

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. M. ENKHBOLD,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MONGOLIA AT THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 16-19 JUNE 2009**

Distinguished guests and delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mongolia is following the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in 2005 in its disaster prevention, preparedness, response and risk reduction activities.

We are confident that the successful implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, the international strategy on disaster reduction will substantially reduce disaster losses in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets and in development achievements of country.

The priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action have been incorporated into the Comprehensive National Development Strategy based on Millennium Development Goal of Mongolia for 2008-2021 and being implemented.

As a result of extreme continental climate and global climate change, Mongolia predominantly experiences drought, dzud, and desertification, severe snow and dust storms, steppe and forest fires which cause human, environmental and economic losses.

Considering types and specifics of disasters occurring in country, Mongolia has developed policy documents such as “The State Policy for Disaster Protection” and “The National Program on Strengthening Disaster Management Capacity” improving legal environment of national strategy on disaster management.

The State Emergency Commission that has the responsibility to coordinate immediate disaster prevention, rescue, response and recovery was established under the Government with the representatives of Governmental executive authorities and functions regularly.

The measures taken by the Government of Mongolia to implement the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action include approving “Disaster risk and vulnerability assessment procedure” and establishing the **National Council for Protecting Steppe and Forest from Fire** with wide involvement of the governmental organizations and civil society.

The latest scientific and technological progresses are used for strengthening disaster information and communication network and creating disaster database. The satellite images are applied for identifying forest fires of remote areas.

The campaign to teach young generation for traditional methods and knowledge on forecasting hazardous phenomena, to publish manuals, handbooks and recommendations for disaster preventing based on herders’ experience, observation and scientific analysis and researches and to disseminate through media widely and effectively is being organized.

In according to the survey of the last 60 years, the average annual increase of the air temperature by 1.9-2.1 Celsius influences to the nature increasing desertification, pasture

land degradation and drying up lakes, rivers and springs. Taking into account climate change and desertification, the Government of Mongolia is taking step by step disaster risk reduction comprehensive measures like improving pasture management, digging out wells, restoring springs and streams, increasing irrigated agriculture and initiating index based livestock insurance.

The involvement of private sector and civil society, the collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders are essential in disaster risk reduction though the primary responsibility rests with governmental agencies. The Government of Mongolia intensively will work at national and international level to implement the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action. I am confident that UN and member States will cooperate with us actively in this field.

I would like to request the international community to accept the call of the Government of Mongolia to take into account the desertification, dust storm and sand movement caused by climate change covering not only the territory of Mongolia, but also threatening neighboring and regional countries and to make collaborative efforts against them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I would like to wish more success for your activities on implementing Global Platform for Disaster Risk reduction.

Thank you for your attention.