Statement by high commissioner ts.amgalanbayar,

chief of national emergency management agency, Mongolia

at the third session of the Global Platform

for Disaster Risk Reduction

Geneva, Switzerland, 10-13 May, 2011

Distinguished guests and delegates of the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The frequency of natural disasters, their consequences and impacts increased for recent years in the most regions of the world, especially in Asia as a result of global climate change and disturbance of ecological balance are alarming and requiring us to intensify our activities.

Due to geographical location and continental climate, Mongolia predominantly experiences drought, dzud, severe snow and dust storms, earthquake, flood, steppe and forest fires, human and animal highly infectious diseases. The economic losses of disasters and hazardous phenomena in Mongolia increased by 10 – 14 times in comparison with previous decade, negatively influencing country’s social and economic sustainable development.

The most recent disaster of dzud of 2009-2010 with severe snowfall and extreme coldness affected 80.9 % of the total territory of Mongolia and 57.3% of whole herders families or 97.5 thousands of them, causing the death of 9.7 million livestock valued 0,5 billion of US$. 8711 herder’s families lost all of their livestock or whole livelihood subsistence, while 32756 families lost more than 50% of livestock. 1400 herder’s families left without livestock have migrated to the urban areas seeking other subsistence sources.

The Government of Mongolia pays considerable attention to strengthening state policy and improving disaster resilience, as overcoming disaster with less damage depends on those. The State Policy on Disaster Protection developed in connection with the concepts of the Hyogo Framework for Action “Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters” adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction and the Comprehensive National Development Strategy based on the Millennium Development Goal of Mongolia is being discussed by the Parliament of Mongolia. The concepts of this policy will enable social and economic sustainable development through strengthening national disaster management system, reducing vulnerability of population and ensuring the involvement of state and local administrations, professional units, private sector and individuals in disaster protection, improving disaster preparedness and building capacity.

In addition to that considerable attention has been paid to potential earthquake prevention and the National Program on Earthquake Risk Reduction and the Unified Earthquake Disaster Plan approved respectively in 2009 and 2010.

The Standing Council headed by the Deputy Prime Minister was established with the goals to conduct sophisticated research in seismic active area of Ulaanbaatar, to stock required disaster reserve, to ensure, step by step, funding for purchasing techniques and equipments, to enhance early warning system and to include the basic earthquake knowledge into school curriculum.

Mongolia intensively will work at national and international level to implement the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action, taking into consideration the importance of international collaboration, besides of involvement of private sector, civil society and individuals in disaster risk reduction though the primary responsibility rests with governmental agencies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to wish more successes for your activities on implementing the decisions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Thank you for your attention.