**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. TUGSBILGUUN TUMURKHULEG, AMBASSADOR OF MONGOLIA TO THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND AT THE 2nd ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE SUMMIT**

*/Bangkok, 10 October 2016/*

Your Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand,

Your Highnesses and Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express our deepest gratitude to the Royal Thai Government for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit. I take this opportunity to join other heads of delegations in congratulating the United Arab Emirates on assuming chairmanship of ACD. I would also like to welcome Nepal and Turkey as new members of our organization.

As a member of the ACD, we are of the view that this forum represents one of important platforms in our continent for addressing common challenges facing us and fulfilling our shared aspirations. ACD is well positioned to constitute missing links in Asia by incorporating every Asian country and building a unique Asian Community.

Therefore, Mongolia welcomes the establishment of permanent ACD Secretariat which would greatly contribute to fulfilling and realizing the 6 consolidated pillars of our cooperation as well as other activities of ACD. In this regard, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the State of Kuwait for hosting the Secretariat and providing generous support to its operationalization.

Mongolia has always been fully committed to make its contribution to the efforts of the ACD. And it is our intention to actively participate in all activities of this important mechanism of regional cooperation. Hence, we applaud the adoption of the ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030 that reaffirms our commitments to the ACD and Pan-Asian partnership, as well as the ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth through Partnerships for Connectivity and medium-term Blueprint for 2017-2020. We consider it important to further broaden the regional cooperation, in particular that among ACD member-states through implementing concrete projects and programs that would facilitate the economic growth, sustainable development and increase of foreign investment.

Mr. Chair,

As you are aware, Mongolia is a country with abundant natural resources. However, the use of natural resources for the benefit of the whole region inevitably depends on the close cooperation of all nations, since the unique landlocked location of Mongolia is limiting its access and opportunities to actively participate in the international trade and regional integration. In this connection, I am pleased to inform you that the Program on Creating the Economic Corridor between Mongolia, China and Russia was signed during the Trilateral Summit held between heads of our state this June in Tashkent, which would undoubtedly strengthen the regional connectivity.

Enhancing the connectivity both in terms of physical and institutional infrastructures will definitely help to improve Asia’s prosperity through building its economic competitiveness and dynamism. Thus, Mongolia is eager to contribute and benefit from the joint projects of connectivity networks to be identified and implemented in the continent. Making full use of its location Mongolia could become a bridge, connecting Asia and Europe since the closest route linking Eurasia goes through Mongolia. With its strategically important location, Mongolia could become an important partner through strengthening our connectivity with the countries in the region by expanding cooperation in logistics and transport infrastructures.

Mr. Chair,

Taking this opportunity, l am pleased to inform you that on 15-16 July, 2016, Mongolia successfully hosted the 11th ASEM Summit, which coincided with its 20th anniversary. Therefore, I wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the heads of state and government as well as other high-ranking officials for attending the summit in Ulaanbaatar and contributing to its success. I am proud to report to the members of the ACD that the leaders of Asia and Europe were all united in a resolve to chart out the future course of actions in the next decade.  We reaffirmed our strong determination for joint actions to consolidate peace, security and stability and most importantly, economic prosperity as well as respond to global and regional challenges of the 21st century.

In conclusion, I would like to express my firm belief that the discussions and talks here at this forum under the theme “One Asia, Diverse Strengths: Enhanced Partnership towards New Dynamism” would produce tangible outcomes in formulating directions for future cooperation in Asia.

I thank you for your attention.