

## WEBINAR CONCEPT NOTE

# Green Entrepreneurship and Decent Jobs for Youth in Mongolia

## Background

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, young people in Mongolia were already facing significant challenges in the labour market. Economic growth over the past years has not translated into sufficient gains in decent and productive employment for young women and men in a rapidly changing world of work. In 2019, the youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) was estimated at 25.3 per cent, compared to a national unemployment rate of 10 per cent, with unemployment rates of 29.6 percent among youth aged 15-19 and 24.2 percent among those aged 20-24.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, 19.7 per cent of youth were not in employment, education or training.<sup>1</sup> The low quality of education limits the development of capabilities among young people and affects future employment prospects. When young people enter into employment, they often face low quality jobs and informal employment. The Mongolia Sustainable Development Vision 2030 therefore emphasizes the need to promote employment and skills development for young people.<sup>2</sup>

The COVID-19 crisis has led to a massive disruption of economies and labour markets across Asia-Pacific and in Mongolia, and has negatively affected the labour market prospects of youth through job disruptions from reduced working hours and layoffs, disruptions in education and training, and difficulties transitioning from school to work and moving between jobs.<sup>3</sup> Policy measures to stimulate economic growth and employment are urgently required to tackle the youth employment challenge in Mongolia including by balancing (i) the inclusion of youth in wider labour market and economic recovery measures, with (ii) youth-targeted interventions to maximize efficiency in the allocation of resources. Support measures can include the protection of youth-owned businesses and the promotion of youth entrepreneurship and sustainable self-employment, with a focus on building back better, including through a just transition to a greener economy with decent jobs for youth.

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<sup>1</sup> Labour Force Survey data available at ILOSTAT, <https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/>

<sup>2</sup> NSO and ILO (2019) Accelerating the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals through decent work: SDG monitoring and country profile for Mongolia, available at: [https://www.ilo.org/beijing/what-we-do/publications/WCMS\\_673936/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/beijing/what-we-do/publications/WCMS_673936/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>3</sup> ILO and ADB (2020) Tackling the COVID-19 youth employment crisis in Asia and the Pacific, available at [https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/WCMS\\_753369/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/WCMS_753369/lang--en/index.htm)

## Objective of the webinar

Under the aegis of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, the Government of Mongolia and the International Labour Organization organize this webinar in collaboration with the Young Entrepreneurs Council (YEC) of Mongolia to facilitate knowledge sharing among policymakers, practitioners and experts working towards the promotion of youth employment in Mongolia. The webinar aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Improve common understanding about the linkages between the promotion of youth employment and actions towards greening the economy;
- Learn about the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on youth employment and good practices and partnerships to address the youth employment challenge;
- Discuss opportunities to build a policy ecosystem in support of green youth entrepreneurship in Mongolia; and
- Identify key actions towards the promotion of decent jobs for youth in Mongolia.

## Webinar highlights

- Lessons from the COVID-19 crisis on youth employment and evidence about what works to boost youth employment.
- Insights on benefits of youth-led enterprises in green sectors such as waste management and sustainable agriculture.
- Comprehensive policy measures for increasing youth's interest in green entrepreneurship through education programmes in primary and secondary schools.
- Effective interventions to support eco-social entrepreneurs at different stages of their business, including through access to finance and other tailored schemes.
- Innovative approaches to strengthen the entrepreneurship eco-system through public-private partnerships.

## Participants

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
- Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia
- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Mongolia
- Office of the President of Mongolia
- Mayor's office of Ulaanbaatar city
- Practitioners working on youth entrepreneurship and self-employment
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism
- Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia
- Mongolian Employers' Federation
- Confederation Mongolian Trade Union

- Decent Work for Youth Network
- UN Youth Advisory Panel
- National Development Agency
- Sustainable Finance Association
- Permanent Mission of Mongolia
- Young Entrepreneurs Council of Mongolia
- International Labour Organization
- Young entrepreneurs

### Schedule (3 hours webinar):

The online webinar will take place on Zoom on **25 June 2021** at 15:00UB/9:00AM GVA time. Attendance will be by invitation. The webinar will be live-streamed on the ILO in Mongolia Facebook page. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Mongolian will be provided.

**Webinar Facilitator:** Ms Khuslen Zorigt, Head of Foreign Cooperation and Public Relations Division of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Mongolia

### Agenda:

#### UB Time

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| 15:00 – 15:20<br><br>(20 min), 5<br>min for each<br>speaker | Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ms Ariunzaya Ayush, Minister of Labour and Social Protection</li><li>● Mr Sangheon Lee, Director of the ILO's Employment Policy Department</li><li>● Mr Purevsuren Lundeg, Ambassador of Mongolia to the United Nations in Geneva</li><li>● Ms Namuun Battulga, Founder of the Young Entrepreneurs Council</li></ul>  |
| 15:20 – 16:00<br><br>(40 min)                               | Boosting decent jobs for youth: Lessons and opportunities to promote youth employment and green entrepreneurship<br><br>Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Boosting decent jobs for youth in Asia and the Pacific: Evidence, policy responses and partnerships<br/>Mr Felix Weidenkaff, Employment Specialist, ILO (20 min)</li><li>● Fostering a Green Entrepreneurship Ecosystem for Youth</li></ul> |

Dr Cristina Martinez, Senior Specialist, Environment and Decent Work Asia-Pacific Coordinator – Green Jobs & Just Transition, ILO

Ms Lisa Hanley Ph.D, Independent Research Consultant (20 min)

16:00 – 16:40

(40 minutes)

Mongolia and a just transition to a greener economy with decent jobs for youth

- Harnessing the transition to a green economy for more and better jobs for youth  
Ms Battsetseg Batsuuri, Director of Employment Policy Implementation Coordination Department of MLSP
- Green entrepreneurs in Mongolia: opportunities and challenges  
Ms Munkhmaral Tumennasan, YEC
- A green entrepreneur

16:40 – 17:05

(25 minutes)

Questions and answers – 25 minutes

17:05 – 17:40

(40 min)

Towards Decent Jobs for Youth in Mongolia - Focused discussion

Moderator: TBD

A moderated discussion on next steps to boost opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship in the green economy.

- DW4YN shares experience

Dialogue between the Government of Mongolia, Mongolian partners and ILO experts on key questions to promote decent and green jobs for youth in Mongolia

17:40

Closing remarks

Ministry of Labour and Social Protection