

[Working Paper Series: Pandemic Crisis and Democratic Governance in Asia – Part I]

Global Pandemic: Challenges and Opportunities for Democracy in Mongolia

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Introduction¹

As countries around the world have begun to implement their own risk management policies, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19, the new infectious disease, a pandemic. According to article 11.2 and 11.3.3 of the Law on Disaster Protection, issued by the State Emergency Committee (SEC) on February 13, 2020, the “high level of readiness” against COVID-19 was partially initiated in Mongolia. This resolution was pursuant to Article 4, Resolution No. 62 of the February 12, 2020 Resolution of Government of Mongolia.² The Law on Disaster Protection identifies and specifies the measures for three levels of readiness to combat the coronavirus: everyday level of readiness, high level of readiness and all-out level of readiness.

In Mongolia, the first verified community transmission case was announced on November 11 and as suggested by the SEC, the government shifted country to the “Total Readiness Stage” on November 12. However, there was a strong sense of uncertainty and mistrust in Mongolian society regarding the transition to the “total readiness stage.” The Mongolian government declared the country to be at this level as the first week was filled with panic, with all decision changed daily and discrepancies in the information source. Mongolian citizens also became frustrated with the economic situation of businesses and individuals and the lack of clarity on how to regulate day-to-day activities.

However, the ten months of high alert regulations set by the SEC did not yield substantive results. Therefore, this research aims to study the factors that contributed to the social atmosphere that doubts the viability of government and their ability make appropriate recommendations.

The main goals of the research are the following:

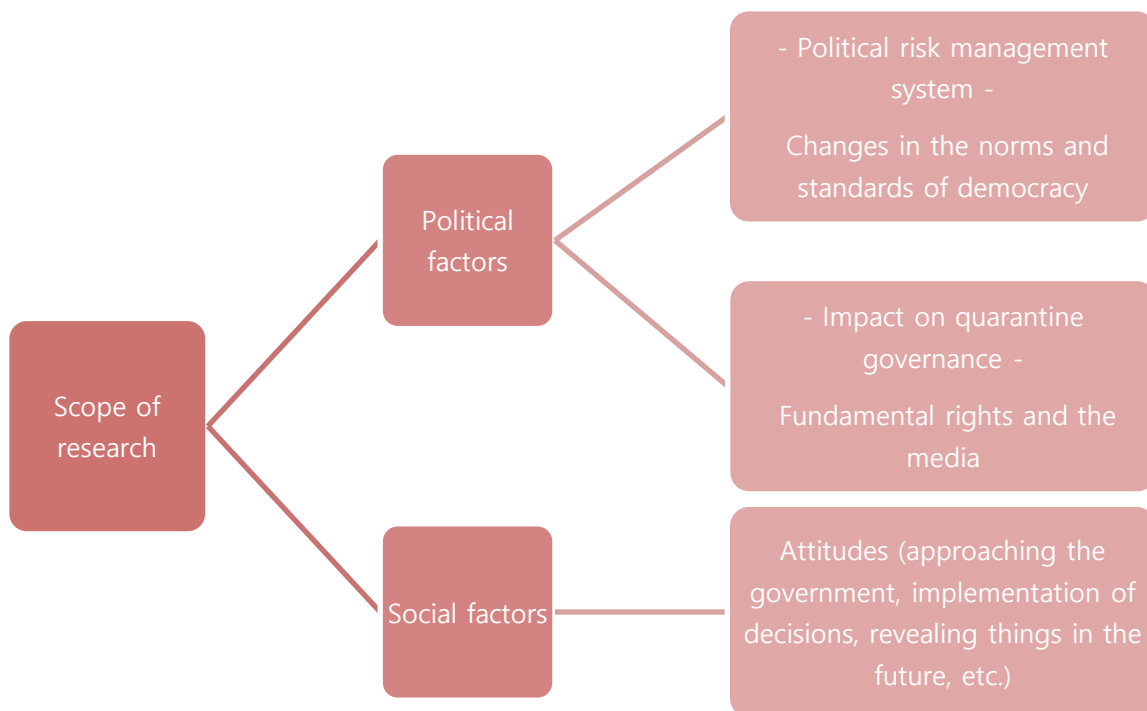
- To determine whether Mongolia has a political risk management system

¹ Throughout the year, ADRN members will publish a total of three versions of the Pandemic Crisis and Democratic Governance in Asia Research to include any changes and updates in order to present timely information. The first and second part will be publicized as a working paper and the third will be publicized as a special report. This working paper is part I of the research project.

² ‘Disaster Protection Law’, *Law of Mongolia*, Ulaanbaatar city, <https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/12458?Lawid=12458>; ‘On transfer to the ready rate’, Article 4, Number 62, *Resolution of the government of Mongolia*, <https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/15081?Lawid=15081>.

