World Packaging Organisation (WPO) and UNIDO: a successful project in Mongolia

March, 2024 – For the second time, as a result of a cooperation agreement with UNIDO, WPO (World Packaging Organisation – www.worldpackaging.org) ended another successful project which goal was to help the food sector in Mongolia to achieve international standards through the development of practical guidelines, covering the production of safe food. Although a non-resident agency in the country, UNIDO carries out its mandate in Mongolia, a member state since 1985, against the backdrop of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and in close cooperation with the UN Country Team. “The UNSDCF is a result of a comprehensive, consultative process of identifying the major development priorities in the country vis-a-vis the UN’s comparative advantages. It sets the basis for the strategic scope and nature of the collective work of the UN system’s programme”, explains Ali Badarneh, Division Chief at UNIDO Austria and responsible for the interface with WPO.

WPO General Secretary, Johannes Bergmair, that conducted the project in Mongolia, adds: “There were a few steps in the project. We started reviewing all the project related documentation and liaising with
national and international experts to have a clear understanding of the project scope. The result was two
guides, one to compliance for the identified actors and another to best practices for the identified actors
along the value chain.” The guides are based on Codex/CAC/RCP 1-1969 and international best practices.

“Once again, we are very proud of the results of this new conjunction action UNIDO - WPO in Mongolia. It
is gratifying to see such important documents, as the Guidelines to Facilitate Good Practices in the Food
Packaging Industry, developed by a WPO expert, in this case, our General Secretary, Johannes Bergmair.
In addition to the guides, a training course has been recorded so that it can be used by Mongolia Ministry
of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry”, celebrates WPO President, Luciana Pellegrino.

**Project background**

UNIDO was invited by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) to provide a technical
assistance under the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA) funded “Mongolia Export
Development Project (EDP)”, focusing on “Strengthening Certification Services to Enhance Export
Competitiveness of Small and Medium Agri-Businesses”. The overall objective of the EDP is “to support
Mongolian small and medium size firms (SMEs) in the non-mining sectors to strengthen their export
capabilities and expand access to export markets” through improved compliance of market requirements.
This entails the need of developing food and non-food related certification services, which would be also
accepted by domestic and foreign buyers. The Sustainable Food Systems Division (DTA/AGR/SFS) of the
Agribusiness Department at UNIDO lead the overall EDP project implementation, monitoring and
evaluation in close cooperation with other departments and divisions of the HQ and the regional office in
China. WPO participated since the early stage of the project.

Just to remind, in November 2017, WPO and UNIDO signed a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for
strategic cooperation in the field of packaging capacity building. The purpose is “to achieve the mutually
declared objectives towards the operationalization of UNIDO’s mandate for inclusive sustainable industrial
development”.

**About WPO**

*World Packaging Organisation (WPO) is a non-profit, non-governmental, international federation of
packaging institutes, associations, federations and other interested parties including corporations and
trade associations. Its mission is “Better quality of life through better packaging for more people”. WPO
joins 84 members, representing 63 countries that includes Full Members, Honorary Members, Affiliate
Members and a Regional Federation.*

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