

Development Dialogue #4:
**“MONGOLIA’S NATIONAL GREEN
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY”**

Summary Report

UNDP jointly with the Ministry of Environment and Green Development launched its Development Dialogue #4 on "Mongolia's National Strategy on Green Development" on 29th of March. The fourth Development Dialogue was a part of the Development Dialogues of 2012-2013 series, under which UNDP is hosting a series of discussions on key development issues affecting Mongolia. The overall aim of the Development Dialogues was to bring together and initiate discussions among key stakeholders to forge a better understanding of development issues and share international best practices to help inform policy making in Mongolia. These Development Dialogues are intended to support evidence-based policy formulation in Mongolia by providing a platform for discussion, exchange of analyses, and sharing international good practices on key development issues. Three of the four Dialogues have been fruitful in facilitating productive discussions and garnering interest from representative of Mongolian Parliament, civil servants, international organizations as well as academics and the media.

The purpose of the fourth dialogue was presentation and discussion of a strategy, drafted by the Ministry of Environment and Green Development with assistance of UNDP Mongolia. This event brought together 110 representatives from Government, international development organizations, civil society and academia.

H.E. S.Oyun, Member of Parliament and the Minister for Environment and Green Development, Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, Resident Representative, UNDP, Mr. Tulga B., Vice Minister for Environment and Green Development, Mr. Khuldorj B., Vice President, Ulaanbaatar Science University and Mr. Tsedendamba L., National Development Institute were among the panelists. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Adyasuren Ts., Advisor to the Minister for Environment and Green Development.

Opening the discussion, Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, UNDP Resident Representative stated that the concept of green growth is firmly located in the context of inclusive green growth, which embraces the social, economic and environmental pillars of growth and is based on the principles of inclusiveness, equity and sustainability. She mentioned also that a holistic approach to green growth is important, especially in the Mongolian context, where the main threats to the environment include over-exploitation of forests, land degradation, water and air pollution, loss of biodiversity, and environmental damage due to mining. Mongolia is also suffers from a growing disparity in income and this has given rise to various elements of social unrest, including increased alcoholism, domestic violence and unfettered migration to urban centers.

The resident representative pointed that the future of successful, inclusive green growth lies with policies that are able to navigate the trade-offs between the various competing economic, social and environmental factors, policies that are able to generate alternatives that help weigh costs and benefits to the economy, environment and society simultaneously. This requires both a long-term vision for the country and the necessary political will to make the right choices for Mongolia.” She further emphasized that Mongolia needs to not only focus on “green” development but on “greening” human development too.

H.E. S. Oyun, Minister for Environment and Green Development in her opening remarks has mentioned that *Rio+20 Sustainable Development meeting highlighted the need for comprehensive look at the coherence and impacts of the economic, social and environmental issues in order to ensure sustainable future for the present and future generations and Rio+20 placed an emphasis on the notion of a ‘green economy’ as being one of the key tools to ensure sustainable green development and to eradicate poverty. As part of the response from Government for Mongolia, “National Green Development Strategy” is drafted and the Ministry of Environment and Green Development leads this process with support from UNDP Mongolia.* Stress was given for collaboration and cooperation between Government, researchers, citizens, CSOs and private entities in successfully achieving the green development in Mongolia.

Following the opening remarks, Mr.Chuluun T., Director General of the Department of Green Development Policy and Planning, MEGD made a presentation on the draft Green development strategy document.

The panelist discussion that followed the presentation covered number of areas. Among them are:

- In each one of the phases, there needs to be certain goals and targets. The draft “National Green Development strategy” goals and targets need to be measurable.
- During the implementation of the “National Green Development Strategy” public participation is very important.
- The prioritization of the economic sectors to transform to green development is very important.

Key points from the discussions are summarized below:

Comments and feedbacks on general draft “National Green Development Strategy” discussions:

- Participants emphasized that the MEGD should focus on introducing energy efficiency mechanisms, modern production technologies and good practices that can support the efficient use of energy, water, raw materials and that can help in reducing the waste and improve the reuse and recycling processes.
- Government commitment and actions are needed in regards to the funding of the strategy implementation and investments
- Energy and water sectors need to be set as priority issues in the Mongolia’s green development context. Same goes for education, as people’s understanding and knowledge play important role on their actions.
- Ensure corporate social responsibility in the transformation to the green development. Provide the green development action plans for each sector.
- Incorporate “good governance” as another pillar for the green development of Mongolia.
- There is high recognition and strong focus from the society on the Government’s role of taking necessary measures to achieve the successful transformation to a green society
- Reflect actions to tackle the water management and water pollution related issues.
- Support the institutionalization of environmental performance assessment systems for entities.
- Support in building the capacity for green engineering and green educators

Additional goals and criteria that should be included on the draft strategy:

- The “National Green Development Strategy” needs to coherent with the policies and programmes that are being implemented in Mongolia. Criteria for goals and targets needs to be set. The issues related to the funding of the strategy needs to be tackled.
- Mongolia is profound in policy making. However, the policy implementation needs to be improved. Currently, Mongolia spends about 80% of its time on policy making and 20% on policy implementation. This practice needs to be changed and policy makers need to focus on the policy implementation. Also the same issues persist in technology transfer. Although there are a lot of information on best ideas and initiatives, there are little or no work being done in terms of skills and experiences in transferring and introducing new technologies. Highly developed, good technologies are essential in achieving green development. Conducting gap analysis during the policy making process and utilising low cost technologies for achieving green development is advised.
- The strategy needs to be as close to reality as possible and should cover poverty, unemployment, food scarcity and etc.

Overall, the discussion resulted in clear coming together on the key “National Green Development Strategy” of Mongolia and demonstrated that Mongolia would like to be a part of the global green Development initiatives.

Participants agreed that discussions on the draft “National Green Development Strategy” needs to ensure that different views and opinions are reflected in the final proposal.

Mr. B.Tulga, Vice Minister for Environment and Green Development made the closing remarks for the fourth Development Dialogue on “National Green Development Strategy”. In his remarks, he highlighted the importance of changing the mindset of people for green development besides

planting and growing trees. Also, he has noted that the Ministry of Environment and Green Development will be working on finalizing and making the strategy more transparent and easy to understand.

Further details on the series of dialogues will be available on the website www.undp.mn/Dialogues