- To identify positive effects of quarantine on governance (the ability to differentiate between populist politicians and whether democratic governance can be more efficient in correcting decisions and information)
- To identify Psycho-social features that are caused by quarantine and government decisions and their implementations (Psycho-social refers to the interrelationship of social factors and individual attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors).

Research map



The term political crisis management is used in modern risk management to describe the nature and style of governance. For example, while society requires rulers to minimize risk exposure, the opposition uses the media to engage in strong policy review, and how to prevent this can be understood as political risk management. In this particular case, the choice of the most appropriate policy option can be considered good management or good governance. The traditional approach to crises and risks maintains that risk has the following three main characteristics: they are unpredictable, decisions not appropriate to the situation fail to achieve results, and decisions that are made quickly are more prone to change. On the other hand, in risk management, risks and crises can be predicted, and decisions are scientifically based options that are appropriate to the situation and ability of the policy level³.

Decision makers must consider the following factors when managing risk:

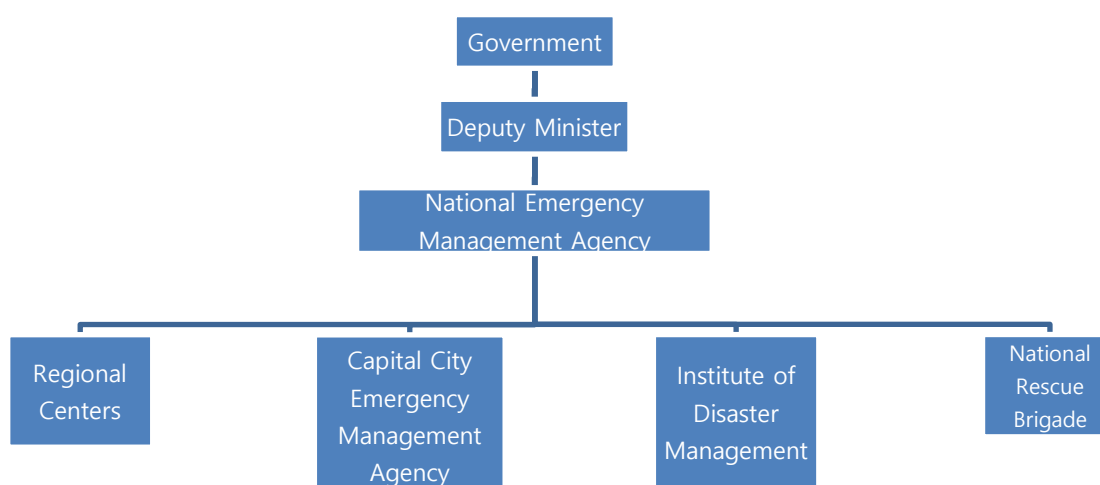
³ Boin, A., 't Hart, P., Stern, E., & Sundelius, B. (2005). Crisis management in political systems: Five leadership challenges. In *The Politics of Crisis Management: Public Leadership Under Pressure* (pp. 1-17). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9780511490880.001

- Sense making
- Decision making and coordinating implementation
- Meaning making
- Accounting and ending
- Learning from success and failure

