

Mongolia reduced carbon emissions

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The President of Mongolia, H.E Battulga Khaltmaa announced a new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) pledge with the mitigation target of 27.2% emission reduction by 2030 to deliver on the Paris Agreement at the recent Climate Ambition Summit 2020, co-hosted by the UN, United Kingdom and France, in partnership with Chile and Italy.

According to the IMF research, when burned to generate heat or electricity, coal is 2.2 times as carbon-intensive as natural gas--that is, burning coal emits more than twice as much carbon dioxide as natural gas to generate the same amount of energy. These emissions not only degrade the environment but there is long-established evidence they are hazardous to human health.

Therefore, the Government of Mongolia would have to make tough decisions when considering policy measures to fulfil its green development commitments set in the Vision-2050, as well as under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The energy sector accounts for 50,08 per cent of the country's total emissions according to the NSO 2018 data. It aims to reduce the GHG emissions by increased renewable energy sources and improved efficiency of energy production. The Ministry of the Energy's plan is to increase renewable energy sources by 20 per cent in 2023, and by 30 per cent in 2030.

The agriculture sector contributes to 48,5 per cent of the total emissions. In order to reduce the emission in the agriculture sector, it's important to regulate and reduce the number of livestock by encouraging more efficiency in livestock production. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture is also working to upgrade the manure management.

The strategies in the construction sector to reduce emissions are to introduce more efficient and improved fuel for the "ger" settlement areas in urban centres, which has also impact on air pollution, and better insulations and retrofitting of the buildings. For this, the line ministry is working to revise the construction norms and standards.

The transport sector contributes to 6.2 per cent of the country's GHG emissions. Main tactics by the sector in the reduction of the emissions are to switch from automobile to railway in the transportation of coal, a transition to Euro-5 standard fuel and the installation of the electric heating in the trains. The ministry is also working to regulate the import of pre-owned cars.

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In addition to the above-mentioned mitigation strategies reduce GHG emissions, Mongolia is taking some measures to better adapt to climate change impacts. The melting of permafrost and glaciers and surface water shortages are among the greatest threats to the Mongolians. One of the strategies of adaptation deployed by Mongolia is to create a cascade of water reservoirs using riverbed relief to collect water from melting glaciers and snow, from extreme rainfalls to prevent flood damage and to stabilize water supply during the drought.

The United Nations welcomes Mongolia's ambitious commitment and stands ready to support the Government of Mongolia and accelerate the systemic change required to reduce emissions and build resilience.

UN Mongolia is actively engaging with other stakeholders to ensure collective and coordinated support in bringing green investment and green technologies. In particular, the UN's PAGE (Partnership for Action on Green Economy) programme brings together the expertise of five UN agencies to assist Mongolia in achieving green and sustainable development, with generous funding from the Government of Germany.

PAGE supported the National Green Development Policy (NGDP) as a basis to reframe national policies around indicators of the green economy, which was soon accompanied by an Action Plan and a Sustainable Development Vision 2030. The green development aspects have been reflected now in the Vision 2050, Mongolia's long-term strategic policy document. This translated into policy reforms in specific sectors, such as green buildings and construction, sustainable public procurement, green economy learning, sustainable finance, waste management and green trade.

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