



MONGOLIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

6 East 77th Street, New York, N.Y. 10075
Tel: (212) 861-9460 Fax: (212) 861-9464
e-mail: mongolia@un.int

Please, check against delivery

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR ENKHTSETSEG OCHIR,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF
THE 66TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

7 October 2011
New York

Mr. Chairman,

Let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your unanimous election. I am confident that we will have fruitful deliberations under your able leadership. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

While substantial challenges persist, there has been significant progress in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control over the past four years. The successful 2010 NPT Review Conference, the entry into force of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between Russia and the United States, the Secretary-General's visionary five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament have all brought hope to the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. But there are still many outstanding issues to be addressed.

Firstly, now is the time to deliver on the commitments and vigorously implement the forward-looking action plans agreed in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. This includes putting an end to the protracted stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. We highly value the UN Secretary-General's efforts to revitalise the work of the CD.

Secondly, while commending the entry into force of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between Russia and the United States, my delegation wishes to emphasize that eliminating nuclear threats requires something beyond concrete disarmament steps. It requires a framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. Mongolia, therefore, continues to support the early start of negotiations at the CD on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time framework, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. We also support the early start of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.

Mongolia is convinced that more vigorous implementation by the nuclear-weapon states of their disarmament obligations and efforts to promote nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing and must be pursued simultaneously.

Mongolia shares the view that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the achievement of this goal, a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on

security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons should be pursued as a matter of urgent priority. My delegation would like to refer to the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which stated that the CD should "immediately begin discussion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, to discuss substantively, without limitation, with a view to elaborating recommendations dealing with all aspects of this issue, not excluding an internationally legally binding instrument".

Thirdly, the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is absolutely vital for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation since the treaty constrains further development of nuclear weapons. My delegation welcomes the expressions of a number of States, including some Annex 2 States, of their intention to ratify the treaty in the near future.

For its part, Mongolia actively participated in the recent Conference on facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT. In 2010, Mongolia and the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO jointly organized a Regional Workshop on the CTBT and strengthening capacity-building in Ulaanbaatar. The workshop helped to increase awareness and promote accession to the CTBT among the countries in our region.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia reaffirms the inalienable right of all the Parties to the NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the right to nuclear fuel cycle for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the Treaty.

The IAEA continues to play a central role in ensuring non-proliferation through its safeguards and verification, assisting Member States in embarking on nuclear power and uranium production, as well as introducing nuclear technology in food and agriculture, human health, water resources, environment and other nuclear applications. Judging by the IAEA Technical Cooperation projects in my own country, I can say with confidence that the Agency makes a formidable contribution to global development efforts by providing relevant skills, training and equipment. This work must be continued.

The nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan following a devastating earthquake and tsunami gravely reminded us of the inherent risks associated with nuclear power. Those risks are specially relevant for countries like

Mongolia that are considering of launching nuclear power programmes. My delegation would like to commend the Secretary-General for convening the UN High-level meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security which proved to be practically useful.

As IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano rightly pointed out in his statement at the High-level meeting, "Fukushima Daiichi was a terrible accident, but it did not mean the end of nuclear power". There is, however, a critical need for individual countries to enhance the safety of nuclear power plants on their respective territories and combine efforts to close the existing safety gaps worldwide. The IAEA, the only international organization with the relevant expertise, must lead the international effort to strengthen nuclear safety and security worldwide.

There have been reports in some media that Mongolia has been in talks to host an international spent fuel storage facility on its territory and import nuclear waste from other countries. Those claims are groundless. Importing foreign nuclear waste would be in gross violation of Mongolia's domestic laws and regulations. The Law on Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status expressly prohibits "dumping or disposing of ... nuclear waste on Mongolia's territory". Furthermore, Mongolia has no intention to change its legislation to bring foreign-origin nuclear waste into its territory.

Mr. Chairman,

It is an undisputable fact that nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) strengthen both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and thereby international peace and security. Mongolia strongly supports strengthening the established NWFZs. It welcomes the renewed discussions between the States Parties to the Bangkok Treaty and the nuclear-weapon states on the protocol to the treaty. We also support the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the Middle East. The decision to hold an international conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction was one of most important achievements of the 2010 NPT Review conference. Likewise we support the initiative of the Director General of the IAEA to hold in November a forum on experiences of possible relevance to the creation of a NWFZ in the Middle East.

Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, declared nearly 20 years ago, has strengthened my country's international security. Like other NWFZs, it also contributes to nuclear non-proliferation and confidence-building. Our status enjoys full international recognition, as documented in a wide range of international instruments, such as the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the Outcome Documents of the two Conferences of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, the biennial resolutions of the UNGA

on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status, as well as the Final Documents of NAM Summit and Ministerial Meetings.

Over the past year, Mongolia has continued its consultations with the representatives of the nuclear-weapon states on the ways and means to institutionalize its nuclear-weapon-free status. The consultations have led to a better understanding of Mongolia's unique location and realization that its institutionalization requires an equally unique approach. We hope that these consultations and the renewed spirit of understanding displayed by the parties would soon lead to formalizing the status.

Mr. Chairman,

Potential spread of WMD to non-state actors who are ready to deploy them under any circumstances remains an immediate threat. Mongolia reaffirms its commitment to UN Security Council resolution 1540 which, inter alia, provides a good basis for improving national control facilities with the assistance pledged under the resolution. We welcome the extension of the mandate of the 1540 committee of the Security Council until 2021.

Mr. Chairman,

As regards conventional weapons, Mongolia notes the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions as a welcome step forward.

Mongolia has invariably supported the purposes and principles of the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines. Yet, a range of security and economic concerns have prompted us to pursue a step-by-step policy towards the issue of acceding to this landmark treaty. Last year, my Prime Minister reaffirmed Mongolia's commitment to an early accession to the Convention.

Mongolia is closely following the work of the Arms Trade Treaty Preparatory Committee. The Committee is making good progress toward the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms.

Mr. Chairman,

Disarmament and development are closely interlinked. Regardless of whether it leads to the direct release of resources for development causes, disarmament is conducive to development as it implies that less resources are spent on armaments.

The UN should continue to play a central role in linking disarmament and development. The international action to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as the implementation of such instruments as the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention, Convention on Cluster Munition and the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development also contribute significantly to development by promoting security and disarmament.

Mongolia commends the work of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific in promoting the implementation of global disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, enhancing regional dialogue and reaching out to the security needs of countries in the region. My delegation welcomes the launch by the Centre of two new projects and its plan to launch an Inter-Institutional Training Course for Law Enforcement Officers to strengthen the capacities of countries in the region in combatting the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

In conclusion, being a Northeast Asian country, Mongolia strongly hopes for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks on the Korean peninsula's nuclear issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.