informal mining.¹¹⁰
- 45. While recalling that the minimum age for employment should not be lower than the age of completion of compulsory schooling, the ILO Committee of Experts requested Mongolia to raise the minimum age for employment (15 years) in order to link it with the age of completion of compulsory schooling (17 years).¹¹¹
- 46. CRC was concerned about reports indicating an increase in child labour and children working in, inter alia, informal mining, circuses and agriculture, and their exposure to the worst forms of child labour.¹¹² The ILO Committee of Experts also expressed concern at the large number of children working under the age of 15 and engaged in hazardous occupations.¹¹³ It further noted that the penalties imposed in connection with children's employment in hazardous work were weak.¹¹⁴

47. The ILO Committee of Experts referred to reports indicating that some children were working in the informal economy in urban areas and requested protection for children carrying out work on their own account or in the informal economy.¹¹⁵

7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

- 48. CERD was concerned about the significant disparities in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, particularly affecting ethnic groups in rural and remote areas¹¹⁶ CESCR urged Mongolia to continue to direct resources to those most in need.¹¹⁷
- 49. UNCT stated that, while the availability of food was adequate at the national level, unemployment resulted in some urban families not being able to afford basic food. The right to food of rural populations was affected more severely and herders and farmers were the most vulnerable owing to, inter alia, the high risk of extreme weather. 118
- 50. WHO noted the significant incidents of food borne illnesses and food contamination that occurred over the past years, and concerns regarding microbiological and chemical contamination of food.¹¹⁹
- 51. WHO noted that Mongolia demonstrated a steady decline in the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) accompanied with a wide variation in MMR between urban and rural area. In some remote *aimags* (provinces), the MMR was four to six times the MMR in Ulaanbaatar. UNCT made similar observations. ¹²¹ CEDAW expressed concern that rural women and women in low income brackets were most likely to die from birth and pregnancy complications. ¹²²
- 52. CRC was concerned about the persistence of stunting and rickets, reflecting micronutrient deficiencies and chronic malnutrition, especially among boys under five. WHO made similar observations. 124 It recommended, inter alia, addressing the high rates of malnutrition. 125 WHO noted that Mongolia had the seventh highest burden of tuberculosis (TB) in the Western Pacific Region. 126
- 53. WHO noted that despite Mongolia's efforts to improve public health through comprehensive national health policies, several key challenges, including disparities in health between urban and rural populations, mal-distribution of the health workforce and inadequate preparedness and response to health emergencies and disasters remained to be addressed. CEDAW expressed concern about the limited availability of health-care services, especially in rural areas. EEDAW urged Mongolia to continue its efforts to improve the health infrastructure and to ensure sufficient budgetary allocations for accessible health services.
- 54. UNCT underscored that access to shelter with adequate water and sanitation utilities was out of reach for middle and lower income populations. In Ulaanbaatar, 78 per cent of residents lived in traditional housing (gers) with no connection to drinking water or sewage systems. WHO noted that the provision of safe water and sanitation, especially in schools and health facilities, remained a major challenge. Furthermore, UNCT referred to the 2009 MDG report indicating that there was a large urban-rural disparity in access to water and sanitation, and that rural schools and dormitories housing children of nomadic families lacked safe water sources and adequate sanitation. CRC recommended strengthening measures to increase access to safe drinking water and improve hygiene practices.
- 55. WHO noted that migration from rural areas to big cities resulted in peri-urban expanded congestion in slum areas (or so-called 'ger districts'), unemployment, unmet need of safe water supply, poor sanitation and limited access to health services.¹³⁴
- 56. CRC was concerned at the persistence of widespread poverty.¹³⁵ According to the 2007–2011 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), human poverty was manifesting itself in rising incidences of, inter alia, child labour, street children,

homelessness, human trafficking and above all, an alarming increase in suicides.¹³⁶ CEDAW was concerned at the high incidence of poverty among women and that the poverty reduction strategy had not been implemented with sufficient attention to the rights of women.¹³⁷

8. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

- 57. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) stated that, in 2009, the net enrolment rates in primary and basic education were 93.5 and 91.2 respectively, and the high enrolment rates have been sustained for the last five years. The Special Rapporteur on the right to education was impressed by the high rates of school enrolment and noted that gross enrolment rates at universities and higher education institutions reached 48 per cent in 2007, which was twice the regional average. 139
- 58. The Special Rapporteur expressed concern about the dropout rates of children from the primary and secondary levels. ¹⁴⁰ He was informed that the majority of those who left the school were boys and that there was no clear definition of dropout. ¹⁴¹ CRC expressed concern about the under-representation of boys in education due to a high drop-out rate. ¹⁴²
- 59. The ILO Committee of Experts referred to the research carried out in 2005–2006 indicating a high drop-out rate of children of herders, who needed the assistance of their children in their family's livestock herding activities. In 2000, CESCR made similar observations. It
- 60. UNCT mentioned that Bayan-Ulgii, the province of Kazakh minorities, had the highest dropout rate and the lowest preschool participation rate in the country. It also noted that children from the Tuva ethnic minority had limited access to any level of education.¹⁴⁵
- 61. In 2010, CRC was concerned about children with limited access to education services, especially at preschool levels, including children from herder families in remote and rural areas, children of families that migrated to the capital city and children from informal mining communities. ¹⁴⁶ UNCT also noted that access to kindergarten remained a challenge, despite creative practices such as mobile "ger" kindergartens for herders' children. ¹⁴⁷
- 62. The Special Rapporteur on the right to education noted the outdated and sometimes inadequate conditions of school buildings and dormitories. In rural areas, the poor conditions were intensified by problematic access to water and sanitation, whereas in urban areas, schools faced overcrowding as a result of internal migration from rural to urban areas. 148
- 63. The Special Rapporteur noted a strong need to strengthen the vision of human rights in educational programmes. Although some human rights were present in some parts of the curricula, these were included in a descriptive and superficial manner. He also noted the initiatives of the State University of Education to train teachers, despite limited resources. He also drew attention to the lack of literature on human rights available in Mongol language. ¹⁴⁹ CRC recommended that Mongolia incorporate human rights education in school curricula. ¹⁵⁰ CEDAW made a similar recommendation. ¹⁵¹

9. Minorities and indigenous peoples

64. CRC was concerned about inequalities among the population in the Western region and the Kazak and other minorities.¹⁵² CERD recalled that the low level of economic, social and cultural development of certain ethnic groups might be an indication of de facto discrimination, even if it was not the direct result of a deliberate Government effort.¹⁵³

- 65. CERD remained concerned about the low level of representation of minority groups in the police force and recommended measures to ensure that ethnic minorities are duly represented in state institutions and the public administration.¹⁵⁴
- 66. While noting the adoption of the Tuva Language Study programme in 2005¹⁵⁵ CERD, in 2006, expressed concern about the lack of practical measures to support minority languages and recommended that Mongolia facilitate the participation of ethnic minorities in the elaboration of cultural and educational policies to enable persons belonging to minorities to learn or to have instruction in their mother tongue as well as in the official language. ¹⁵⁶ In 2010, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education was pleased to note that the Kazakh ethnic community enjoyed bilingual education (Kazakh-Mongol) at the primary level and that Mongolia was active in the development of curriculum and textbooks in the Kazakh language. ¹⁵⁷

10. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

- 67. CERD was concerned that Mongolia had yet to enact legislation on asylum matters and to introduce an asylum-determination procedure, and recommended guaranteeing the rights of asylum-seekers to information, interpretation, legal assistance and judicial remedies.¹⁵⁸
- 68. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted that the principle of non-refoulement was abided by. ¹⁵⁹ While noting the respect of the non-refoulement principle by Mongolia, ¹⁶⁰ UNHCR noted that unless, and until the 1951 Convention was acceded to, there were insufficient safeguards against refoulement. ¹⁶¹
- 69. In 2008, the Special Rapporteur noted commendable progress, since his previous visit, in improvements to the facilities housing asylum-seekers. ¹⁶² In 2010 and 2008, he invited Mongolia to continue the policy of affording humane treatment asylum seekers, including the provision of facilities to meet their physical and psychological needs, and to ensure that the language and other needs linked with adaptation to resettlement in other countries are met. ¹⁶³

11. Right to development

70. According to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), Mongolia's vulnerabilities were accentuated by the country's landlocked geographical location, its dispersed and sparse population and harsh climatic conditions. Many of these could be addressed by pursuing development in the context of MDG 8 and regional cooperation.¹⁶⁴

III. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints

- 71. UNHCHR welcomed Mongolia's decision to suspend the death penalty and noted that Mongolia's move set a leadership example in Asia. 165
- 72. According to the UNCT, Mongolia approved the MDG 9 to respect and uphold the UDHR. 166
- 73. WHO noted that urban migration has imposed great socioeconomic and health challenges on the Government, mainly due to the floating nature of the migrant population, which remained largely unregistered. Effective public provisioning in rural areas was hampered by long distances, scattered populations and nomadic lifestyles.¹⁶⁷

74. WHO noted that Mongolia was prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, flooding and dzud (extremely cold weather). 168

IV. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments

Specific recommendations for follow-up

75. CEDAW recommended that Mongolia follow-up on the recommendations concerning the adoption of the draft law on gender equality and the establishment of an institutional mechanism responsible for the promotion of equality of women and men. Follow-up responses are due in 2010.

