

First of all, the Mongolian CSOs network for SDGs appreciates the Government for their cooperation and inclusion of the network during the **preparations** of VNR.

However, we have several demands based on our joint report on the implementation of SDGs.

- First, disaggregated data are still not fully available on all targets. No work has been done to plan and budget activities to implement the SDGs. The Government needs to **ensure** that all SDGs, targets and indicators are fully incorporated and defined in the Mongolian Sustainable Development Vision-2030, the Government policies and programs including activities and programmes of the various line Ministries.
- Because of lack of integrated policy approach, there are serious contradictions of interests within the government institutions and bodies at all levels, between the various line ministries; and between local and national development programs and projects, for example, the contradictions between mining and environment. The Government needs to **establish** a structure and mechanism to implement integrated policy approach to ensure coordination and coherence of various policies within the social, environment, economic and governance paradigms of SDGs.
- It's common that the public interest issues which are supposed to be discussed and decided jointly by CSOs are attempted to be resolved by one party. Therefore, we urge the Government to **institutionalize** the participation of CSOs in the SDGs implementation to ensure our regular participation in developing, planning, assessing and monitoring of development policies. Otherwise you will continue to leave people behind.

Follow up questions:

1. What are the VNR follow-up plans of the Government of Mongolia?
2. When will the Government complete defining the targets and indicators to measure the implementation of SDGs?
3. What is the plan of Government for integration of SDGs into the socio-economic development guideline of 2020 and onwards?

Statement #2

We sincerely hope that in ten years, Mongolia will be a place that will have made substantial strides towards achieving all 17 SDGs. We congratulate the Mongolian government for their efforts on keeping implementation of the SDGs at the forefront. Pollution levels in Ulaanbaatar, where almost 50% of the population lives, have reached a deadly high: air is filled with particulate matter of 2.5 microns, enough to cross the lung barrier and seep into the blood circulatory system. Children have to pass streets where the smoke and fumes are almost palpable. This is evidenced by growing numbers of pneumonia, congenital defects, and mental disorders. This trend is affecting the growing, developing minds of Mongolia, hindering any sort of developmental growth and active participation in youth activities. Without Mongolian youth like me, who will be taking on what we have left?

We believe public access to information is a key driver of sustainable development. As part of SDG 16, it allows citizens, especially youth, to participate in

the decision-making process. Progress on this particular goal leverages all other efforts, including combating air pollution and bolstering youth capacities. There is still work to be done with regard to implementing Mongolian access to information laws. However, this can readily be improved by providing public information online to encourage active participation and setting up mechanisms for handling information requests. Free flow of information fosters progress on SDG 16 and the entire 2030 Agenda. It counters corruption and builds public trust, reinforced by free, independent media. It forms an integral part of a peaceful, inclusive, and just society, whose citizens are included in achieving positive change.

Follow up questions:

1. Will you share some strategies that will bolster youth education and involvement in the future when it comes to local and international events?
2. Considering the lack of data and insufficient allocation of funds and resources, how do you intend to combat these obstacles to achieve SDGs 16 and 13?