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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MRS. ARIUNZAYA AYUSH,
MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION OF MONGOLIA**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON THE POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

New York, 19-23 April 2021

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(On agenda item 3)

Mr.Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I would like to extend my greetings to distinguished delegates.

I would also like to express my delegation's high appreciation to the Secretary-General for the comprehensive reports.

Mr.Chair,

Mongolia has been making persistent efforts to implement Agenda 2030, has
-term policy
document.

The Government of Mongolia has established legislative framework with regard to the food security. The Parliament has adopted a Law on Food Production and Services for secondary schools. In addition, a School Lunch Program has been approved and implemented with the purpose to provide healthy and nutritious food for children. The program will cover all secondary schools by 2025.

Moreover, a Law on Social Welfare has stipulated to provide food assistance to vulnerable people in order to protect and support low-income families and citizens affected by poverty.

Providing nutritional support to the target groups with the lowest consumption allows them to get the calories they need per day from food. Therefore, since last year we have doubled the food assistance for vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food assistance program covered almost 245,000 people in 2019, out of which

To intensify our efforts to fight against COVID-19 pandemic, Mongolia has adopted a Law to combat against, prevent from and mitigate negative impact of COVID-

According to the law, the Government has made decision to increase child allowance by 5 times, which is now 100.000 tugrugs for each child who applied. Children from 0-18 years old are getting the child money support. This policy will run until July 2021. After July 2021 it will get back to previous amount, which is 20.000 tugrugs and will provide child support money to the vulnerable households.

Despite the achievements in relation to legal environment and provision of social welfare and food assistance to the vulnerable groups, we still encounter many challenges need to be addressed. These include:

- To further improve the legal environment to ensure food security, eliminate duplication and intensify effective implementation;

- To expand national safety laboratory and increase budget allocation for food security;

- To support the production of fortified and regulated food factories, and complementary foods for young children to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition among the population.

- To focus on developing environmentally friendly and green industries, especially increasing the consumption of organic food;

Distinguished delegates,

Protecting human health, ensuring food security, and promoting equal livelihoods in society not only have a positive impact on population growth and healthy ageing, but are also key factors to increase employment and reducing poverty.

Finally, I would like to express willingness of the Government of Mongolia to further strengthen our cooperation with the Member states and strengthen our cooperation with UN and its specialized agencies in order to mitigate consequences of COVID-19 pandemic.

I thank you for your attention.