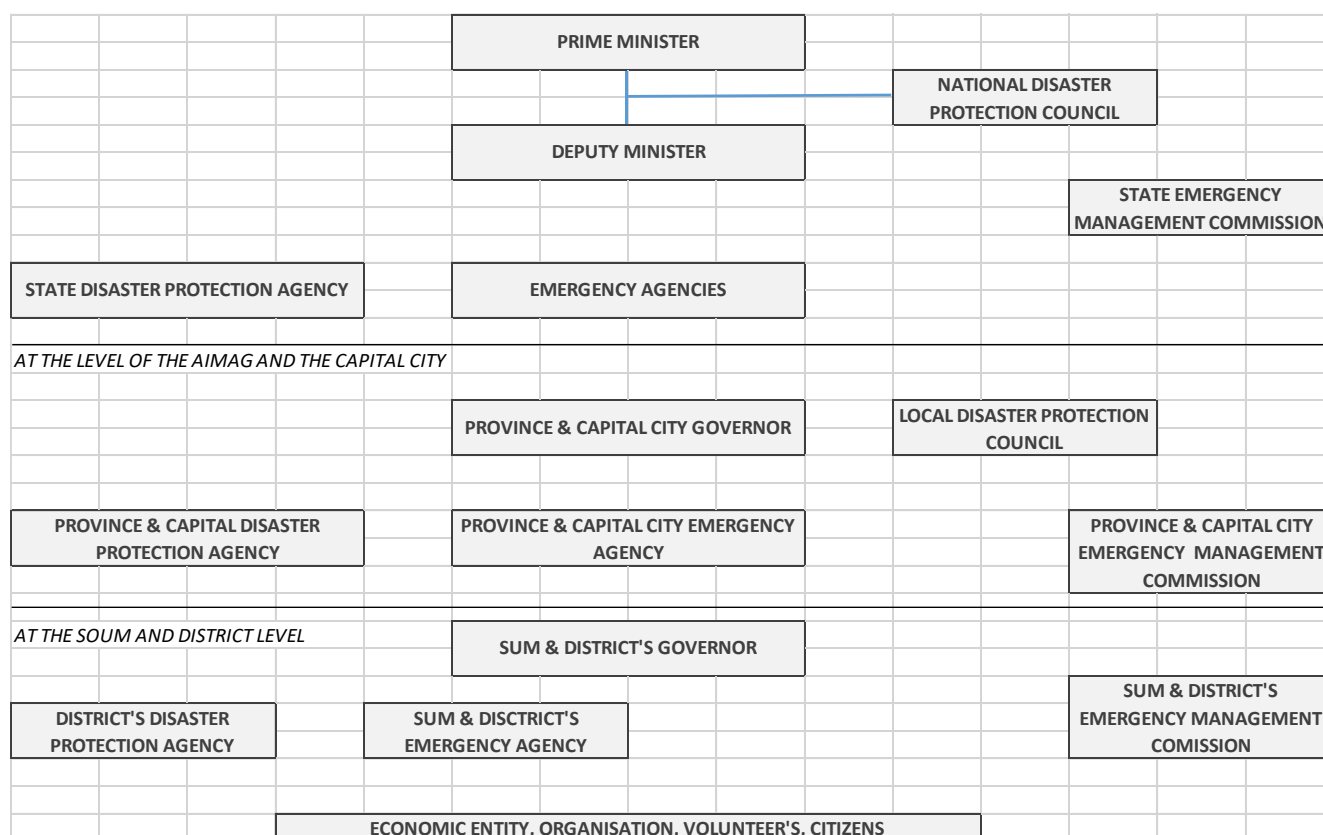
If these factors are not incorporated into the decision-making process, the decision will be ineffective. In the case that the civil society is not satisfied with the decision made and its outcome that relates to pandemic, it can be said that Mongolian political risk management is weak.

The measures taken regarding the COVID pandemic in Mongolia can be divided into following three stages: the early policy stage (when the outbreak was first detected and policies were on the prevention of the pandemic), the plague and election policy stage and the policy of losing COVID-19 internally stage.⁴ The following diagrams show the structure and organization of the management system to make decisions and provide guidance during emergencies in Mongolia.

Figure 1. Structure and Organization of the National Emergency Management Agency



⁴ 'Avoiding and overcoming the crisis by utilizing intelligence', *Control Risks*, <https://www.controlrisks.com/jp/our-thinking/japanese/covid-19-uncertainty>.

Figure 2. During the state of emergency in Mongolia, decision implementation phase*SUM⁵

In the event of any security or social catastrophe in Mongolia, the SEC represents the National Security Council and the parliament represents the government for actions to be implemented. The graphs show that the government is fully responsible for managing the SEC. Through the organization of the government, it is evident that Mongolia is the same as other countries in implementing decisions from the executive branch.

Further examination of the graphs above makes it evident that the government makes the final decision regarding pandemic measures. It is also possible to observe whether the ruling party has the capacity for governance and political risk management. Currently, measures taken by the government have significantly increased in social welfare but have failed to provide adequate support to private businesses.

The following are just some of the measures that have been taken:

- Increase of child benefit
- Full exemption from social insurance (all private enterprises and their employees, public and private schools, employees of diplomatic consulates, NGOs, and international loan projects.
- The Unemployment Insurance Fund provided MNT 200,000 per employee per month to companies that maintained employees.

⁵ Territorial administrative unit of Mongolia

- Business entities and households are to be exempted from electricity, water and heating bills until July 1, 2021 with an exception to some companies including banks, mining, cryptocurrency miners and fuel importers⁶.

All the decisions and measures listed above have been implemented since April 2020. For example, a family with four children under the age of 18 received a total of MNT 80,000 per child before the pandemic but increased to MNT 400,000 per month. In addition, citizens received their salaries in full without a tax cut for the first time. Although this policy was beneficial to ordinary citizens, it was detrimental to the state budget. According to the political economy cycle theory, these economic measures can be said to have influenced by the annual elections as the parliamentary elections were held in June, two months after welfare policies were implemented in April (excluding water and heat release).⁷

COVID-19 Pandemic Measures and Their Impact on Democracy, Human Rights and the Media

The border closure issued by WTO member states created conditions for the development of domestic production. This challenge highlighted the need for more intelligent, electronic public services and greater investment in the information and technology section.

In the Financial Times article, “The World after Coronavirus,” Yuval Noah Harari emphasized the importance of ensuring cooperation and solidarity throughout the world, not within the walls of nationalism.

