

**STATEMENT BY H.E.MR.SUKHBOLD SUKHEE,
AMBASSADOR PLENIPOTENTIARY AND EXTRAORDINARY**
at Side event to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

**International Day of Cooperatives:
Innovative approaches to implementation of the 2030 Agenda**

13.15 - 14.30, Monday, 11 July 2016

CR 9, UN Headquarters

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you with the 2016 International Day of Cooperatives. Although cooperative is one of the most ancient forms of enterprises, its role has always been important in all times. Life of millions of people have been supported by cooperatives for hundreds of years.

Even today features of cooperatives are considered the most suited model to deliver the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals. Features of cooperatives such as democratically governed, values-based, people-focused, and locally rooted are completely in line with universal and comprehensive nature of the Agenda 2030.

Moreover, cooperatives' investment into innovative approaches and cooperatives' ability to create more jobs than other enterprises are highly supportive to transformative and inclusive characteristics of the SGDs.

Cooperatives have been playing important roles to the Mongolian economy and society.

In Mongolia, cooperatives and small and medium size enterprises represent a large and growing segment of the economy. According to the official statistics, more than two thirds of businesses registered in Mongolia are classified as SMEs. Small companies generate around 20% of Mongolia's GDP and provide employment to almost 70% of the national workforce.

The fifth national MDG implementation report issued in 2015 also states that more than 90 percent of all employers are small and medium-size enterprises with 1-9 employees.

Feasibility study of the Ministry of Industry and Trade indicates the following small and medium enterprises (SMEs) sectors are crucial for economic development, namely to manufacturing, skin and fur processing industry, cashmere processing industry, wool processing industry, textile industry, wood processing industry, metal processing, repair industry, glass and porcelain industry, meat processing industry and mineral resources exploration sectors.

However, the most common challenges for further development of cooperative enterprises such as limited access to credit and markets and lack of skilled human and technology resources need to be further addressed.

A better partnership of cooperatives with public, private and non-governmental entities has been considered as a necessary condition for success. For example, in my country, the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the main representative body of Mongolian business community, in which 70% of members are SME's, has been greatly contributing to the internal and external cooperation and partnership of cooperatives.

In line with the Agenda 2030, Mongolia has adopted its 2030 Sustainable Development Vision last February. It envisages to support employment, train the younger generation with proper knowledge and skills to have a decent work and run a private business, and reduce the unemployment rate.

Important means to achieve these goals will be

- developing skills and vocational training to the workforce including youth, based on labor market demand in the agriculture, industry, services and infrastructure projects,
- improving registration and updates on informal jobs, and
- increasing the small and medium enterprise support fund systematically till 2030 in order to strengthen their human, investment and technology resources.

We envisage to keep learning from international experience of cooperatives as in previous years in order to develop the national small and medium size industry.

Dear Friends of Cooperatives at the UN,

At the end, I wish to reiterate my congratulations with the International Day of Cooperatives and pronounce the slogan for this year: 'Co-operatives: The power to act for a sustainable future'.

Thank you!