

Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia on application of safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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Allow me first of all to thank the Director General for specifically referring to this issue in his introductory statement yesterday, an issue which is of enormous importance for international peace and security as well as for promoting nuclear non-proliferation and strengthening the NPT regime. The Director General has pointed out that since the Agency's inspectors left the DPRK in April of 2009, the latter ceased all cooperation with the Agency. At the same time he expressed his belief that due to its indispensable role in nuclear related issues, the Agency should and must play a key role in future verification arrangements for the DPRK.

Mongolia is dedicated to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. It pursues an active policy of promoting these noble, humane and achievable goals. For its part, it is working to make its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone that would be respected as such by nuclear-weapon states and the international community in general. It is for this reason and in the spirit of the NPT regime it expressed deep regret over the DPRK's nuclear tests which violate the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and disregard the international community's advice and expectations, as reflected lately, inter alia, in 2009 resolution of the General Conference of the Agency and the conclusions of the Chairman of the Board of Governor on the issue on 26 November.

Mongolia reaffirms its support for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It also believes that the DPRK's nuclear issue must be solved through diplomatic means.

My delegation joins the previous speakers in urging the DPRK to reconsider its nuclear weapons program, return immediately to the Six Party Talks and work with other partners of the talks in implementing the 2005 Joint Statement. We hope that the DPRK would seize the opportunity for resumption of the Six Party Talks, to which the Ambassador of China made reference earlier in his statement. We add our voice to the expressions of appreciation to China for its role in promoting the Six Party Talks process. Though Mongolia is not a party to the Six Party Talks, it strongly supports these talks as a viable diplomatic instrument to address all the issues connected with DPRK's nuclear programme and other related issues. Mongolia has hosted a meeting of a working group of representatives of DPRK and Japan to address the bilateral issues discussed within the framework of the Six Party Talks. It has also offered to host one of the meetings of the working group that would address the issues of related to a Northeast Asian peace and security mechanism.

Mongolia, as the other small state of the North-East Asian region, remains open to offer its good offices so as to contribute to the diplomatic resolution of this issue.

In broader terms, we call upon DPRK to return to the NPT and to IAEA safeguards as soon as possible, and thus contribute to the common objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament as well as strengthen the Agency's verification and monitoring mandate.