*Humanity is facing a global crisis. Even the biggest crisis of our time. The decisions that people and governments make in these few days will determine what the world will be like in the next years. These decisions determine not only our health care system, but also our economy, politics and culture. We must act quickly and decisively. We need to keep in mind that our actions have long-term consequences. When making a choice, we need to ask ourselves not only how to overcome this temporary threat but also what kind of world we will live in after the "disaster." Yes, this catastrophe will pass, humanity will overcome it, and most of us will survive, but we will live in a changed world.*⁸

COVID-19 Measures and Democracy during the Pandemic

According to a study by the Global State Democracy, Mongolia had one of the fastest responses to the pandemic by closing its Chinese border at the end of January in addition to closing schools and kindergartens. However, the government did not declare a state of emergency during this period. Instead, parliamentary elections were held in June with appropriate restrictions and precautions. On March 24, 2020, the National Emergency Management

⁶ ‘On some measures to support households, organizations and organizations during the coronavirus infection (Covid-19)’, Number 211, *Resolution of the government of Mongolia*, December 13 2020, <https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/15792?Lawid=15792>.

⁷ Resolution of the Parliament of Mongolia. “On Measures to Protect People’s Health and Income, Save Jobs and Stimulate the Economy During the Outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19).” Number 21. <https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/15236>

⁸ Yuval Noah Harari, ‘The world after coronavirus’ *The Financial Times*, March 20 2020, <https://www.ft.com/content/19d90308-6858-11ea-a3c9-1fe6fedcca75>.

Agency declared that the country would be under the ‘high level of preparedness’ until April 30, 2020, but this level was extended until August 31, 2020. However, the first verified COVID-19 cluster case on November 11, led the government to announce the implementation of the ‘Total Readiness Stage’ as suggested by the SEC.⁹

Figure 3. Global State of Democracy Index: Mongolia



Source: The Global State Democracy Institute, 2020¹⁰

According to the Global State of Democracy Index, the measures taken by the Mongolian government during the COVID-19 pandemic were in accordance with the principles of democratic governance and the protection of human rights and freedom. However, the only insufficient indicator was direct democracy which was due to the inability to hold public meetings during quarantine.¹¹

Earlier in the year, the president of Mongolia proposed to postpone the parliamentary elections, but the parliament did not find it necessary to postpone the elections. In addition, President Khaltmaa Battulga called for measures to overcome the coronavirus crisis like “[saving] money and [centralizing] public administration in

⁹ International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), *The Global State of Democracy Indices, 2019*, <https://www.idea.int/gsod-indices/#/indices/countries-regions-profile?rsc=%5B712%5D&covid19=1>, accessed 2020

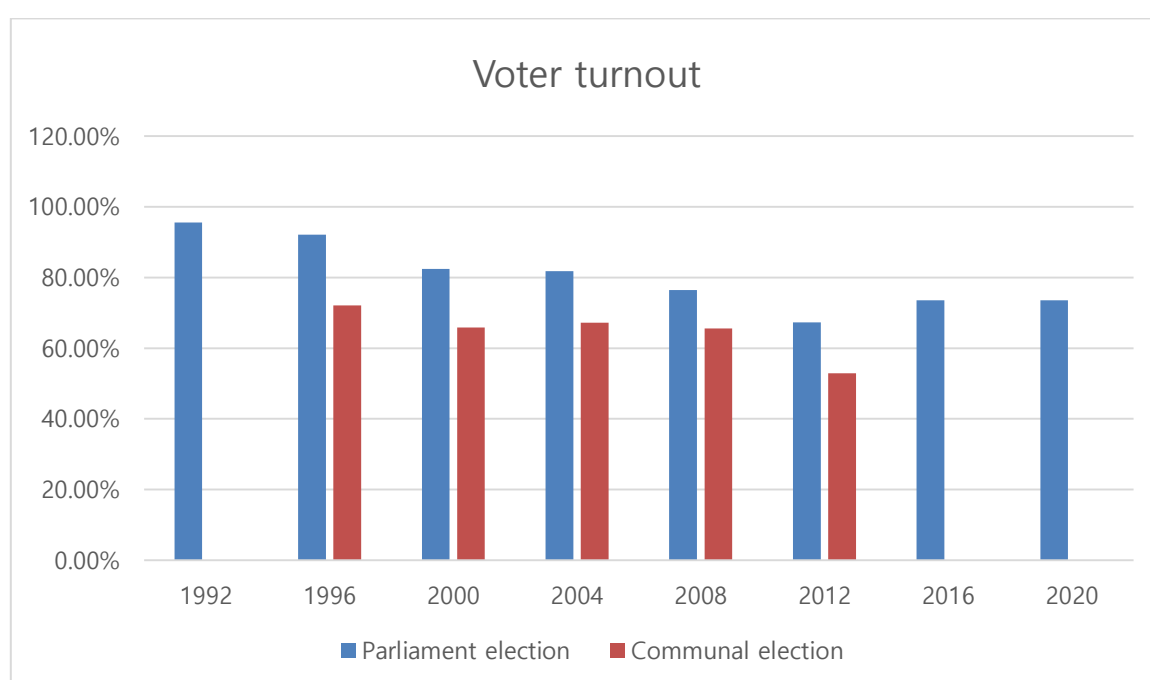
¹⁰ International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), *The Global State of Democracy Indices, 2019*, <https://www.idea.int/gsod-indices/#/indices/countries-regions-profile?rsc=%5B712%5D&covid19=1>, accessed 2020

