

SUSTAINABILITY OUTLOOK OF MONGOLIA













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The Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) of Mongolia is the focal point institution with the goals of promoting green and sustainable development through the enhancement of ecosystem capacity, ensuring ecological balance, sustainable use and rehabilitation of natural resources, to ensure the human rights to live in a healthy and safe environment by fostering the cooperation and efforts of stakeholders including business entities and government organizations.

REGULATORY AGENCY OF GOVERMENT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL STATISTICS

The National Development Agency (NDA) is a Government regulatory agency under the Prime Minister of Mongolia which aims to ensure the country's economic stability, develop and implement an integrated development and investment policies. NDA is the coordinating body that leads the translation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Mongolia Sustainable Development Vision 2030 into a Medium-Term Development Plan nationally, subnationally and across sectors by identifying priority development areas and sectors that will address cross-cutting issues and ensure sector alignment.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) is an independent agency under the supervision of the Parliament. The mission of the National Statistical Office (NSO) is to provide state, government and public users with reliable and accurate economic, social and population data and information that is immune to political influence and scientifically feasible and acceptable. Main functions: to collect, compile and analyze the official statistics; to coordinate with government agencies while receiving statistical information from various ministries and agencies; to introduce international standards and methodologies; to conduct surveys and thematic studies; to conduct population and housing census every 10 years; to capture all entities in the recording of the business register; to improve the data dissemination system and services; to monitor the accuracy of official statistics; to co-operate with international organizations and other national statistical services.



The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the United Nations' regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The largest regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional think-tank offering courntries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region. The Commission's strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is reinforced and deepened by promoting regional cooperation and integration. ESCAP's research and analysis coupled with its policy advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to governments aims to support countries' sustainable and includive development ambitions.

FOREWORD BY MONGOLIA

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, we are delighted to present the Sustainability Outlook of Mongolia (SOM), as an analytical framework for policy development and implementation, monitoring and planning at the national level. This analytical framework is designed in an integrated and coherent manner to facilitate achievement of the 2030 sustainable development goals (SDGs). National governments around the world have been challenged to meet 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), which necessitates substantial resources and efforts, within a 15-year timeframe. In this context, the SOM brings us a novel approach utilising systems thinking that acknowledges the strong interlinkages between SDGs, and introduces the idea of leverage point, where constructive actions can channel a network of changes influencing several of SDGs simultaneously. The SOM's approach highlights the basis for integrating government policies and actions with Mongolia's international obligations and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda while altering the narrow sectoral strategies and institutional ambitions.

As such, the SOM presents the outcome of fruitful cooperation of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) with the National Development Agency (NDA), the National Statistical Office of Mongolia (NSO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP). The very process of developing SOM since early 2017, through multiple forums and workshops, has set an exemplary example of collaboration between these key institutions mandated to lead SDG implementation in Mongolia. On the other hand, we acknowledge that the work on the SOM has not been easy, as it is pioneering the complex analytical approach applied through step-wise approach at the national level. However, we learned from the process and obtained essential lessons that can be useful to other governments in their efforts for SDG integration at the national level.

I would like to extend the gratitude of the Government of Mongolia to the secretariat of ESCAP for their professional guidance and technical assistance in the SOM development, and recognize the SOM team work of MET for the overall coordination and integration of analytical materials of the NDA team for the reliable support and contributions throughout the process and for the NSO for meticulous work on SDG statistics and data presentation in the SOM document.

For demonstration purposes, the SOM presents an analysis of the current standing of Mongolia in each of the SDGs, with defined leverage points where the most effective measures should be taken to achieve multiple impacts and offers specific recommendations for priority development sectors. Therefore, the SOM provides important hints for policies and decision-making for the Government of Mongolia to follow-up at the mid-term planning process.

Lastly, it is important to highlight that the SOM is a living document, which should be updated as necessary to continue supporting decisions and actions on SDG implementation in Mongolia. The Government of Mongolia is committed to use the approach and the SOM results for further SDG planning, monitoring and reporting purposes and share our experiences regionally and globally.

