

**Opening Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Enkhsaikhan Jargalsaikhan,
Permanent Representative of Mongolia at Round-table discussion “Reinforcing
the NPT: challenges and opportunities”**

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Vienna

Dear colleagues,
Distinguished participants,

Allow me to extend my warmest welcome to you all. I would like to thank you sincerely for responding positively to my delegation’s invitation to participate in and contribute to this Round-Table Discussion (RTD) on “Reinforcing the NPT: challenges and opportunities”. My delegation is grateful to you, Mr. Amano, Director-General of IAEA, Mr. Toth, Executive Secretary of CTBTO and Mr. Sandage, Deputy Director-General of UNODC for your participation in this event. We would also like to thank you, Mr. Toth and your colleagues, for the assistance in preparations for today’s meeting.

Initially the topic of this RTD was the “Role of national legislation in promoting a nuclear-weapon-free world”. The rationale was to underline the importance of national legislation in promoting the goals of non-proliferation and disarmament. In 2000 Mongolia adopted a law defining its nuclear-weapon-free zone status at the national level. This law criminalized acts, including those of legal persons and individuals, that would breach its nuclear-weapon-free status, and established a national legal mechanism for ensuring its full compliance. In real terms, the law closes a loophole in the NPT regime that did not explicitly prohibit stationing of nuclear weapons on the territories of non-nuclear-weapon states. Now Mongolia is working to institutionalize the status at the international level.

Many of our colleagues welcomed the suggestion of an RTD. However some advised not to focus exclusively on national legislations, as important as they may be, but rather expand the area of discussion and provide an opportunity for a free exchange of views on some of the issues that the 2010 NPT Review Conference would be addressing in May this year. This seemed both logical and practically useful for delegations. So the idea was accepted. Hence, you have before you a program enriched by many helpful suggestions. As you may see, the first two panels will focus on the role of national legislation in promoting the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as legislative assistance programs of IAEA and CTBTO.

The third panel discussion provides for exchange of views on preparations for the NPT Review Conference.

The final panel will provide an opportunity to exchange views on preparations for the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, which will be held on 30 April just prior to the Review Conference.

Dear colleagues, the current global political climate provides an opportunity for a successful NPT Review Conference. Thus, according to the latest information, progress is being made regarding the START treaty's successor. According to the Russian Foreign Minister, 97 percent of the new treaty's text has been agreed. Meaningful progress can also be made towards the speedy entry into force of the CTBT. The **International Commission** on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, composed of representatives of both the North and the South, presented some practical short, medium and long-term policy options to address the issues of non-proliferation and disarmament. The **Global Zero summit** focused on a plan for a phased, verified elimination of nuclear weapons, starting with deep reductions in the U.S. and Russian arsenals, to be followed by multilateral negotiations among all nuclear powers for an agreement to eliminate nuclear weapons.

As we all know, **an expert level workshop** was held in Manila earlier this month to seek practical ways to contribute to the consultations and deliberation processes that need to be undertaken before the Review Conference. These are but a few international measures taken recently to promote the ways and means for a safer world.

A **Global nuclear security summit** is expected to be held in April to discuss a three-part strategy to address threats to nuclear security.

Due to time constraints, my delegation was not able to approach each and every delegation before the formal invitation was sent out. Therefore the names of countries on the program are indicative only and there is room for contributions from the floor and discussion. My delegation received many responses to the invitation, for which I am grateful. Since most of the respondents did not indicate in which of the four panels they intended to make contributions, the list of initial speakers has grown slightly since 2 February, when the invitations had been sent out. As pointed out in the letter of invitation, in keeping with the modest objective of the meeting, there will be no attempt to summarize discussions nor produce any recommendation or statement. With these comments or clarification I express the hope that all of you will take an active part in the RTD.

Finally, my delegation expresses the hope that today's meeting will help all of us to better understand each other's views on some of the issues that would be discussed at the Review Conference. This would prove most useful for its preparations.