

Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia on the future of IAEA

(2 March, 2010)

The report on the informal process on the future of the Agency that we have before us is a balanced document that highlights the achievements of the Agency in the past 53 years, how it had to adapt to the prevailing realities and how it came to play an indispensable role in the promotion of the benefits derived from the power and non-power applications of nuclear energy.

A brief survey of the Agency's activities shows that it was able to evolve and adapt to the requirements of the times. It is a different organization from what it was 20 years ago. My delegation agrees with the chairpersons that it might be a different organization in 20 years time and would be facing foreseen challenges as well as challenges that cannot be anticipated now. Hence the need for considering the future of the Agency from time to time.

The conclusions of the report that underline the importance of strengthening the Agency financially, professionally, with better coordination among the departments, by improving channels of communication between members and different interest groups, etc. The report rightly points out that the Agency is a technical body. On the other hand, it is composed of sovereign states and therefore it cannot avoid making political judgments. Therefore the Agency's success will depend on the following three factors: 1. political will and trust; 2. sound technical evidence; and 3. clear legal basis for decisions. All three factors together can make the Agency a vital tool for promoting the noble goals enshrined in its statute.

Though the report is the exclusive responsibility of the Chairpersons, nevertheless it was able to capture and to a great extent reflect the general mood of the membership. Many important ideas have found reflection in this report, for which my delegation would like to thank the Chairpersons and all the delegations that participated in the informal open-ended process. We express the hope that practical ideas reflected in the report would be useful for the future of our work.