



MONGOLIA

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. CHOISUREN BAATAR
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 12TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

29 April, 2004

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to congratulate you for your excellent leadership. We are confident that outcome of the CSD12 would be important guidance and great contribution to realizing the commitments and to meeting the targets agreed to in Agenda 21 and in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, JPOI.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to note that there is some progress in achieving our goals and objectives since Johannesburg. However, we all recognize that major challenges are still remaining and much to be done. It is crucial to explore successes and failures, to identify obstacles and constrains and to exercise open and fruitful discussion how we must strengthen our efforts.

The Government of Mongolia attaches an importance to the issues of water, sanitation and human settlements which are particularly relevant in the context of addressing MDGs and which have been given a focus at this session of the Commission of Sustainable Development. In this regard, my Government has taken considerable steps to respond to our commitments. Year of 2004 has been declared as Water Year by the Government and within the observance of the Year wide range of events and activities have been carried out. The national strategies on water resource management have been reviewed and new legislation-Water Law has been adopted just a few days ago by the Parliament of Mongolia. In addition to that with a view to ensure balance between

surface water and ground water usage my Government has also approved Plan of Action on water management for the next 20 years.

An important step in creating the legal environment in the area of human settlements was adoption of the National Programme and Legislations on "Housing" in 2002 which set out a road map to improve housing supply and conditions for the urban population, particularly for poor people.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the considerable efforts exerted by the Government of Mongolia towards achieving our goals and commitment, it is still faced with enormous challenges which are beyond our capabilities. In this regard, I would like to stress following points which should be taken care of very seriously.

First, we are view of that just as environmental issues must be viewed in an holistic manner, so water issues have to be tackled in an integrated fashion and the linkages with other environmental issues set out. Conserving freshwater resources requires groups or agencies to work together in a coordinated manner. Some of the current obstacles to effective water management include the promotion of short-term rather than long-term perspectives in decision-making; and lack of the funding necessary to implement policies and decisions. Thus, we believe that the international community, including donors, international financial institutions, UN specialized agencies should extend further their support and assistance to the developing countries in realization of their national strategies and targets.

Second, the leadership of the United Nations on sustainable development should be strengthened, so as to further mobilize political will in the international community. It is essential to enhance inter-agency coordination and collaboration at all levels in building synergy with the outcomes of the UN conferences.

Third, our tasks and targets are very clear that it is only about to ensure realization of goals and commitments set by all stakeholders. My delegation believes that review and monitoring of implementation is important and CSD should continue to play a crucial role in taking responsibility of monitoring of implementation of Agenda 21 and JPOI.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is confident that this constructive deliberations and discussions at the CSD 12 will be useful and fruitful one in our endeavors to achieve MDGs, outcomes of JPOI, including goals in water, sanitation and human settlements issues.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.