¹¹ T. Tumenjargal and G. Erdenebayar, “Amendments and the Election Law of Mongolia: implementation and improvement issues,” *Politolgy magazine* 534, no.18, (2020): 94-116.

times of crisis.”¹²

Voter turnout was relatively high at 73.65 percent during the parliamentary elections, with the ruling Mongolian People’s Party, one of the oldest political party in Mongolia, winning absolute majority. D. Urtnasan, a voter turnout researcher, found that, from 1992 to 2020, Mongolia held a total of eight parliamentary elections in which the voter turnout for the first six elections declined steadily. However, in 2016, the country experienced a 6.28 percent increase in voter turnout reaching 73.58 percent. Mongolia has managed to maintain the growth in voter turnout in 2020 by reaching 73.60 percent (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Voter Participation 1992-2020



Source: “New Mirror” Magazine, Volume 81¹³

Despite the threat of the pandemic and the fear that citizens would be inactive at this time, the high turnout was due to well-organized voter education campaigns. To resolve the low youth participation in elections, the private sector and civil society organizations jointly organized online movements during the 2020 parliamentary election. For example, a series of online campaigns and events encouraging young voters to share “MORNING” and “I HAVE ONE VOTE” on their social media accounts were found to have been very successful in increasing voting rates of young people. International organizations have also provided support through e-campaigns.¹⁴ It is also important to note that many citizens who were unable to return to Mongolia due to travel restrictions were unable to vote in the parliamentary election. In addition, the law on parliamentary elections does

¹² Balijmma T. ‘President calls for measures to overcome coronavirus crisis’, (*MONTSAME News Agency*), March 26, 2020, <https://montsame.mn/en/read/220192>.

¹³ “New Mirror” Magazine, Volume 81, The Academy of Political Education, Ulaanbaatar, 2020, p62

¹⁴ “The “Morning” Project Urges Young People to Vote in the Election.” *TIME.MN*, September 24, 2020. Accessed 2020, <http://time.mn/oYH.html>

not have any articles on the “right of Mongolian voters who are studying, working or living abroad to participate and vote in parliamentary elections.” This led to the inability of more than 150,000 voting age citizens to participate in the 2020 parliamentary elections.¹⁵

COVID-19 Measures and Human Rights during the Pandemic

The Lockdown has restricted the freedom of movement. As of February 23, 2020, the Mongolian government has deployed 336 checkpoints and mobilized 832 officers across the country. Domestic and international flights were restricted until May 31, 2020 with an exception to scheduled flights that were arranged to allow Mongolians living abroad to return home. From May 6 to 8 of 2020, a separate quarantine and emergency preparedness exercise was held in Chingeltei district of Ulaanbaatar lasting from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm.¹⁶

In mid-June, public places, cinemas, bars and restaurants were to open to public, but competitions and gatherings were still banned. The Mongolian National Naadam Festival was also canceled and organized virtually. From mid-July, establishments such as fitness clubs, nightclubs, and karaoke were allowed to operate, and customers were instructed to measure their temperature and wear protective masks.¹⁷

The government approved cultural and public events, and the operation of retail, manufacturing and entertainment venues as of September 16. The authorization to open all general education institutions, with limitations on time and number of students, was given on September 21. However, as lockdown measures were initiated in November due to a sudden internal COVID-19 outbreak, educational institutions began to operate virtually and through television.

The Total Readiness Stage can be said to have directly affected basic human rights. The right to freedom of movement is stated in the Mongolian constitution and in international law, such as the UN Convention on Human Rights. Article 16.18 of the Constitution of Mongolia states that “a person shall have the right to freely travel in the territory of his / her country, choose a place of temporary or permanent residence, go abroad, reside and the right to return, the right to travel and reside abroad may be restricted only by law in order to ensure national and public security and to maintain public order.”¹⁸ Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the country,¹⁹” and Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (IBUTETOP) states that “A person has the right to move freely within legally staying territory of any country and freely choose his / her place of residence.”²⁰

The 61.6 percent increase of domestic violent crimes in the first quarter of 2020 is another negative

¹⁵ T. Tumenjargal and G. Erdenebayar, “Amendments and the Election Law of Mongolia: implementation and improvement issues,” *Politology magazine* 534, no.18, (2020): 94-116.

