

Please, check against delivery

**STATEMENT BY H.E.MR.BATKHISHIG BADAMDORJ,
STATE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND TRADE OF MONGOLIA AT THE UN CONFERENCE ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

20 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

It gives me a great honour and privilege to address on behalf of the Government of Mongolia the UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

My delegation warmly congratulates you, Mr. President, on your unanimous election as the President of this important Conference and pledges its unconditional support and cooperation in the discharging of your onerous responsibilities.

Taking this opportunity let me also express our sincere appreciation to the host of the Conference, the Government of Brazil and the UN, for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference and warm hospitality extended to us in the magnificent city of Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

In 1992 Rio hosted the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Conference concluded with the Earth Summit, at which leaders of 105 nations demonstrated their strong commitment on sustainable development. Two decades later we are gathered again in Rio de Janeiro to renew our political commitment for sustainable development, take stock of the current progress and remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges.

The delegation of Mongolia strongly believes that the Conference will further strengthen political will for sustainable development and yield balanced and pragmatic results.

Over the past twenty years international sustainable development process has achieved positive results. However, much more needs to be done. International community still faces many challenges in its efforts to realize sustainable development. Multiple new challenges, such as financial, food and energy crisis, natural disasters, environmental degradation have emerged, making the pursuit of sustainable development more difficult.

Climate change, drought, land degradation and desertification have emerged as one of the serious challenges facing humankind today. Climate change is a global challenge that requires urgent action on many fronts. It poses a serious threat to sustainable development and the future of our planet. No one nation can solve climate change challenges alone as it has no boundaries. The global response including financial resources and modern technology transfer, would enable developing countries to effectively pursue their sustainable development agenda.

Poverty and unemployment among the youth are yet another serious challenge. Many of seven billion people living on our fragile planet are short of food, water and the security they need.

As a representative of the landlocked developing country I wish to underline also the importance of addressing the special needs and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries.

Continued and deepened commitment towards sustainable development requires an efficient and comprehensive approach to all these challenges. It also requires strong partnership of all stakeholders.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

Mongolia was one of the first countries to support the outcomes of the 1992 Earth Summit and its commitments towards sustainable development. The Government established the National Council for Sustainable Development in 1996 headed by the Prime Minister as a main coordinating mechanism for sustainable development. A number of policy documents, including Mongolia's Action Program for the 21st century, MDG-based Comprehensive National Development Strategy have been developed and adopted. These documents were developed in close collaboration and broad participation of non-government organizations and civil society.

Over the past 20 years since the Earth summit the Government of Mongolia has been actively pursuing the socio-economic policy aimed at achieving its sustainable development goals.

Significant achievements have been reached in developing a legal environment for sustainable development. Policy documents were formulated and adopted on climate change adaptation and mitigation, water and forest conservation and combating desertification. We made progress in providing ecologically clean products for the population and alleviating the poverty. A steady economic growth at an average 8 percent annually allowed us to reduce poverty in 2011 by 9 points reaching 29.8 percent against 2009.

The economy is rapidly growing due to the booming mining industry. However, the economy has become too dependent on mining sector, turning its structure more vulnerable. An increasing negative impact is observed on environment and human health, degradation of pasture of nomadic livestock, and a shortage of water resources as a consequence of the use of ineffective outdated machinery and technology in the extractive industry. Therefore, the Government of Mongolia is committed to develop a green economy as one of the indispensable pillar of sustainable development.

The Government is also pursuing the policy of effective utilization of renewable energy resources. We are aiming to develop solar, wind and hydro energy resources and advance the goal to ensure the supply of 20 percent of our energy demand by renewable energy sources by 2020.

In conclusion I wish to express once again my delegation's strong believe that the Conference will yield positive results for the sake of all those living on our planet.

Thank you for attention.