I am sure SOM marks the beginning of next phase of the close partnership between the Mongolian Government and the ESCAP for communicating SOM results and putting the environmental conservation at the heart of SDG implementation, and we are looking forward to working side-by-side with SDG stakeholders to make Mongolia both sustainable and green country.

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FOREWORD BY ESCAP

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provide countries with an ambitious development agenda to leave no one behind. As countries grapple with this complex and integrated development agenda, building a reliable evidence base to take stock of where we stand, to measure progress, to help identify priorities and to address the interlinkages and tradeoffs will be a vital element of success.

The Sustainability Outlook of Mongolia (SOM) is a comprehensive evidence base of the country's sustainable development, providing an overview of the green and sustainable development processes, analyzing progress in the implementation of the SDGs and identifying priority areas for action. We hope that the report is a helpful tool for aligning national objectives and priorities with the SDGs and for helping identify some of the priority areas for integrated action in further policy dialogues and respective actions.

Three years into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, Mongolia shows encouraging signs of progress on many SDGs. However, on some SDGS – including poverty, inequality, decent work, responsible consumption and production, and land management – the country must redouble its efforts or risk moving further away from the 2030 Targets. Special attention must be called to poverty. Following substantial improvement measured from the year 2000, Mongolia's poverty rate increased from 21.6% to nearly 30% between 2014 and 2016, resulting in a dramatic regression from the SDG target. Without focused actions to reverse this regression, Mongolia risks serious obstacles to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Imbedded in the SOM are ways and means of analyzing and visualizing complex data and information including the SDG Baseline assessment – used for the very first time at national level – as well as an innovative system-thinking approach. More than the methodologies, however, the multi-stakeholder, cross government and cross sectoral participatory process has enabled the SOM to deliver a common vision of progress, challenges, priorities and pathways forward that provides the basis for stronger cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in implementation of the SDGs.

ESCAP is pleased to have worked with the Government of Mongolia on the Sustainability Outlook of Mongolia (SOM). We commend the Government of Mongolia for its forward-looking approach to development planning, its leadership in piloting the Sustainability Outlook methodology, and its commitment to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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The Sustainable Outlook for Mongolia (SOM) was initiated, developed and coordinated by the Government of Mongolia through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) in collaboration with the National Development Agency (NDA) and the National Statistics Office (NSO) and with guidance and the technical assistance provided the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The diversity of the issues covered by this report required the collaboration of a large community of experts and practitioners based both in Mongolia and broadly in the region Asia Pacific and beyond. The Government of Mongolia and ESCAP acknowledge the contributions made by more than 250 experts towards the preparation of this report, including through desk reviews and the national consultation processes.

Experts of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have provided essential contributions during national consultations, specifically to the section on Sustainable Water Management in Chapter 3. The content of SOM is also building up on some recommendations of the Environmental Performance Review, which was prepared in a parallel process by international experts of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). In addition, Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth (SINGG) has provided essential contributions.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AICT – Authority of Information, Communication and Technology CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity CBO - Community-Based Organization CC - Climate Change CHD - Center for Health Development CTF - Committee on Trust Fund DPPD - Development Policy and Planning Division EBRD - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development EIC - Environmental Information Center ENRMD - Environment and Natural Resource Management Department EPR – Environmental Performance Reviews GASI - General Agency for Specialized Inspection GGGI - Global Green Growth Institute GHG - Green House Gas GCF - Green Climate Fund LLC – Limited Liability Company LULUCF – Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry LP- Leverage Point MEA - Multilateral Environmental Agreement MoF – Ministry of Finance MET – Ministry of Environment and Tourism MFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs MLSP - Ministry of Labor and Social Protection MJHA - Ministry of Justice and Home Affair MoH - Ministry of Health MECSS - Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport MCUD - Ministry of Construction and Urban Development MoE – Ministry of Energy MMHI - Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry MMRA - Mongolian Marketing Research Association MoD – Ministry of Defense MEGDT – Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism MED - Ministry of Economic Development NAPCC - National Action Programme on Climate Change NGDP - National Green Development Policy NGO - Non-Governmental Organization NGC - National Gender Commission NHRC - National Human Rights Commission NSO – National Statistics Office NDA – National Development Agency NAMEM – National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring

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