V. Capacity-building and technical assistance

76. CRC recommended that Mongolia seek technical assistance from various United Nations agencies with respect to the follow-up to the United Nations study on violence against children;¹⁷⁰ juvenile justice and police training;¹⁷¹ addressing negative impacts of child labour;¹⁷² and undertaking a legal study to identify inconsistencies and gap between national legislation and the Palermo Protocol.¹⁷³

Notes

Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2006* (ST/LEG/SER.E.25), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://treaties.un.org/

The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

OP-CRPD

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	ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial
		Discrimination;
	ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
	OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR;
	ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
	ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR;
	ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
	CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
	OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW;
	CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or
		Punishment;
	OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT;
	CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child;
	OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
	OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child
		pornography;
	ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers
		and Members of Their Families;
	CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

Disappearance.

Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/117 of 10 December 2008. Article 17, paragraph 1, of OP-ICESCR states that "The present Protocol is open for signature by any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenant".

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

- ⁴ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- ⁵ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at
 - www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.
- International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- ⁸ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4), paras 64-78; concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/MNG/CO/18), para. 20; concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7), para. 43; A/HRC/13/47, para. 67 (e).
- ⁹ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 78; CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7, para. 43.
- ¹⁰ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 76(j); E/CN.4/2006/6/Add.4, para 55 (o); A/HRC/13/39/Add. 6, para 50.
- ¹¹ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 78; E/CN.4/2006/6/Add.4, para 55 (n).
- ¹² CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 78.
- CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 64; A/HRC/13/47, p. 16, para 67. See also UNHCR submission to the UPR on Mongolia, p. 4.
- ¹⁴ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Mongolia, p. 2.
- ¹⁵ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 51 (d).
- ¹⁶ CERD/C/MNG/CO/18, para. 23.
- ¹⁷ Ibid., para. 24.
- ¹⁸ A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, para 403; E/CN.4/2006/6/Add.4, para. 55 (j).
- ¹⁹ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, paras. 4–9.
- ²⁰ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 10. See also concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/OPSC/MNG/CO/1), para. 9.
- ²¹ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 10.
- ²² CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7, paras. 17–18.
- ²³ Ibid., paras. 11–12.
- ²⁴ Ibid., para. 31.
- ²⁵ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Requests concerning ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), 2009, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX), 092009MNG100, first paragraph and ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), 2008, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX), 092008MNG100, para. 3.
- ²⁶ CERD/C/MNG/CO/18, para. 12.
- ²⁷ Ibid., para. 14.
- ²⁸ Ibid., para. 16.
- ²⁹ Ibid., para. 14.

- For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/13/45, annex I.
- 31 CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7, para. 19. See also CERD/C/MNG/CO/18, paragraph. 6.
- 32 CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7, para. 19.
- ³³ Ibid., para. 20.
- ³⁴ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 16; CRC/C/OPSC/MNG/CO/1, para. 19.
- ³⁵ CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7, para 21.
- ³⁶ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 13.
- ³⁷ Ibid., para. 14.
- ³⁸ CRC/C/OPSC/MNG/CO/1, para 10.
- See General Assembly resolution 59/113B and Human Rights Council resolutions 6/24, 10/3 and 12/4. See also letters from the High Commissioner for Human Rights dated 9 January 2006 and 10 December 2007, letter from the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia dated 28 March 2008 at http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/Summary-national-initiatives2005–2009.htm, and the response of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia to the questionnaire of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the issue of the draft United Nations declaration on human rights education and training, dated 31 December 2008, available at http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/advisorycommittee/HR_education_training.htm.

