

Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia on the measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety

(2 March 2010)

Mongolia attaches great importance to the issues related to safe and secure use of nuclear energy. As it is seen from the Director General's report on this issue, the Agency continued to make enormous efforts to further improve nuclear safety in its member states and in the world in general, as foreseen in Article III of the Statute. The fact that the safety performance of nuclear industry remains high is directly connected with the increased responsibility of member states, since the primary responsibility for the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive material rests with the states themselves. Also the role of the Agency's recommended standards as well as assistance that it provides to members through its educational and training programmes in nuclear safety is of no less importance. With the wider use of nuclear technologies, the measures to maintain high standard of safety and security need to be further strengthened.

Mongolia benefits from the Agency's services in these areas and would like to take this opportunity to thank the Agency for the assistance. At present we cannot say that Mongolia fully complies with the IAEA's Safety Thematic Areas (TSA) 1 & 2. However measures are being taken to improve safety and security of the radiation protection infrastructure, including updating regulations in the field of radiation protection, the safety and security of radioactive sources, etc. In August of last year the Nuclear Energy Law entered into force that strengthens the legal basis of ensuring proper safety and security procedures, vigilance, responsibility and liability. Thus in the immediate future measures will be undertaken to train the personnel of the national Nuclear Energy Agency that is responsible for drawing up the legislation and related regulations, accession to international legal instruments, adoption of appropriate codes of good governance, inspection of radiation ionizing users, etc. Also more attention will be focused on strengthening of the regulatory infrastructure for the control of radiation sources, occupational exposure, radiation protection in medicine, protection of the public and the environment as well as on adequate responses to radiological and nuclear emergencies. The IAEA will provide support in helping Mongolia to fully comply with all the requirements of the TSA 1 & 2 through the available relevant regional projects. In this regard we welcome the adoption of the draft safety guide DS424 entitled "Establishing a Safety Infrastructure for a National Nuclear Power Programme", which is to serve as a 'road map' to apply the entire set of the Agency's safety principles and requirements. The newcomers to the nuclear industry, such as Mongolia, will surely benefit from such safety standards.