**Country visit to Mongolia**

**19-27 September 2017**

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, Mr. John Knox, will carry out an official visit to Mongolia from 19 to 27 September 2017. During the visit, he will meet with government officials and representatives of civil society to discuss good practices and challenges in the implementation of human rights obligations relating to environmental protection.

Governments have a general obligation to protect the environment (including by regulating businesses and other private actors) in order to protect the rights that depend upon it, including rights to life, health, food, water, and housing. These obligations include duties of the State to provide information about environmental matters, facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making, and provide effective remedies for environmental harm. Governments must protect environmental human rights defenders from harassment and violence, and Governments have heightened duties to protect those who are most vulnerable to environmental harm.

The Special Rapporteur invites all stakeholders to submit inputs in preparation of the country visit to Mongolia, by providing information to the questions below. Your input can focus on whichever questions are relevant to you.

Please send your inputs to the questions to srenvironment@ohchr.org **as soon as possible** and no later than **31 August 2017**.

Please feel free to share this message and the questions with anyone who might be interested in contributing.

**Your responses will be kept *confidential*. Neither you nor your organization will be identified, and your response will not be attributed to you or your organization, even if the Special Rapporteur raises issues that you brought to his attention.**

Questions

1. Mongolia has ratified **human rights treaties and environmental agreements.** With respect to the human rights particularly relevant to environmental protection:

(a) Are there any particularly good examples of Mongolia’s implementation?

(b) Are there any particularly noteworthy problems with its implementation?

(c) Are there any other agreements that Mongolia should ratify?

2. What are the most important **domestic laws and regulations** aimed at environmental protection? How well are they implemented? How should they be improved?

3. What are the most **urgent human rights and/or environmental issues** that require the attention of the Special Rapporteur? These issues can be related to the guarantee of procedural rights (e.g., rights to information, participation and access to remedy), the protection of substantive rights (e.g., rights to health, an adequate standard of living, food, land, housing, water, sanitation, cultural life, etc.) and/or linked to the rights of certain groups/individuals who are in exceptionally vulnerable situations to environmental harm (e.g., indigenous peoples, women, children, rural communities, etc.).

4. How well are **environmental human rights defenders** (those who work to protect the environment and/or the human rights that depend on it) protected in Mongolia? Are there particular cases that should receive greater attention?

5. With respect to **businesses** whose activities have environmental implications (e.g., mining, forestry, fishing, etc.), how well do business enterprises respect human rights? What role does the Government play in ensuring that businesses avoid human rights abuses?

6. Please provide contact details of any **key persons and/or civil society organizations** (e.g. academics, government officials, research institutes, environmental organizations, victims’ organizations, etc.) who you think it would be useful for the Special Rapporteur to contact.

7. Please indicate if you have any suggestions for **places to visit outside Ulaanbaatar** and key persons to contact to meet during the field visit.

8. Are there any **specific questions** that you would like the Special Rapporteur to raise with a particular government body or business enterprise?

9. Are there **other** **issues or recommendations** that the Special Rapporteur should consider?