¹⁶ Amarsaikhan S. “Capital city Emergency Management Commission, report”, ‘We thank the people of Chingeltei district for successfully organizing the quarantine during the plague’ Mongolian News & Media Agency, May 08, 2020 <https://news.mn/r/2297704/>

¹⁷ “Open Bars and Karaoke.” News.mn, July 25, 2020. <https://news.mn/r/2319244/>

¹⁸ Constitution of Mongolia. January 13, 1992 State Information Bulletin, 1992 / №1

¹⁹ ‘General Declaration of Human Rights’, *International Treaty of Mongolia*, <https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/1271?lawid=1271>.

²⁰ ‘International pact on civil and political rights’, *Law of Mongolia*, <https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/1257>.

consequence of the lockdown.²¹ Government resolution No.178, declared Mongolia to Total Readiness Stage on November 12.²² This measure restricted the right of citizens to go to the capital city and rural areas for health, official or personal reasons. According to a series of Open Society Forum reports, this led to other negative consequences such as, spending the night outdoors and in the car, malnutrition, young children being left without parental care, and not being able to work and earn money.²³

The Constitution of Mongolia states that the “right to return to the home country cannot be restricted except during the coronavirus pandemic or declared ‘state of emergency or war,’ in accordance with Article 16.18 of the Constitution of Mongolia²⁴ and 12.4 of the International Convention Civil and Political Rights”²⁵. However, it was concluded that this restriction violated Article 10.2 of the Mongolian constitution, which states, “Mongolia shall faithfully fulfill its obligations under international agreements.”²⁶ Moreover, according to Articles 7.1.12 and 7.1.22 of the Law on Prevention, Control and Reduction of Social and Economic Impacts of COVID-19, the government of Mongolia is obligated to provide housing, food and clean drinking water to the homeless and poor; organize infection prevention activities; reduce the negative impacts on children, elderly, the chronically ill, those in need of regular health care, the disabled and pregnant women; and is responsible for providing financial support to vulnerable groups. This obligation applies not only to citizens at home but also to citizens abroad. In this regard, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia issued Order A / 45 on “Investing” on October 29th, 2020, to provide one-time financial support to 113 citizens abroad.²⁷

Due to the Total Readiness Stage, all educational institutions continued to provide online and television classes. However, this prevented students without access to internet and electronic devices, as well as people with special needs, from receiving the same level of education.

COVID-19 and the normal functioning of the legislature

In many parts of the world, parliaments have altered their procedures or made changes to the regulations by limiting the number of people in a gathering, voting through a representative instead of directly or hosting virtual meetings. In general, as a representative body directly elected by the people, the parliament has an important role to play in approving government policies and budgets, as well as in conducting preliminary, ongoing, and final monitoring of government actions in emergencies.

²¹ ‘Violations due to domestic violence in the first quarter of 2020 increased by 61.6 percent’, unuudur, May 29, 2020,

<https://unuudur.mn/2020-%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%8B-%D1%8D%D1%85%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B9-%D1%83%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B4-%D0%B3%D1%8D%D1%80-%D0%B1%D2%AF%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B9%D0%BD-%D1%85%D2%AF%D1%87%D0%B8%D1%80%D1%85%D0%B8%D0%B9%D0%BB%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B9%D0%BD-%D1%83%D0%BB%D0%BC%D0%B0%D0%B0%D1%81-%D2%AF%D2%AF%D0%B4%D1%81%D1%8D%D0%BD-%D0%B7%D3%A9%D1%80%D1%87%D0%B8%D0%BB-61-6-%D1%85%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%B0%D1%80-%D3%A9%D1%81%D0%B6%D1%8D%D1%8D/>

²² ‘Transfer to universal readiness’, No. 178, Resolution of the Government of Mongolia, November 11, 2020.

²³ ‘Prohibitions and Restrictions’, COVID-19 and human rights, *Open society forum*, December 2020, https://www.forum.mn/res_mat/2020/OSF_COVID-19%20and%20Human%20Rights_3.pdf.

²⁴ ‘Constitution of Mongolia’, <https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/367>

²⁵ ‘International Convention Civil and Political Rights’, <https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/1257>

²⁶ ‘Lockdown and the right to return’, COVID-19 and human rights, *Open society forum*, SERIES 3, December 2020, https://www.forum.mn/res_mat/2020/OSF_COVID-19%20and%20Human%20Rights_4.pdf.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

The Parliament of Mongolia continued to operate in accordance with this standard. On April 6, 2020, the regular session of Parliament began, with the first session amending the Law on Rules of Procedure to approve the procedure for electronic meetings and electronic meetings for chambers. Although the new members of the Parliament met as usual in the beginning, they began to meet virtually starting in mid-November. At the beginning of December 2020, the Parliament switched from a fully electronic to a semi-electronic format, with members meeting at the Government House, but with five chambers meeting electronically.

