STATEMENT BY MR. ANKHBAYAR NYAMDORJ
STATE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF MONGOLIA AT THE 11th ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific”

(Bangkok, February 20-23, 2024)

Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Ms. Armida Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to commend the current forum for its pivotal role in regional follow-up and review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, serving as a crucial milestone on the way to the Summit of the Future to guide us towards a more sustainable path for the present and future well-being.

The recent global multiple challenges such as the pandemic, climate change, geopolitical conflicts, financial and debt crises, poverty, and hunger have substantially impeded the advancements made towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UN Report 2023 reveals that a mere 12 percent of the SDG targets are on track, with 50 percent exhibiting insufficient progress and the remaining 30 percent experiencing a stagnation or in some cases, regression.

Mr. Chair,

It is a critical time to be responsible as warned by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Committed to enhancing its national contribution to global efforts in achieving the SDGs, Mongolia presented its second Voluntary National Review in July 2023. Our country has made notable progress on 15 SDGs, including reducing hunger, improving quality of education, and ensuring gender equality.
More efforts should be made in the implementation of the goal for poverty reduction. In this regard, The Government of Mongolia has taken strong measures by introducing progressive income tax, various tax exemptions, subsides to bolster job creations and resettlements in rural areas, and granting concessional loans to SMEs. Moreover, the Government presented forward-thinking national commitments to accelerate the implementation of SDGs in September 2023.

Mongolia is effectively implementing the interrelated national movements such as "Billion Trees" "Food Supply and Security", and “Healthy Mongolians” to bolster efforts towards accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 

Mongolia became one of the first countries to adopt the SDG Finance Taxonomy in 2023, focused on increasing foreign and domestic investment. In addition, the Government is developing a new concept of regional development as defining economic priorities and declared 2024 as the year to support regional development.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to highlight the important role of the Road Map in implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific towards promoting balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development through regional cooperation. It serves as a vital support mechanism for a diverse spectrum of nations, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS), countries in conflict and post-conflict countries and others with special needs. It aims to place gender equality and women's empowerment as a central issue of the regional policy agenda as well.

Mongolia is fully committed to protecting and promoting the interests of LLDCs. Currently serving as the Vice-Chair of the Group of LLDCs in New York and the Co-chair of the Inter-governmental Preparatory Committee for the Third UN Conference on LLDCs, to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2024, Mongolia sees the upcoming conference as a timely opportunity to unlock the full potential of LLDC, paving the way for a more equitable and prosperous future through the adoption of a renewed development framework tailored to the special needs of these countries.

Taking this opportunity, I wish to emphasize that the research driven by science-based actual data is needed to overcome the unique challenges in developing countries, particularly LLDCs. Therefore, I would like to invite the Member States to support the activities of the International Think Tank for LLDCs, based in Ulaanbaatar, and call upon the fellow LLDCs that have not yet ratified the Multilateral Agreement on the Establishment of an International Think Tank for LLDCs to do so.

Mr. Chair,
Sustainable development and peace are inseparable; one cannot exist without the other. This is one of the most memorable phrases in the preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The solutions to these interconnected challenges require collective and concerted action.

In order to contribute to strengthening peace and security, cooperation, and mutual trust in Northeast Asia, Mongolia annually hosts the International Conference on Northeast Asian Security “Ulaanbaatar Dialogue” to address a broad range of issues, including security, energy, infrastructure, green development, and opportunities for humanitarian cooperation. It has become the most prominent confidence-building mechanism in the region.

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We fully agree that the impacts of climate change threaten to increase hunger and poverty.

The UN report underscores that women and girls are more affected by the adverse impact of climate change. In this regard, Mongolia successfully organized the Female Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in June 2023, where the participants conducted constructive discussions on presenting solutions for pressing issues on global peace and security, climate change, and food security. In further advancing the said achievement, we have decided to convene the "World Women's Forum" in August 2024 in Ulaanbaatar. It is our belief that the Forum will provide an opportunity to hold a constructive dialogue on women’s empowerment, gender equality, climate change and the implementation of the SDGs.

Moreover, I am pleased to inform you that Mongolia has proceeded with preparations for hosting the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD (COP17) in 2026.

I hope that the member states will support and participate in these important events to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm Mongolia’s unwavering commitment to continue its active engagement in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Asia-Pacific region.

I thank you for your attention.