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## “PUBLIC-PRIVATE STRATEGIES FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE AND MITIGATION OF SMEs IN MONGOLIA”

March 30 2017, Blue Sky Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

### Background and objectives

Mongolia is vulnerable to multiple hazards including storms, floods, blizzards, heavy snowfalls, wildfire, droughts and dzuds. Between 1990 and 2016, Mongolia was hit by 21 disasters which resulted in economic damages totaling almost US\$2 billion, affected 4.2 million people and disrupted the functioning of businesses and communities. Mongolia is currently updating its national disaster protection plan (2012-2020). This plan will integrate the international “Sendai Framework” into national systems and strengthen coherence of sustainable development efforts.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are at the center of socio-economic development, as they represent 98 per cent of enterprises in Mongolia, providing livelihoods for a significant share of the population. However, most of them are not resilient to the impact of disasters and remain uninformed of practical disaster risk reduction tools for long-term resilience.

This international meeting aims to identify the needs and challenges that SMEs experience before, during and after disasters in order to develop sustainable public-private strategies for disaster mitigation and resilience in Mongolia. Additionally, this international meeting contributes to the development of a Mongolia-tailored disaster risk reduction toolkit for SMEs that will provide businesses with practical tools for continuity of their operations in disaster events. The effectiveness of this toolkit will be tested and validated with SME representatives in a workshop planned for the second half of 2017.

### Intended Outcomes

- Improved understanding of SMEs disaster risk reduction needs and challenges, as well as ways to address them through the use of sustainable tools and approaches.
- Increased awareness of potential opportunities for public-private collaboration to improve disaster mitigation and resilience in Mongolia.
- Better knowledge of practical disaster risk management tools tailored to SMEs.

### About the Implementing Partners

The International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and Mongolian Employers' Federation (MONEF) are jointly hosting this international meeting.

The ILO has extensive experience implementing employment generation projects for recovery and reconstruction in post-disaster and crisis settings through its flagship programme “Jobs for Peace and Resilience”. The Bureau for Employers' Activities of the ILO (ACT/EMP) has conducted diverse projects to support the role that Employers and Business Membership Organizations could conduct in disaster-prone areas.<sup>1</sup>

UNISDR is the focal point of the United Nations system for the coordination of the global disaster risk reduction strategy. UNISDR has wide experience working with private sector leaders so as to protect businesses and society from the harmful impact of disasters.

Since 1990, MONEF has supported and promoted the role of the private sector in national development in Mongolia. MONEF is composed of 21 regional employers' associations, 12 sectoral associations and has over 8,000 business members from diverse economic sectors.

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<sup>1</sup>ACT/EMP is a specialized unit within the ILO that aims that provides support and assistance to employers' organizations in member States.