According to the Asia Foundation's resident representative in Mongolia, Mark Koenig, the State Great Khural, the national parliament altered its rules of procedure and continued to operate at the beginning of the spring session of the Parliament. The amendments to the law on the rules of procurement of the parliament were also found to have the following importance:

- First, it is part of the government's multi-stakeholder approach to safe operations to reinforce the notion that masks and maintaining social distancing are vital and effective.
- Second, during the crisis, the parliament has the opportunity to convene and make decisions and legislation related to the epidemic. At the same time, Mongolia's thriving democratic tradition continues unabated despite the threat of the pandemic.²⁸

According to new parliament rule, members must be divided into different meeting halls and must be seated with a distance of 1.5 meters apart. The interconnected video conferencing equipment was released in each hall, which was made available to the public (see Annex 1). Votes were collected through special voting equipment and a show of hands. This not only changed decision making regulations, but it also required investment in information technology equipment which coordinated the participation of media representatives.

COVID-19 and Media

In May 2020, the government warned that legal action would be taken against organizations and individuals who spread false information about COVID-19. According to the European Observatory for Journalism, the warnings not only made journalists more cautious, improve their oversight, and rely more on government sources, but also reduced their tendency to criticize the government.²⁹ The National Security Council, the General Police Department, the General Border Protection Agency, and the Citizenship Office monitored false and misleading information in media.³⁰ The public was also encouraged to report false and misleading information about the pandemic.³¹

According to the Law on Violations, individuals who spread false information would be fined MNT 150,000 and organizations, MNT 1.5 million. Under the Criminal Code, offenders are required to pay fines of

²⁸ Mark Koenig, 'Mongolia's Lessons on Democracy during a Pandemic', *The Asia Foundation*, June 24, 2020, <https://asiafoundation.org/2020/06/24/mongolias-lessons-on-democracy-during-a-pandemic/>.

²⁹ Bolormaa, H. "U. Tamir: We are Talking about Establishing a Model Press Council, Which Does Not Exist in Any Other Country." *Mongolian Media Council*, January 6, 2021, <http://www.mediacouncil.mn/a/239>.

³⁰ Batzorig Tovuu, "Mongolia: Coronavirus and the media", *European Journalism Observatory*, May 19, 2020. <https://en.ejo.ch/ethics-quality/mongolia-coronavirus-and-the-media>.

³¹ Ulziikhutag, G. "Six Citizens Fined MNT 500,000 for Spreading False Information." *Ikon: Next Horizon*, November 18, 2020. <https://ikon.mn/n/21jq>.

MNT 450,000 to MNT 1,300,000 or complete community service or imprisonment for one to three months. According to the state-owned Montsame news agency, as of March 25, 2020, the police had investigated 25 cases regarding dissemination of false information and as of March 30, eight people have been convicted of spreading false information.³²

It can be said that people in media and journalists began to adhere to this basic principle for the following reasons. The first was to only publish information from official sources. There was a predominant tendency to utilize information from official government press conferences, the Ministry of Health, the Government Press Service, the State Special Commission, the National Center for Communicable Diseases, the World Health Organization, and the chairmen of the subcommittees of the Special Commission and the governors of the relevant administrative units. Second, the focus on official sources was due to the lack of experience of working in medical emergencies. Therefore, journalists and media outlets were careful to filter their information and to report on social media. However it is undeniable that this was partially due to the warnings issued by the government. In addition, the Media Institute, a non-governmental organization working in the field of media, has issued a guide for media outlets to disseminate information during such health emergencies. Third, in response to government warnings, law enforcement agencies began to act against individuals and organizations that disseminated false information under the Violations and Criminal Offenses Laws, signaling increased scrutiny of false information.³³

However, under a new proposed amendment to the Criminal Code, the government presented a new fine up to 80 million MNT and imprisonment from one to five years. This not only makes it possible to be prosecuted for spreading false information, but also significantly strengthens the penalties. The Mongolian Union of Journalists has issued a statement protesting this amendment as they see this as the government taking advantage of the situation to stifle the media and the right of citizens to express their views (see Annex 2).³⁴ The draft of the new amendment was to be discussed at the January 2021 parliament session. ■

³² ‘Mongolia punishes fake news spreaders by Criminal Law’, *NewsMN*, March 30, 2020, <https://news.mn/en/791544/>.

³³ “A Citizen Who Disseminates False Information will be Fined 500,000 MNT.” *Eagle News*, November 11, 2020. <http://eagle.mn/r/78544>

³⁴ “Mongolian journalists union releases,” *Mongolian Union of Journalists*, December 11, 2020. <https://cmj.mn/89>.

