

**STATEMENT BY STATE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND TOURISM OF MONGOLIA
H.E. MR. BATTULGA ERKHEMBAIYAR**

**1ST SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
TO DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON
PLASTIC POLLUTION, INCLUDING IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to congratulate you for being elected as chair of INC. We look forward to your able leadership.

Our delegation greatly appreciates the Government of Uruguay for hosting this meeting and we all enjoy staying in beautiful city of Punta del Este.

We also very grateful to the UNEP Secretariat for successful organization of this INC-1 meeting.

Mongolia fully supports the development of international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including the marine environment.

The Constitution of Mongolia declares the citizen's right to live in a healthy and safe environment and to be protected from environmental pollution and loss of natural balance. In this regard, we set a goal to increase the amount of recycled waste to 30 percent in 2025 and 40 percent in 2030 in the Vision-2050 long-term development policy.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia is working to create comprehensive waste management, increase waste recycling, and introduce waste-to-energy technologies. The total amount of solid waste in Mongolia reached 2.8 million tons in 2021, which is a 5.5 percent decrease from 2020.

We have to implement measures that are based on the national circumstances of each country. And we fully support the idea that the international legally binding instrument should cover the whole life cycle of plastics in a manner that promotes resource efficiency and a circular economy.

I would like to emphasize the importance of fostering innovation, encouraging actions by all stakeholders including the private sector, and promoting cooperation at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you a successful session.