**Digital Development in LLDCS of Asia-Pacific and CIS**

26 September 2023, UN House

Remarks by Mr. Tapan Mishra, United Nations Resident Coordinator Mongolia at the opening session (09:30 – 10:30)

Dear Ms. B.Battsetseg, State Secretary, Ministry of Digital Development and Communications

Dear Ms. Atsuko Okuda, ITU Regional Director

Dear Mr. Dulguun, Executive Director, ITTLLDC

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to make an opening remark for the Joint Seminar on Digital Development in LLDCS of Asia-Pacific and CIS on behalf of the United Nations Mongolia.

Let me provide the bigger picture and how the work of ITU and ITT LLDC can be instrumental in enhancing digital development, thus enabling the achievement of the SDGs in Mongolia as well as other LLDCs and CIS countries.

In May 2022, the UN in Mongolia signed the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period of 2023 to 2027. Bearing in mind we only have seven years to achieve the SDGs, the Cooperation Framework’s successful implementation, which started this year, will directly contribute to SDGs achievement in Mongolia. As the blueprint of the UN’s collective work in Mongolia, the Cooperation Framework plays a transformative role to enable a coordinated approach to sustainable development, with the collective action of the whole of UN, including ITU, Government and all stakeholders.

I would like to also draw your attention to the commitment and prioritization of digital transformation by the Government of Mongolia, through the multi-year Digital Nation Strategy. In view of the Digital Nation Strategy and now with the newly signed Cooperation Framework, the UN in Mongolia has developed the Digital Cooperation Plan of Action to accelerate partnerships and collaboration with the government through the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications. It is to achieve the goals set out in the Digital Nation Strategy in areas such as digital literacy, digital connectivity, and of course, digital transformation.

There are three key priorities in the Cooperation Framework. The topic of today’s workshop, digital development, is intrinsically linked to the second priority, which focuses on Green, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth. Digital development is important for digital transformation of Mongolia, other LLDCs and CIS countries.

At the same time, I would like to highlight that we define several cross-cutting change agents in implementing the Cooperation Framework, including digital transformation. While digitalization is important for all three strategic priorities, we put special focus on application of digitalization to the strategic priority 2 – green, inclusive and sustainable growth, in alignment with Mongolian government development vision and priority, including the long-term development policy of Vision-2050.

This year, the United Nations Mongolia, in partnership with the Government of Mongolia and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, executed several digitalization efforts. The efforts included:

* organization of the 2023 Global Digital Dialogue with a focus on the role of e-commerce in facilitating digital trade and economic diversification,
* launch of the eT Ready Assessment of Mongolia to provide comprehensive assessment on Mongolia’s e-Commerce environment and specific action plan for improvement, and
* organization of the 2023 ICT Expo: Mindgolia to showcase good practices and innovative initiatives in digitalization.

Before I conclude, I would like to briefly draw your attention to the Global Digital Compact. Following the political declaration adopted at the occasion of the United Nations’ 75th anniversary in September 2020, the United Nations Secretary-General in September 2021 released his report titled “Our Common Agenda.” The Common Agenda proposes a Global Digital Compact to be agreed at the Summit of the Future in September 2024 through a technology track. This track should involve all stakeholders: governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, civil society, grass-roots organizations, academia, and individuals, including youth.

The Global Digital Compact is expected to “outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all”. Issues to be covered in the Global Digital Compact, as suggested in the Common Agenda report, include digital connectivity, avoiding Internet fragmentation, providing people with options as to how their data is used, application of human rights online, and promoting a trustworthy Internet by introducing accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content.

The Global Digital Compact is highly relevant to topics included in this seminar, including enhancing connectivity of LLDCs. Few weeks ago, I joined the High-level Dialogue on Common Blueprint for Digital Transformation online and shared my perspectives on developing the Common Blueprint for Digital Transformation as part of the Global Digital Compact. In this connection, I would like to encourage all the stakeholders to actively participate in the development of the Global Digital Compact.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to thank ITTLLDC and ITU for organizing this meaningful seminar. I would like to also thank the Government of Mongolia, in particular the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, for hosting this seminar and demonstrating Mongolia’s strong dedication to digital transformation of its government, economy and society.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion in the seminar for the next three days.

Thank you.

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