

COUNTRY STATEMENT (MONGOLIA)

The Government of Mongolia agrees and supports the initiatives with the achieving progress the millennium development goals and improving water and sanitation access for all should be considered as a priority sector for further social and economic growth.

Mongolia is a semi-arid country, where 90.1% of the precipitation evaporates and only 9.9% forms a surface runoff, partially recharging the ground water aquifers. Approximately 20% of Mongolia's water consumption is provided from the surface water resources and the rest from the groundwater.

However, there is a huge disparity in water and sanitation provision between urban and rural population, as well as apartment and gher¹ dwellers. A survey indicates that only 17.3% and 4.8% of the rural households have access to improved drinking water sources and adequate sanitation facilities respectively. The average apartment dwellers in Ulaanbaatar city use 200-250 litres of water per day, whereas the gher dwellers use only 8-10 litres. Inequity exists in service costs as well. The rural town population and urban gher district dwellers pay three to ten times more for water, in comparison to the apartment dwellers.

The MDG targets to increase the coverage of improved water sources to 60% and reach improved sanitation services to 40% of the population in 2015.

The review of the MDG implementation status in Mongolia has shown a slow progress in general and unsatisfactory performance and weak coordination of policies aimed at implementation of MDGs. The national sanitation coverage was at 30%, while the water coverage was 47.8% nationwide, in 2009. Therefore, continued investments are needed in water supply to maintain existing facilities and increase coverage to meet targets.

In order to meet water and sanitation MDG targets to coverage of water supply and sanitation, the Government of Mongolia has been implementing number of programs and projects. The program "100000 apartments program", which is designed to improve the

¹ Traditional dwelling/felt tent

progress towards the MDG targets, is now being prepared to implement by the Government of Mongolia. It is estimated that Mongolia requires a total investment of 350 million US dollars for the “100000 apartments program”.

Investment needs in Mongolia are resizable, especially compared to current spending. Mongolia will need to significantly increase investments in order to improve water and sanitation. However, investment in water and sanitation not only provides basic services, but also reaps benefits well beyond the water and sanitation sector. Investments in water and sanitation are in fact investments in health, education, the environment and poverty reduction.

The Government of Mongolia believes that the Sanitation and Water for All Initiative can add-value to progress the MDG target on water and sanitation access in Mongolia, and would like to raise following points to be discussed at the High Level Meeting and be implemented by 2015.

1. **To develop national strategic plan:**

A national strategic plan that can streamline existing programmes and strategies into a MDG roadmap-type of Actual plan with financing commitments. The plan needs to be focused on following issues:

- Addressing to human resource capacity gaps;
- Creating strong concrete national plans and planning frameworks;
- Building leadership on bringing coherence to the sector’s plans and strategies; and
- Ensure funds and mechanisms for adequate operations and maintenance in order to sustain services and maximize cost-effectiveness of investments.

In order to develop national strategic plan and establish accurate information database which can help monitoring the progress towards the MDG targets, the Government of Mongolia wants to have financial support from the special fund offered by Global framework for Action (GF4A).

2. **Prioritization and targeting points:**

Prioritization and targeting of low-income strata of the population in service provision to reduce urban and rural disparity is needed to allocating funds and focusing on the target groups. Moreover, capacity building and awareness of the relevant Ministry officials and decision makers on the importance, challenges and opportunities relating to the water, particularly sanitation issues are significant.

3. **Increased investment and focused allocation of funds**

Mongolia needs to significantly increase investments to the sector in order to improve water and sanitation access. Moreover, continued investments are needed in water supply to maintain existing facilities and increase coverage to meet targets. However, due to limited source of fund from state budget, the Government of Mongolia demands to get more attention from the donors for supporting the water and sanitation sector of the country.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF MONGOLIA

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