OPENING REMARKS BY MR. BAT-UUL, MAYOR OF THE ULAAANBAATAR CITY

AT THE DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE ON

“SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN MONGOLIA”

Honored guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Good afternoon,

I would like to take this opportunity to give due recognition and to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, UNDP Resident Representative in Mongolia, H.E. Mr. Ts.Bayarsaikhan, Minister of Construction and Urban Development, who organize this important dialogue on pressing problems and challenges faced by Ulaanbaatar city and Mr. Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary General, Director of UNDP’s Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific, the honored guest to this event.

Capital city of Mongolia occupies only 0.3 percent of land area of Mongolia, but it homes 44% of total population of this country. 63 %of GDP is produced here, 64% of enterprises operate in the capital city and the city produces and delivers 70% of construction, trade, transport, communication, services and social and public services of entire country. As of 2014, 38% of total households in the city live in the apartments with centralized utility system and 62% of them reside in ger areas.

According to the “Updated Master Plan of Ulaanbaatar up to 2020 year” and “Urban Development Policy Framework up to 2030” the population growth for next 10 years forecasts to grow by 400 thousand.

Given to this situation, lack of clear and appropriate legal framework, increased air, water and ground pollution, unplanned expansion of ger areas and city, lack of coordination, inappropriate utilization, poor access to road and public transport, deficiency in municipal engineering infrastructure, housing and social infrastructure are the key challenges the city is to tackle to meet up the needs of growing population.

The Municipal Administration is taking actions to tackle the issues. Preparatory work for establishing Public Housing Corporation (PHC), which has an objective to supply affordable housing to city residents has completed. The Municipal Administration has developed “ Health and security index of the city and district”. This was first practice to have such index. City Budget for 2014 was approved through consultative process involving residents. Capital City Rules was developed. Residential Area Mapping has been completed. The data included in this Map is valuable baseline for many exercises such as realistic and effective planning of investments in both city and ger districts and costing of proposals and plans and used for official use by relevant ministries, agencies and state administration bodies.

We are highly satisfied with successful implementation UNDP projects in the area of Poverty Reduction, Governance and Environment, particularly for energy efficient housing project implemented in Ulaanbaatar. The Municipal Administration has interest in working with UNDP in many areas of cooperation in the future. We are willing to work with UNDP together to learn from best practices of Good Governance, where UNDP has firsthand experience from many countries all over the world, and disseminate it into our daily practice and on
urban planning, infrastructure projects such as enhancing institutional capacity of the city and upgrading and improving supply of engineering infrastructure in ger areas.

Let me conclude my remark, by expressing our thankfulness to Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, UNDP Resident Representative in Mongolia and your team for your support and cooperation for the well-being of residents of Ulaanbaatar and its development.

Fruitful outputs from this Dialogue and success in future effort.

Thank you for your attention.