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<https://www.idea.int/gsod-indices/#!/indices/countries-regions-profile?rsc=%5B712%5D&covid19=1>.

Tovuu, Batzorig. “Mongolia: Coronavirus and the media.” *European Journalism Observatory*, May 19, 2020.

<https://en.ejo.ch/ethics-quality/mongolia-coronavirus-and-the-media>.

Tumenjargal, T. and G. Erdenebayar. “Amendments and the Election Law of Mongolia: implementation and improvement issues.” *Politology magazine* 534, no.18, (2020): 94-116.

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Annex

Annex 1. The Parliament (Great Khural) of Mongolia meets digitally for the first time.
Special visitors: Resident Representatives of World Bank and WHO,
Ambassadors of Republic of Cuba, Russian Federation, Turkey and the U.S.A,



Annex 2



МЭДЭГДЭЛ

Хууль зүй, дотоод хэргийн яамнаас боловсруулж, албан ёсны цахим хуудастаа 2020 оны 12 дугаар сарын 08-ны өдөр байршуулсан Эрүүгийн хуульд нэмэлт, өөрчлөлт оруулах тухай хуулийн төсөлд одоогийн хүчин төгөлдөр үйлчилж буй хуулийн 13.14 "Худал мэдээлэл тараах" заалтыг өөрчилж, хэвлэлийн болон иргэний үзэл бодлоо илэрхийлэх эрх чөлөөг бүхий л талаар хянан цагдах, хязгаарлан боомилохоор тусгасныг Засгийн газрын бодлого хэмээн үзэж, эрс эсэргүүцэж байна.

Уг төсөл "илтэд худал мэдээллийг хэвлэл мэдээллийн хэрэгсэл, эсхүл олон нийтийн мэдээллийн сүлжээний хэрэгсэл ашиглан тараасан, эсхүл илтэд худал мэдээлэл болохыг мэдсээр байж түгээсэн бол" торгуулах, зорчих эрхээ хасуулах, улмаар тав хүртэлх жилээр хоригдох ял шийтгэлтэй байхаар тусгасан нь хэвлэл мэдээллийн хэрэгсэл төдийгүй нийгмийн сүлжээнд иргэдийнхээ үзэл бодолд цэнзур тогтоож, эдийн засгийн аргаар боомилох, ял шийтгэлээр айлган сүрдүүлэхийг санаархаж буй хэрэг юм.

Эрх баригчид, албан тушаалтнуудын үзэл суртал, таалал, хүсэл зорилгод үл нийцэх өөр үзэл бодол, байр суурь илэрхийлсэн иргэн, сэтгүүлч хэн бүхнийг хэзээ, хэн шалган тогтоож, хэрхэн нотлох нь үл ойлгогдох "илтэд худал мэдээлэл" гэх халхавчин дор Эрүүгийн гэмт хэрэгтэн болгох гэж буй нь туйлаас харамсалтай.

Алдар нэр, албан тушаалын нэр хүндийн гэх асуудлын ард ихэвчлэн төрийн өндөр албан тушаалтан, эрх мэдэлтний ашиг сонирхол, авилга, албан тушаалын гэмт хэрэг, томоохон хулгай, хуйвалдаан зэрэг хууль бус зүйлс нуугдаж байдаг билээ. Энэ нь чухамдаа нийтийн сайн сайхан, тэгш эрх, шударга ёс, боломжийг булааж, нийгмээ өвчлүүлэх тэвчишгүй үзэгдлүүд бөгөөд эдгээрийг илчлэх, мэдээлэх, шүгэл үлээх, тэмцэх, өөрчлөх бүхий л арга замыг хаан боогдуулах аюул дагуулах юм.

Бидний сонгосон Ардчилсан нийгмийн амин сүнс болох иргэний үгээ хэлэх, үзэл бодлоо илэрхийлэх эрх, эрх чөлөөг Эрүүгийн хуулиар булаан авах гэсэн энэхүү санаархлаа хэрэгжүүлэхийн тулд "онцгой нөхцөл байдал", "цар тахал" зэргээр далайлган иргэд, сэтгүүлчдийн амыг үдэх гэсэн башир арга мэхтэй бид эвлэрэхгүй. Энэ нь Монголын ардчилал, түүний үнэт зүйлд халдаж буй хэрэг хэмээн үзэж эрс буруушааж байна.

Монгол Улсын иргэний үг хэлэх, хэвлэн нийтлэх, үзэл бодолтой байх эрх чөлөө хийгээд хэвлэлийн эрх чөлөө, хараат бус байдалд халдах аливаа үйлдэл, санаархлын эсрэг хэвлэл мэдээллийн салбарынхан бид тууштай тэмцэхээ мэдэгдэж байна.

МОНГОЛЫН СЭТГҮҮЛЧДИЙН НЭГДСЭН ЭВЛЭЛ

2020 оны 12 дугаар сарын 11

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