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**STATEMENT BY MR. UKHNAA KHURELSUKH,
MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT, MEMBER OF
THE GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER OF MONGOLIA
AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION**

Mr. President,
Distinguished guests and participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The more and more increasing vulnerability and exposure of our planet to natural disasters, caused by the negative impacts and dramatic consequences of global climatic and ecological changes, presents critical difficulties and vital challenges to the further existence and survival of the human civilization and social and economic development.

The recurrence of these disasters reminds us of how small the world is; how big and huge our responsibility for saving and preserving the world and protecting human lives, properties and cultural heritages is; and how important the readiness and willingness of nations and states for helping each other and the timely actions and appropriate response, which meet the international requirements, of professional agencies and units are.

There are clear examples which are the consecutive earthquakes occurred in Japan in 2004; the horrible disaster, which has shocked and disturbed the world community, in which thousands of people died and perished in the coastal areas of several countries of South East Asia, Africa and Oceania by the tsunami emerged from the strong and devastating earthquake occurred in Aceh in Indonesia; and the latest typhoons and floods occurred in the USA and some countries in Europe.

Let me express my condolences on behalf of the Government and people of Mongolia to the Governments and the people of the countries affected by the disasters.

Our National Report to WCDR reflects clearly and discusses in detail the types and varieties of disasters like drought, dzud (The Dzud is a Mongolia – specific natural disaster characterized by a particularly harsh, long-lasting winter with heavy snowfalls and freezing temperature), steppe and forest fires, flood, human and animal infectious diseases and severe snow, dust storms and desertification which occur in Mongolia, their harmful consequences and difficulties in fighting them.

The international cooperation and concerted actions in disaster prevention and mitigation are required, considering the fact that disasters occur worldwide and in all countries and natural hazards and industrial accidents and their destructive consequences and calamitous after-effects are not always confined within the boundary of a single country but they can affect the regional and global safety and security and economic development.

