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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. SAIKHANBAYAR GURSED**

**MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF MONGOLIA**

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTREAL CONFERENCE IN SEOUL**

**7-8 December 2021**

Dear Ministers,

Esteemed delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been six decades since Mongolia joined the United Nations in 1961, ensuring its security, independence and sovereignty. As a fully-fledged member of the world community, Mongolia has been respectful and supportive to the United Nations' aim to maintain international peace and security, to promote equality and cooperation among nations while being consistent with its commitment to support goodwill, mediation and reconciliation.

The Mongolian Armed Forces first joined United Nations Peacekeeping in 2002 with its deployment of two military observers to the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Today, the responsibilities of Blue Helmets are growing and requirements for them are ever changing. We support the common desire for small-scale and capable peacekeeping units that are equipped with modern weaponry and equipment for specific mission requirements that require immediate action.

Mongolia places particular importance on improving the training and capabilities of its military personnel and plans to deploy the following military units for UN peacekeeping missions. These include:

- Based on its capability and resources, Mongolia's preparation for the deployment of a Quick Reaction Force Company, Engineering Company and a Level II Military Field Hospital with Mobile Surgical Capabilities to the UN mandated peacekeeping missions, commencing in 2022, is underway. As part of this effort, the three military units underwent a Remote Strategic Assessment for the UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System last October.
- In support of the UN initiatives, policies and appeals in the field of environmental protection, special attention is being paid to the role of military units in efforts to

carry out peacekeeping missions intent on reducing their carbon foot-print and utilizing and maximizing renewable energy capacities. We will continue to work on increasing our environmentally friendly initiatives in the future.

- Women make up 9.09 percent of our UN peacekeepers and 6.25 percent of Mongolia's military personnel. To ensure the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, we will increase the number of women serving in UN peacekeeping operations in consecutive stages to 15 percent.
- The President of Mongolia H.E. U.Khurelsukh, met with Secretary General Antonio Guterres, in September 2021 and proposed the establishment of an “International Research Institute for Peace Support in Mongolia”. In this regard, it is planned to include a training and research center to determine peacekeeping policies and objectives on an empirical basis. The training and research center is set to be established in 2022 within the the Defense Research Institute of Mongolia.

In this context, in accordance with the President's speech at the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, we will host an international conference on the best practices of women's participation and professional experiences in UN peacekeeping missions in 2022.

In the future, the Mongolian Armed Forces will diligently work to contribute to peace and stability in the world, strengthen military confidence, and expand its participation in UN peacekeeping missions mandated by UN Charters and Security Council resolutions.

Thank you.

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