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*Nº RwB-15022016
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Mr. Lundeg PUREVSUREN
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
Peace Avenue 7A, Ulaanbaatar 14210

CC: MINIS Project Implementation Unit

Honorable Minister **PUREVSUREN**:

We, the local people of Baikal basin in Russian Federation, address You on the matters of environmental impact assessment of dam projects planned in Selenge River basin, which could have negative impacts on our living environment and socio-economic well-being.

Having discussed draft "Terms of reference for regional environmental assessment (REA) and ESIA for "Shuren HPP" Project", believe that to undertake comprehensive and unbiased assessment it is necessary to separate REA process as the first stage of environmental assessment with a separate terms of reference and full cycle of public consultations. Our proposal is fully consistent with the main purpose of the REA clearly described in paragraph 3.1.1 or the draft TOR: *" It is used during the early stages of development planning, before decisions about specific projects have been made and with the purpose of influencing such decisions."*

Presently the REA process is not defined in TOR with sufficient detail, its expected results are not described and no steps are planned for public consultation on those results or taking them into account in decision-making. Contrary to common sense it is suggested to undertake REA and detailed ESIA by efforts of the same firm within one single consultant contract for ESIA for "Shuren HPP" Project and that evokes our doubts in ability of such REA to produce objective assessment results.

According to the draft TOR, the REA must include legal and policy analysis in energy and water sector of Selenge River and Baikal Lake basin, comparison of alternative technologies and strategies in these sectors, and cumulative impact assessment (CIA) of water infrastructure and industries existing and planned in this transboundary basin. All these objectives are equally relevant for "Shuren

HPP" Project and "Orkhon Reservoir Complex" Project as well as for other hydropower plants planned in this basin. Therefore we suggest to separate TOR for REA from the detailed ESIA for "Shuren HPP" Project.

We are also extremely concerned with absence of accessible and credible information of the largest HPP planned in Selenge Basin in Mongolia: Egiin Gol HPP, which should be build first according to the "Energy Policy of Mongolia till 2030". We request that full ESIA results for " Egiin Gol HPP" Project are made available for examination by us and international experts of the World Heritage Convention, because without these data it is impossible to evaluate impact from other dams. We also support Decision of the 39-th Session of World Heritage Committee, that prescribed to undertake cumulative impact assessment of all hydropower plants planned in Selenge Basin BEFORE the construction of the Egiin Gol HPP is started.

Sincerely,
Participants of public hearings in Kabansk District of Buryatia Republic, Russian Federation.

Original in Russian signed by A.G.Shaidurov, Interim Head of Municipal Administration, Kabansk District.

Translation provided by Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition on request from the participants of public hearings in Kabansk District.

Please respond to this appeal to the following addresses:

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