Distinguished representatives,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen. I welcome you all today.

It is my pleasure to take part in The UN Food Systems Summit, which is marked as a "people’s summit and a solutions summit". Special thanks to management and staff who are hosting this important summit virtually at this difficult time when every country is struggling with the pandemic.

Mongolia is unique country within East Asia and Pacific region with its land-locked status, harsh climatic conditions, and food system and its security is largely dependent upon food imports to meet nutrition and dietary needs of its growing population.

Moreover, Nomadic animal husbandry sector plays utmost role in our agriculture. We have over 180,000 herder households, who source their livelihoods from their livestock, move around the pastures throughout four seasons of a year and whose business is fairly vulnerable. It means the main income of over 1 million people or 30% of total population is based on nomadic livestock sector.

The cumulative effect of Covid-19 pandemic, Dzud, and subsequent dust and snow storms that hit the country this spring has heavily impacted food and nutrition security of the people and caused significant decrease in incomes.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, prices for both domestic and imported commodities’ price has increased, 50.2% of households are faced with deficiency and imbalance of nutrients and food.

All countries are working hard to overcome the pandemic with minimal damage on their economy, and to recover the post-pandemic economy in an environment-friendly manner and to fulfill its obligations to the international community.

We are agree with the uninterrupted and smooth operation of food and agricultural production is a prerequisite for food system and security, and Government is taking measures to implement it.

Mongolia’s long-term policy “Vision 2050” sets out the goal of creating “An Inclusive, Competitive and Resilient Agri-food Systems”, which is our key priority with increasing private sector participation through enabling policies and incentives. Rejigging of food systems is both important and urgent and we will work to take a nuanced approach based on international experiences suiting our local context.

I am pleased to meet with you virtually and share our views. I have no doubts we will overcome Covid-19 pandemic soon.

Thank you for your kind attention.