

## **WORK UNDERTAKEN AND FURTHER ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY MONGOLIA WITH RESPECT TO SDG**

### **A. Work undertaken within the framework of the implementation of SDGs.**

1. With the support from UNDP, we, the National Statistical Office of Mongolia (NSO), has made an initial assessment of the availability of SDG monitoring indicators covering both the official and administrative data sources in conjunction with national and international consultants. According to criteria used for the assessment, namely readily available, available after little effort, available after more effort, available if data collection changed, from external institutions, not clear, and grey on standby, the assessment has covered a total of **211** indicators excluding **13** out of 224 indicators (defined internationally at that moment) that are not available to be estimated in Mongolia.
2. A National Committee on SDGs headed by the Prime Minister of Mongolia and composed of Ministers of Ministries in charge of the implementation of SDGs has been established.
3. According to a Decree by the Prime Minister, 9 Task Forces entrusted with determining national SDG indicators, methods and data sources have been set up under the supervision of the National Committee. Representatives from the government and non government organizations, research institutions, and professional associations take part in the work of the Task Forces.
4. The Task Forces have accomplished the tasks of defining the national monitoring indicators, identifying the data sources and methods for estimation of the national and global indicators and assessing their availability, preparing benchmark and target indicators, and mainstreaming with the national policy documents. As a result, we have deducted 13 indicators irrelevant to Mongolia out of 241 global SDG indicators and increased the remaining 228 indicators to 335.
5. The NSO, being independently in charge of the Task Force on Assessment of the Availability of the SDG Monitoring Indicators and Methods, has assessed the availability of official statistics for the 241 indicators, defined by the Inter Agency Expert Group on SDGs in March 2016, and of the methods for estimation of these indicators. The findings from the said assessment are:
  - In terms of methodology: methods for estimation of 56 percent or 135 out of 241 SDG indicators are available to be employed while those for the remaining 44 percent or 106 are not clear and available yet.
  - In terms of SDG monitoring indicators: when we have assessed the availability of official statistics for 228 indicators by omitting 13 not applicable to Mongolia out of 241 SDG indicators, we find that 71 indicators are available (of which 60 are readily available and 11 could be available after some estimations are made) while 157 are not available and need efforts to generate data sources, to develop methods for estimation, to incorporate additional questions into survey questionnaires and statistical forms, and to conduct a special survey.

6. Mongolia, being selected as one of the 8 beneficiary countries of the Project: Data Eco Mapping System, implemented by UNDP, is involved in the project activities. Under the project, the NSO has taken part in a mapping exercise undertaken by UNDP Mongolia to identify the feasibility of producing the indicators, not available from the official statistics, using non official data sources (unconventional data sources).
7. In order to use for the statistical operation, to provide users with timely, reliable and quality services, and to make available the SDG monitoring indicators as detailed and disaggregated as possible, the NSO has embarked on linking its statistical database to those held by the government organizations, researched around 40 databases in over 30 government organizations and their features, commenced an assessment of the said databases, and made an agreement on data exchange with relevant authorities. Also, we have linked the Statistical Household Database to the Civil Register and the Health Database and reconciled the data gaps.
8. The NSO have attended national and international dialogues, meetings and workshops by preparing the papers and presentations related to SDGs; defined and assessed the SDG indicators in cooperation with relevant authorities and sent our comments to the regional commission and UNSD, translated the first version of the SDG monitoring indicators into Mongolian and sent them to relevant authorities, and taken part in the work of the High Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, representing the Asian region.

## **B. Further activities to implemented in the near future with respect to SDGs**

The NSO, the Ministry of Finance, and the National Development Authority need to carry out the following activities in the near future. They are as follows:

- To restructure and reshuffle the Task Forces, established according to the Decree 44 of the Prime Minister in connection with the recent Government restructuring;
- To have the ministries and the government organizations prepare the benchmark and target indicators in line with their policy documents;
- To make an assessment of data sources for the monitoring indicators once the national and global SDG indicators have been endorsed;
- To research and develop the methods for estimating the national and global SDG indicators;
- To generate the data sources for those not-available SDG indicators;

- To make a comprehensive assessment of official statistical forms, to add necessary indicators to them, and to study the feasibility of estimating some indicators;
  - To make an extensive assessment of the administrative forms, used by the ministries and government organizations, to add necessary indicators to them, and to study the feasibility of estimating some indicators; and
  - To identify the potential use of unconventional data sources (big data).
- To carry out publicity and advocacy activities towards SDGs in conjunction with government and non government organizations, local and research institutions; and
  - To commence producing the SGD monitoring indicators.

National statistical office, Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar