

**Statement by Ambassador J. Enkhsaikhan, Governor of Mongolia, at the
IAEA Board of Governors Meeting on the Agency's Annual report for 2009**

Vienna

7 June 2010

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to thank the Director General and the Secretariat for preparing the draft of the Annual Report for 2009 as contained in document GOV/2010/24. We would also like to thank the Director General for his comprehensive introductory statement.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statement of the G-77 and China under agenda item 3 delivered by Ambassador Feroukhi of Algeria. In my national capacity allow me to make the following remarks.

Nuclear power

My delegation notes the growing interest in nuclear power worldwide. This is demonstrated by the start of construction of 11 new nuclear power reactors, the largest number since 1987. Furthermore, over 60 countries, including Mongolia, have informed the Agency that they are interested in launching nuclear power programmes, and 58 Member States are participating in regional or national technical cooperation projects related to the introduction of the nuclear power. Therefore it is important that the Agency continues its support for the Member States that have requested assistance in embarking on nuclear power.

Mongolia notes with appreciation the launching in 2009 of a new Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) service to examine national infrastructure needs based on the Agency's guidance document 'Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power'. We also welcome the preparation of a guide to establishing a safety infrastructure for countries that are preparing to introduce nuclear power, as well as the issue of new publications on financing nuclear power plants, the responsibilities and capabilities of owners and operators in implementing nuclear power programmes.

The availability of sufficient skilled personnel is vital to any national nuclear power programme. We note the various inter-regional and regional activities the Agency has organized to promote human resource development, and encourage the Agency to continue those efforts.

Mongolia values the Agency's support for national energy assessments for Member States. It is laudable that this support included the transfer of assessment tools and the training of a considerable number of energy analysts from developing countries.

My delegation notes the Agency's vast work in the area of reactor operation and maintenance, as well as reactor technology development. We note the critical role played by the Agency's International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) and various Technical Working Groups covering all reactor categories.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation notes with satisfaction that the Agency provided technical cooperation training and support in all aspects of uranium production to developing countries. It is crucial that the Agency continue to provide full support to the requesting Member States in uranium production. Mongolia is exploring its uranium reserves and is planning to embark on uranium mining and processing in the near future. We have already adopted a State Policy and an Action Plan on uranium utilization and nuclear energy. In this connection Mongolia appreciates the uranium-related assistance it received from the Agency in 2009. It looks forward to further cooperation under the new Country Programme Framework which has established uranium production as one of the priorities for Mongolia-IAEA cooperation.

Non-power applications

Mongolia commends the Agency for its invaluable assistance to Member States in introducing nuclear technology in food and agriculture, human health, water resources, environment, radiation technology and other nuclear applications. This work is the Agency's indisputable contribution to global development objectives.

The IAEA/FAO joint activities in the application of nuclear techniques in crop and livestock production, animal health, soil degradation and food quality are of great significance to an agricultural country like Mongolia. These areas are given due priority in our new Country Programme Framework.

Mongolia deeply appreciates the assistance that the Agency rendered to Member States in 2009 in the field of human health through capacity building and equipment provision. Human health is another top priority under Mongolia's CPF. My delegation commends the Agency's Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) for its work in leading the Agency's response to the cancer crisis. We note the positive role played by the PACT Model Demonstration Sites (PMDSs) which grew to seven in 2009. Just like in most parts of the world, the incidence of cancer in Mongolia is rising. It is the second major cause of mortality among the population. In light of this, Mongolia is pleased to have become the eighth PMDS in 2010.

Technical Cooperation Programme

Mongolia attaches great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities as the main statutory instrument of transferring nuclear technologies for peaceful uses to developing countries. As stipulated in INFCIRC/267, "the provision of technical assistance constitutes a major, high-priority function of the Agency, and responsibility for its success devolves on all Departments of the Secretariat".

We note with great appreciation that in 2009 the Technical Cooperation programme continued to make a tangible contribution to socio-economic development of its recipient Member States, including their implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. What makes the Technical Cooperation programme unique is its combination of such tools as the provision of equipment, consultation services and capacity building of national staff. Mongolia is one of the many countries benefiting from such cooperation and assistance.

It is gratifying to note that "human health remained the single overriding priority in all regions in the technical cooperation programme" (approximately 21%). The importance of this field for developing countries can hardly be overestimated. We are also pleased to see

that human health is followed by nuclear safety, food and agriculture.

Judging by the results of TC projects in my own country, Mongolia, I can say with confidence that by providing the necessary skills, training and equipment, TC projects make a formidable contribution to socio-economic development. This work must be continued.

Verification

It is indeed highly commendable that the Agency's verification work, one of its key functions, remained at a high level in 2009.

With these remarks, my delegation takes note of the Annual Report for 2009 as contained in document GOV/2010/24.