Country Statement – Mongolia (RESAP ICC29)

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of Mongolia, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this important session of RESAP ICC29.

Mongolia is among the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
In recent years, we have experienced more frequent and severe droughts and dzuds. These extreme events have had devastating impacts on agriculture, pastoral livelihoods, and food security, while also placing pressure on ecosystems and the social and economic stability of our communities. For herders, drought means lack of pasture, loss of livestock, and risk to their only source of income. For ecosystems, it means slow recovery and long-term degradation.

To address these challenges, Mongolia has been strengthening its drought monitoring and early warning systems. A key initiative in this regar
d is the Drought Watch System, developed under ESCAP's Regional Drought Mechanism. Since becoming operational in 2019, the system has used satellite data to provide real-time drought monitoring and support timely decision-making.

The Drought Watch System provides assessments at multiple time scales — 10-day, monthly, and seasonal. It applies several drought methods, allowing us to detect spatial and temporal variations. This comprehensive approach enables early detection of drought conditions, making it possible to take preventive and proactive measures.

While we have made progress in developing our Drought Watch System, there are still important areas where improvement is needed.
First, we need to strengthen the system with advanced technology. Expanding the use of satellite data, remote sensing, and artificial intelligence will allow us to better predict and monitor drought conditions. We also aim to improve real-time data collection through automatic weather stations, and to provide user-friendly platforms so that farmers and herders can directly access timely forecasts.
Second, capacity building is essential. Training local experts and extension workers, and empowering communities to actively participate in monitoring, will make the system more sustainable and effective. Regional knowledge-sharing is also important so that we can learn from best practices in other countries.
Third, institutional integration remains a priority. Drought early warnings should not stand alone but be directly linked to our disaster risk management, agriculture, and water policies. Stronger collaboration across agencies and sectors will ensure timely and coordinated responses.
However, we continue to face significant challenges. The lack of modern technology limits the accuracy and reliability of our system. Financial constraints also hinder our ability to upgrade equipment, maintain infrastructure, and build long-term sustainability. Without predictable financing, we risk remaining dependent on short-term donor support, which creates gaps when projects end. Furthermore, many rural communities still lack access to reliable internet or mobile services, making it difficult to deliver information where it is most needed.

Therefore, we call for stronger international cooperation, technical assistance, and financial support to bridge these gaps. By working together, we can ensure that drought monitoring and early warning systems truly serve those who are most vulnerable, and that no community is left behind.

Looking ahead, Mongolia is exploring the integration of artificial intelligence into the Drought Watch System. By leveraging AI algorithms, we aim to improve the accuracy of drought forecasts, which will allow us to strengthen planning and response strategies and build greater resilience against future risks.

At the same time, Mongolia faces another pressing challenge — air pollution. This is especially severe in our capital, Ulaanbaatar. During winter, daily average PM2.5 levels can rise up to 27 times higher than the World Health Organization's safe limit. This pollution mainly results from the widespread use of coal-burning stoves in the ger districts. The impacts are not only environmental, but also a grave threat to human health, particularly for children and vulnerable populations.

Addressing this problem requires a multifaceted approach — introducing cleaner energy sources, promoting improved heating technologies, and raising public awareness.

In this regard, Mongolia highly values its cooperation with ESCAP and KOICA. We particularly acknowledge the Pandora initiative on air pollution monitoring, which has significantly strengthened Mongolia's capacity to collect, share, and utilize high-quality environmental data. This initiative has allowed us to better understand the connections between air quality, health, and climate change. Pandora is a clear example of how data-driven regional collaboration can deliver tangible solutions to shared challenges.

Distinguished delegates,

Looking forward, Mongolia sees three priorities:

Enhancing regional cooperation — especially in technology transfer and capacity building;

Strengthening financing — for climate resilience and disaster risk reduction;

Expanding initiatives — such as Drought Watch and Pandora network, to address wider environmental and socio-economic challenges.

In addition, Mongolia is committed to advancing climate adaptation measures. We are implementing policies to improve water management, promote sustainable agriculture, and strengthen disaster risk reduction. These efforts aim not only to reduce climate risks but also to ensure the well-being of our people and the stability of our society.

We also recognize the importance of international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and capacity building. Mongolia is committed to sharing our own experiences and learning from global best practices in order to enhance our resilience to climate-related risks.

In conclusion, Mongolia reaffirms its strong commitment to collaborative action in addressing climate change, drought, and air pollution. Only through collective and coordinated efforts can we protect livelihoods, secure food systems, and build a more resilient and sustainable future for all our communities in the region.

Thank you.