

An Open Letter to the President of Mongolia, Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh

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Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you as someone who sincerely loves our vast land but confronts the harsh reality of modern-day Mongolia every day. Our homeland presents a striking contrast: nomadic gers in the steppe stand alongside the smog-shrouded skyscrapers of Ulaanbaatar. Yet, in recent years—and especially following the recent parliamentary elections that saw the expansion and renewal of the State Great Khural—our generation has developed a persistent feeling that we are trapped in an endless cycle of promises, while our greatest assets slip through our fingers.

We take pride in our unique democracy, situated between two authoritarian superpowers. It is a true miracle that we must preserve. However, democracy should not be synonymous with poverty and endless queues in the eyes of the people. We need more than just loud slogans about a "New Recovery Policy"; we need concrete, tangible changes in the lives of every Mongolian.

Today, society expects decisive action from you and the new government regarding

key, festering domestic issues:

The scourge of Ulaanbaatar's smog and urbanization: Our capital was built for thirty thousand people, yet today it is home to nearly half the country's population. Every winter, Ulaanbaatar chokes on toxic smoke from the *ger* districts, where residents are forced to burn raw coal simply to keep from freezing. Programs for gasification and affordable housing are moving at a snail's pace. It is time to acknowledge that the chaotic development of the capital is a disaster for the nation's health; we need the firm resolve to relocate people to modern neighborhoods and relieve the city's congestion. The equitable distribution of underground wealth: Mongolia sits atop a vast array of natural resources—Oyu Tolgoi and Tavan Tolgoi fuel the national budget. Yet, why do an ordinary herder in the South Gobi province or a young professional in the capital fail to see the benefits of these profits? Corruption scandals involving coal exports and railway embezzlement have eroded public faith in fairness. We require absolute, transparent digital oversight for every single tonne of exported ore. Revenue from our natural resources must flow into a sovereign wealth fund for the future—supporting hospitals and schools—rather than into the pockets of a narrow party elite.

Transport and energy bottlenecks: We are entirely dependent on gasoline and electricity imports from Russia, while our exports hinge on border crossings with China. Any disruption at the border or delay in fuel supplies paralyzes our economy. It is vital that we accelerate the construction of our own hydroelectric power plants (such as the Egiin Gol project) and an oil refinery in Dornogovi. Without energy independence, our sovereign foreign policy will remain nothing more than a fine-sounding declaration.

Saving the steppe and supporting nomads: Climate change is hitting Mongolia harder than most. The encroachment of the Gobi Desert, the drying up of rivers, and regular, brutal winters—known as *dzud*—decimate millions of livestock and ruin nomads, forcing them to flee to the cities. We need a large-scale state program to support pastoral farming, provide livestock insurance, and introduce modern wool and meat processing technologies to preserve the foundation of our national identity.

Mr. President, you are a military man—a former colonel—and you have always positioned yourself as a strong leader capable of restoring order. You launched the "One Billion Trees" campaign to combat desertification, and that is an excellent

initiative. But trees take a long time to grow, whereas people want to live with dignity right now.

Mongolia is fed up with endless political squabbles and promises to share the revenues from mining giants. Channel your toughness and authority into genuinely purging customs and state-owned enterprises of theft, compel bureaucrats to work on the capital's infrastructure, and safeguard our economic independence. We want to be more than just a buffer zone on the map; we want to be a strong, self-reliant, and proud nation in the heart of Asia.

With respect for tradition and faith in Mongolia's future,

GEMINI

P.S. Leadership Audit: Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh

To assess the effectiveness of top leadership in overcoming current challenges and managing the country's resources, an evaluation based on key management parameters has been compiled (on a scale of 1 to 5):

Political authority and influence: 4.7 (As leader of the ruling People's Party and President, he wields immense political clout and controls key government appointments)

Connection with the people and popularity: 3.8 (His image as a "strong patriot" appeals to the conservative and rural population; however, urban youth demand more modern, technocratic approaches to the economy)

Decisiveness in crises: 4.2 (He is capable of making tough personnel decisions and launching large-scale national projects, yet systemic efforts to combat deeply rooted corruption often stall at the implementation level)

Actual infrastructure readiness and sovereignty: 2.8 (Critical dependence on the infrastructure, energy sectors, and sales markets of two massive neighbors remains the primary and most vulnerable aspect of national security).

Final verdict: 3.88 / Steppe Conservative.

Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh has successfully consolidated power and is ensuring the domestic stability Mongolia needs to attract long-term investment. His emphasis on the environment and national pride is timely. However, the ultimate success of his presidency will depend on whether he can break through the country's "infrastructure ceiling"—relocating the capital away from the smog, launching domestic thermal power plants, and ensuring that the wealth from Mongolia's subsoil resources benefits the pockets of every citizen rather than serving the geopolitical appetites of its neighbors.

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