The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

CERD Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; CESCR Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

HR Committee Human Rights Committee;

CEDAW Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

CAT Committee against Torture;

CRC Committee on the Rights of the Child;

CMW Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their

Families;

CRPD Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- ⁴¹ A/HRC/14/25/Add. 3.
- ⁴² A/HRC/13/47.
- ⁴³ A/HRC/7/20.
- ⁴⁴ A/HRC/4/15.
- ⁴⁵ A/HRC/14/25/Add.3, para 75.
- 46 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2.
- ⁴⁷ A/HRC/13/39/Add.6.
- The questionnaires referred to are those reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder issued between 1 January 2006 and 30 June 2010. Responses counted for the purposes of this section are those received within the relevant deadlines, and referred to in the following documents:

 (a) E/CN.4/2006/62, para. 24, and E/CN.4/2006/67, para. 22; (b) A/HRC/4/23, para. 14; (c) A/HRC/4/24, para. 9; (d) A/HRC/4/29, para. 47; (e) A/HRC/4/31, para. 24; (f) A/HRC/4/35/Add.3, para. 7; (g) A/HRC/6/15, para. 7; (h) A/HRC/7/6, annex; (i) A/HRC/7/8, para. 35; (j) A/HRC/8/10, para.120, footnote 48; (k) A/62/301, paras. 27, 32, 38, 44 and 51; (l) A/HRC/10/16 and Corr.1, footnote 29; (m) A/HRC/11/6, annex; (n) A/HRC/11/8, para. 56; (o) A/HRC/11/9, para. 8, footnote 1; (p) A/HRC/12/21, para.2, footnote 1; (q) A/HRC/12/23, para. 12; (r) A/HRC/12/31, para. 1, footnote 2; (s) A/HRC/13/22/Add.4; (t) A/HRC/13/30, para. 49; (u) A/HRC/13/42, annex I; (v) A/HRC/14/25, para. 6, footnote 1; (w) A/HRC/14/31, para. 5, footnote 2.
- ⁴⁹ CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7, para. 23.
- Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/1/Add.47), para. 12.
- 51 CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7, para. 31.
- ⁵² Ibid., para. 32.
- ⁵³ Ibid., para. 31.
- ⁵⁴ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092010MNG111, fifth paragraph.

- ⁵⁵ Ibid., second paragraph.
- ⁵⁶ UNCT submission to the UPR on Mongolia, p. 9.
- ⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 3.
- ⁵⁸ CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7, para. 35.
- ⁵⁹ Ibid., para. 36.
- 60 CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 25.
- ⁶¹ Ibid., para. 48.
- 62 A/HRC/14/25/Add. 3, paras 69–70.
- 63 Ibid., para. 79.
- 64 E/CN.4/2006/6/Add.4, para 50.
- 65 E/CN.4/2006/6/Add.4, para. 55 (m) (n); A/ HRC/7/3/Add.2, paras 405–406.
- ⁶⁶ Public Statement of the High Commissioner on Mongolia:
 - http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=9721&LangID=E.
- ⁶⁷ A/HRC/13/39/Add.6, para. 52.
- ⁶⁸ E/CN.4/2006/6/Add.4, paras. 16 and 37.
- 69 A/HRC/13/39/Add. 6, para. 48. See also A/HRC/7/3/Add. 2, paragraph 394.
- ⁷⁰ A/HRC/13/39/Add.6, para. 49.
- ⁷¹ A/HRC/13/39/Add.6, para. 50. See also E/CN.4/2006/6/Add.4, paragraph 55 (o) and A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, paragraph 407.
- Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Mongolia, New York, 2 July 2008, available at http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=3268.
- ⁷³ A/HRC/11/4/Add. 1 paras. 1710, 1711, 1713, 1716, 1718, and 1719.
- ⁷⁴ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, paras. 37–38. See also paragraph 59.
- ⁷⁵ CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7para. 25.
- ⁷⁶ Ibid., para. 26.
- ⁷⁷ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3–4, para. 46..
- ⁷⁸ Ibid., para. 47.
- ⁷⁹ CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7, para. 27.
- ⁸⁰ UNCT submission to the UPR on Mongolia, p. 8.
- 81 CRC/C/OPSC/MNG/CO/1, para. 26.
- 82 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062010MNG111, fourteenth paragraph.
- 83 CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, paras 71–72 (b).
- 84 A/HRC/13/47, para. 67(b).
- 85 CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/7, para. 28.
- ⁸⁶ CRC/C/MNG/CO/3-4, para. 69. See also CRC/C/OPSC/MNG/CO/1, paragraph.26.
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- ⁸⁹ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062010MNG111, eleventh paragraph.
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- ⁹¹ E/C.12/1/Add.47, para. 13.
- 92 A/HRC/13/39/Add.6, para. 48.
- 93 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, paras. 396–403; E/CN.4/2006/6/Add.4, para. 55 (d)–(k).
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- ⁹⁷ A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, para. 393.
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