

Report of the Government of Mongolia on the implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/74/235 “Women in Development”

The Government of Mongolia has been making persistent effort to ensure gender equality, adopted, and implemented necessary legislation, strategic policy document, action plans in this regard.

In 2011, the Parliament of Mongolia has adopted Law on Gender Equality and legalized to mainstream gender issues into legislations and policies at every level.

In addition, gender equality and women empowerment issues have been reflected in broad range of laws and policies including State policy on population development /revised and adopted 2015, 2021/, Package Law on Education, Law on Employment Promotion, Law on Health, Law on Child Right, Law on Child Protection, Law on Combatting against Domestic Violence, Law on Combatting against Trafficking in person, Law on Election and “Vision-2050”, Mongolian long term development policy document.

We have made commendable progress to improve gender equality and women empowerment issue in various areas: a) legislative and policy environment has been improved b) national mechanism for gender equality has been strengthened c) gender related statistics, research work and database has been strengthened, d) budget allocation for gender related activities have been increased.

National program on gender equality has been adopted and implemented twice in 2012-2015 and 2017-2021 respectively, which have greatly affected to improve gender equality and women empowerment.

Amendment to article 14.1.1 of Criminal Code which was made on 11th May 2017 has enabled criminal liability of anyone who restricts other’s freedom, discriminate others based on their health, sexual orientation, education, religion, position, employment status, wealth, social status, gender, age, race, ethnicity, and language.

The Law on Parliamentary Elections sets quotas for women candidates from political parties and coalitions since 2005, which is an important legal provision to ensure the full and equal participation of women in decision-making on sustainable development and to support women's leadership. Subsequent amendments to the Law on Parliamentary Elections increased the quota to 30 percent in 2005, 20 percent in 2011, 30 percent in 2015, and 20 percent in 2016. In 2020, it was revised and stated that "at least 20 percent of all candidates from parties and coalitions must be of the same sex."

In the 2020 parliamentary elections, 13 women were elected to parliament,

representing 17.1 percent of all members of parliament. The cabinet formed as a result of the election consists of three women ministers. In addition, two women have been appointed Deputy Ministers.

Women are elected to 26.7 percent of province, village, capital city and district parliament, 27.8 percent of presidium members and 13.8 percent of local parliament chairmen. 35.9 percent of women are appointed to senior positions in government ministries, agencies, the capital city, aimags and districts.

Constitution of Mongolia, Labour Law, and Law on Employment Promotion prohibits any forms of discrimination, restriction and privilege in labour relation. The Labour Law, adopted in 2021, prohibits any form of harassment, violence and sexual harassment employment and labour relation. The law has become policy framework to newly regulate part-time work, home and distance work, and domestic service that will have a positive impact on women's employment.

Law on Infringement, revised on 10 January 2020, has included specific provision on punishment if anyone goes against non-discrimination principle at the workplace.

Over the past 20 years, women's employment has been steadily declining. As of the 4th quarter of 2021, the male labor force participation rate was 65.6 percent, while the female labor force participation rate was 51.9 percent. From 2022, the "Women's Employment Support Program" is being implemented. The program aims to increase women's employment opportunities, support their return to the labor market, address the employment challenges of women outside the workforce, and provide them and mothers with young children with long-term care at home with electronic and necessary skills and to increase their income through training and support.

The following policy measures are being implemented in the field of women's social protection. In 2017, the Social Insurance Law was amended to accommodate the interests of herders and women with many children. By raising the retirement age for herders by 5 years, herder women will be able to retire at 50 and men at 55. "A mother who has given birth to and raised many children is considered to have paid for her years of service and social insurance.

For mothers who have given birth to and raised many children, while calculating their pension, 1.6 years will be automatically added to their service as if they have paid social insurance contribution. In addition, social insurance contribution of mothers, who are raising their children under 3 years old, will be paid by state.

All 12 types of social welfare services cover women and out of which two of them "Benefit for Honored mothers" and "maternity benefit" are dedicated only for women. "Maternity benefits are now paid 100 percent to both voluntary as well as compulsory insured mothers and the "Paid Mother" program has been implemented since 2018,

providing MNT 50,000 per month to mothers caring for children aged 0-3. From 2020, the program is expanded to include fathers, caring for children aged 0-3 in order to make the program gender sensitive. In addition, single mothers and fathers with three or more children aged 0-18 receive a quarterly benefit which is equal to minimum wage.

In 2017, the Criminal Code was amended and domestic violence was criminalized in order to allow women to live in a peaceful environment to prevent violence, and domestic violence. Since 2017, within the framework of the implementation of the Law on Combating Domestic Violence, an inter-sectoral system for the protection of victims of domestic violence has been established at all levels, and victims have been protected and comprehensive protection services have been provided. In particular, the establishment of Multidisciplinary teams at the grassroots level has been effective in preventing and protecting victims of domestic violence. Temporary shelters and one-stop services have been established in the capital city districts, province centers, and some large villages to provide social services for the protection of victims of violence.

The Criminal Code and Law on Infringement, been in effect from the beginning of 2020 have a significant impact on the protection of women's rights by including the issue of criminal liability for perpetrators of violence.

Although our country has made significant progress in achieving gender equality, and the education level and life expectancy of women has increased, the following issues need to be addressed for girls and women:

- Women's participation at decision-making level is not sufficient enough, which is lower than Asian and world level.¹
- Women is still remain as victim of GBV. Women constitute 89.1 percent of victims of GBV.
- Women's employment rate and revenue is still lower than those of men are.
- Men is still dominant in real estate ownership and business entrepreneurship.
- Adolescent girls continue to suffer from unwanted pregnancy, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases.
- Women's role and responsibility in family is high which becomes hindrance to their development and social.

Therefore, following actions should be taken in order to empower girls and women:

¹ World Economic Forum "Gender Gap Report", 2020

- Effective implementation of policies and laws to ensure gender equality and empower girls and women
- Enhance sexual and reproductive education of adolescent girls and youth and change the current approach to education.
- Create conditions for equality for girls and women by enhancing their capabilities
- Eliminate gender-based violence, provide effective victim protection services, and implement preventive measures
- Balancing the responsibilities of men and women in family life, providing family education to adolescents and youth, and organizing public awareness campaigns
- Improving the well-being and capacity of rural girls and women.

It is critically important to strengthen capacity of women to provide them the opportunity to perform more important tasks at society as well as household level than their current responsibility.