**“ITU-ITTLLDC Seminar 2023”**

**OPENNIG SPEECH OF Dr NARANMANDAKH Tumen-Ulzii,**

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Excellency, Regional-Director, ASP, ITU

Executive-Director, ITT for LLDC,

State Secretary MDDC,

United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) Mongolia,

Distinguished Representatives,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning to you all here in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and good day to all delegations joining online.

I am truly privileged and honored to take part in the “ITU-ITTLLDC Seminar 2023”. Firstly, I would like to congratulate ITU and ITT for LLD Countries, and Ministry of Digital Development and Communications (MDDC) and Communications Regulatory Commissions (CRC) Mongolia and all stake-holders for organizing the seminar.

I also express my gratitude in-person participants and foreign representatives from ITU, LLD Countries from Asia-Pacific and Commonwealth of Independent States namely Bhutan, Laos, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mongolia.

Expanding backbone infrastructure, digital transformation, 5G deployment, cross sector regulation, and supporting innovation are key topics of national level and regional development.

The landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) represent 32 countries across the world. Due to geographical challenges, LLD Countries face issues on affordable and digital connectivity, limited international connectivity and internet access options, geographical and cross-border regulatory complexity and etc.,

During this seminar will be discuss at the 7 sessions and sessions to focused on key issues related to LLDCs digital development, challenges and possible solutions in the implementation of effeceint policy and regulation of ICT in the landlocked developing countries Asia and the Pacific and CIS region, as well as sharing of experience and strengthening of ITU and ITT for LLDCs, regional cooperation.

I hope this seminar will give us opportunities to discuss the issues, solutions, and initiatives that will contribute to the acceleration of digital development in landlocked developing countries and we expect to have fruitful and practical results from the seminar.

Distinguished Delegates,

With that, I wish you all a successful deliberation at this Seminar.

Thank you!