

7th August 2014

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. L.BOLD, MP AND  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MONGOLIA  
AT THE SEVENTIETH SESSION OF THE UNESCAP**

Mr. Chairman,  
Executive Secretary,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to convey warm greetings by H.E.Mr.Tsakhia ELBEGDORJ, President of Mongolia to the Secretariat of the UNESCAP for organizing 70<sup>th</sup> session of the commission on "Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity" and to all delegation for your support and active involvement.

Regional economic development has been increasing by the rapid growth of the international trade, foreign direct investment and the diffusion of information and communications technologies. However, the region's growing prosperity has not been shared equally and thus a theme of today's session *Regional Connectivity through shared Prosperity* is timely and vividly important.

Mongolia joined to UNESCAP's extended family 53 years ago. Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the Commission for supporting Mongolia's transition to the democracy and market economy from their very beginning and for collaborating to resolve the social and economic challenges faced by my country. We appreciate the continued support of the Commission for the new initiative and the development of the technical cooperation to develop with sustainability, reduce the poverty and to solve the current challenges facing by Asia Pacific region.

I am pleased to note that my delegation fully supports the initiatives and strategy introduced by the Commission to strengthen the regional cooperation in supporting the sustainable development for addressing the region's least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states those have yet to fully benefit from the new opportunities arising from enhanced connectivity.

As the end of Mongolia's transition to the market economy, the GDP increased by 10 fold during the past one decade. Furthermore, as a result of the strengthening and consolidation of the private sector, the country's annual growth rate projected to be above 10 percent for the next decade –one of the highest in the world. In this connection, my Government is redoubling its efforts and accords particular importance to regional cooperation to implement the major projects of the infrastructure and mining and to become a member of APEC and dialogue partner of ASEAN and to constructively engage in the East Asia Summit.

The Government of Mongolia undertaken a series of positive measures recently to sustain the rapid economic growth of the last 3 years including adoption of the new investment law, investment fund's law, law on petroleum and an amendment to the law on the mineral resources as well as law on budget transparency. We are exercising the zero tolerance of corruption and pursue legal and judicial reform.

My Government has recently adopted "State policy on the Minerals sector". Main objective of this comprehensive policy framework is to improve the quality of mineral exploration, mineral extraction and mineral processing in order to develop a transparent and responsible mining based on private sector, increase the economic returns of the

mining sector, use technologies conducive to the environment and support the innovation.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Mongolia is landlocked country, we have limited access and opportunity to participate in the regional integration and international trade on goods. In this regard, regional cooperation and common support on the facilitating the high transport and transit costs are still crucial to solve these challenges.

Mongolia is working closely with the Commission and landlocked developing countries to reduce the negative effects of the international trade and transit transport. High level international workshop on "WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation: Implications for LLDCs" has been organized by the Government of Mongolia with the cooperation of the United Nations Office for High representative for the Least Developed Country, Landlocked Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, in last June. It is my pleasure to note that it was good opportunity to introduce the activities of the International Think Tank for LLDCs which was established in Mongolia as a first international organization, define the obstacle related to the transit transport, address the positions of the Member States and to prepare the Second meeting of the UN on the Almaty Programme of Action.

I have no doubt that the future of the regional connectivity would be depending on our effective collaboration in this ever-expanding globalized and interdependent world.

Therefore, the President of Mongolia announced an initiative "Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on the Northeast Asia Security" to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the countries of Northeast Asia and in pursuit of long term goals for regional peace and stability. We hope that this dialogue would contribute to the peace and security of the Northeast Asia and reduction of the risk of the regional sustainability as well as making the decision of the economic and environmental issues.

Mongolia is looking forward to the expanded cooperation with UNESCAP. We would like to work more closely on the trade facilitation, transit transport, sustainable development, risk reduction and disaster management. As you may aware, Mongolia has joined to the "Intergovernmental agreement on Dry Port". This agreement aims to extend the Asian highway and the Trans Asian Railway, promote international recognition of dry port infrastructure, improve operational efficiency and enhance the environmental sustainability of transport in conformity with special needs of landlocked developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

One of the development priorities of Mongolia is to increase the air freight and overland transport through and over the territory of Mongolia and to improve the efficiency of the transit transportation via Asia Pacific region.

I would like to highlight that the initiative to use the diffusion of information and communication technologies for the "Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity" is crucial to implement a "From big Government to a smart Government", initiated by the President of Mongolia.

Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific performed by ESCAP was Policy documentation that widely analyzed sustainable development in the region and described the way to overcome the challenges. Availing this moment I should also like to underline that facing humanitarian crisis that are becoming even more diverse and consequential we are in a need to review lessons we learnt and explore new ideas to device up ways for innovative and effective regional cooperation on humanitarian action.

In the conclusion, Chairman, the theme which is being discussed by this session on "Balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: from integration to implementation" meets with Millennium Development Goals based on National Development Strategy of Mongolia and we are looking forward to work closely with Member States and Commission of this regions.

Thank you for your attention.