To: Professor James S. Fishkin  
Director, Deliberative Democracy Lab,  
Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law,  
Stanford University  

Dear Professor Fishkin,

On behalf of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia, I would like to reiterate my appreciation to you and the wider Deliberative Democracy Lab community on your support of introduction of deliberative polling in Mongolia. We thank you for sharing your knowledge, expertise, and experience in the facilitation of deliberations required during critical moments in Mongolia’s 30-year journey of democracy. To address the issues concerning politics, society, and economic turmoil, we have undertaken the initiative of fostering open and transparent discussions with our citizens. We believe that engaging in clear and honest dialogue will enable us to gather valuable insights and ideas for the betterment of our nation. With this objective in mind, we are pleased to announce the successful implementation of the second nationwide deliberative polling in Mongolia in February 2023.

The deliberative polling was conducted in accordance with the Deliberative polling law which was approved in 2017. We engaged with a diverse range of groups in discussions through two stages of an Academic Conference on "Issues of Society, Politics, and Economy" and a Forum on "Politics, Economy, and Societal Consensus". Through these two stages of discussions, the most discussed issues were identified. The Deliberative Counsel, an independent body consisting of representatives from different groups including academia and civil society groups, prioritized the discussion points. The points were then grouped into four main areas: human rights and political rights, parliamentary democracy, economic...
concerns including decentralizing national funding, and social issues. Subsequently, a package of 22 proposals were formulated by the Deliberative Counsel.

In the first step of deliberative polling, a diverse representative group of 1570 citizens were randomly selected from all over the country to represent the population by the National Statistics Office of Mongolia, who also took part in the deliberation. In the second step, more than 800 citizens again were randomly selected from the initial group and convened in Ulaanbaatar City for a two-day session of deliberation on the package of 22 proposals. The sessions involved a balanced and vetted briefing materials, moderated small group discussions, and plenary sessions with competing experts who could answer questions in the small groups.

The outcome of the deliberative polling has paved the way for significant amendments to the Constitution in 2023, and the impact is already evident. The amendment ensured the strengthening of the parliamentary democracy, wider representation in the parliament, and gender parity across political decision-making levels. The amendment successfully increased the representation in the parliament from a total of 76 members elected by majority vote in districts to a total of 126 members with 78 elected by majority vote in districts and 48 elected by proportional representation. Subsequently, the quota for female candidates in the parliamentary elections of 2024 was raised to 30%, with plans to further increase it up to 40% by 2028.

Mongolia has successfully amplified the voices of its people by employing scientific methodologies to inform decision-making, fostering unity of opinion, and collaborating across diverse organizations and stakeholders. At the heart of this success lies the fundamental principle of democracy: the empowerment of the people's voices. As a legislative body, it is our solemn responsibility to establish the legal framework necessary for institutionalizing deliberative democracy, safeguarding civil liberties, and upholding democratic values. While it is essential to heed the opinions of the populace, success is not guaranteed. However, through the application of intelligence, experience, wisdom, and unwavering dedication, we can overcome challenges and achieve progress.
We firmly believe that the two iterations of deliberative polling have contributed significantly to fostering peace and instigating positive change among the people of Mongolia. By prioritizing the voices of the people in our decision-making processes and continually striving for improvement, we are poised to ascend to greater heights.

Sincerely,

ZANDANSHATAR GOMBOJAV

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CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE GREAT HURAL (PARLIAMENT) OF MONGOLIA