

**Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia on the issue of strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications**

(2 March 2010)

Safety and security of nuclear installations, including of nuclear power plants (NPPs) is very important not only for the countries that operate such installations, but also for the neighboring states, and indeed for the international community in general. Safety and security can affect policies of those countries that are taking decisions to develop their own nuclear programs and build NPPs. The Nuclear Technology Review – 2010 demonstrates that countries and the IAEA are making efforts to maintain at high level nuclear safety and security. This should be highly commended.

Mongolia is one of the over 60 countries that have expressed interest in expanding their modest nuclear program and building a NPP of its own so as to satisfy its growing energy needs. IAEA has already provided its advise regarding the initial measures that need to be taken to develop the country's nuclear program and uranium production, for which I would like to express my Government's appreciation to the Agency and its experts. My country finds the guidance documents related to preparing and launching nuclear power programs, such as "Consideration to Launch a Nuclear Power Programme" and the "Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power" as very useful documents in assessing what we actually have and what needs to be done to promote a sound, safe and secure nuclear power program.

Launching a nuclear program is a serious and long-term policy and commitment. In this respect development of human resources for the industry and its security infrastructure are of vital importance. IAEA has been providing technical assistance to Mongolia in developing its human resources in various areas of nuclear activity. The main form of such cooperation has been inviting Mongolian experts to participate in conferences and technical meetings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the IAEA for its assistance in this area. The newly signed Country Program Framework with IAEA envisages further cooperation in this important area. My country looks forward to the International Conference on Human Resource Development for Introducing and Expanding Nuclear Power Programmes to be held this month in Abu Dhabi. In its turn, it could offer to host some of such events dedicated to the "newcomers" in the nuclear field.

The IAEA and its expertise and experience play an important role in promoting nuclear and isotopic technology and techniques in food security, human health, protection of the environment, water resources and the wider uses of radioisotope and radiation. As such the Agency is playing an important role in promoting the goals of the MDGs.

My delegation expresses its full support for the Agency's activities aimed at improving livestock productivity, food quality and safety, crop improvement, sustainable land and water management, human health, etc. Last week a member of the Mongolian government visited the

Sibersdorf lab to get closer acquainted with nuclear technology and techniques that could be used to address the challenges that the Mongolian agricultural sector faces today due to its extreme continental weather and dry climatic, windy conditions. Early and rapid diagnosis of veterinary diseases are being made possible by using nuclear techniques. Together with biotechnology, it can be critical in limiting the development or impact of diseases on both humans and animals. The scientific progress would now allow detection of animal disease pathogens before they cause a disease, trace animal genetic fingerprints and clearly identify microorganisms that affect both human and animal health.

The area, to which all member states of the Agency, especially the developing countries, attach enormous importance, is preventing and combating cancer. I welcome the Director General's decision and commitment to give high priority to this issue in the first year of his activity. We believe that the Agency should be proud of its history of successful technical assistance for cancer diagnosis and treatment programmes using radiotherapy. The report's on innovations relating to human health technology is quite encouraging. The scientific progress includes, inter alia, nuclear techniques to evaluate bioavailability of micronutrients, hybrid imaging SPECT/CT and PET/CT (which help detect diseases with high accuracy at their earliest phase), advances in radiation oncology applications and the use of digital technology on radiological x-ray imaging. Despite the challenges that introduction of such innovative technologies would raise, in no time they can benefit all states and peoples.

As the report points out, more integrated missions of the Agency's Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) have been carried out in the past year. My country is one of the countries that is benefiting from a full imPACT mission. The mission was carried out last October. It provided expert advice regarding the National Cancer Control Strategy, carrying out a comprehensive and in-depth needs analysis of cancer control capacity as well as in helping to identify priority areas of action and defining the areas of assistance. Though my country has many elements in place for a successful implementation of its national strategy mentioned above, still much more needs to be done to actually deliver the services to the people. In this respect Mongolia is looking forward to working with the Agency, the Joint WHO-IAEA Programme for Cancer Control and through them with other partners and states.

Bearing in mind the importance of this area of the Agency's activities, Mongolia believes that every support needs to be given to this priority area.