

Brief statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan on the issue of application of safeguards in the DPRK

Vienna

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Mr. Chairman,

One of the issues on the agenda of this Board meeting is the issue of application of safeguards in the DPRK. The fact that the item is on the Board's agenda is connected with the importance of this issue for maintaining international peace, ensuring non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and strengthening the NPT regime.

The sinking of the South Korean navy ship Cheonan on 26 March and the tragical loss of lives has led to escalation of tension in this important and at times volatile region of the world.

Mongolia expressed its deepest condolences to the Government and people of the ROK in connection with this tragic event. It believes that commissioning by the ROK of a multi-national Joint Investigation Group to determine the causes of the Cheonan's sinking was a right approach. Mongolia understands the ROK's position on this issue, and shall respect and abide by the decisions and joint positions that the international community would take in this respect.

At the same time Mongolia expresses the hope that in order to avoid further escalation of the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia in general as a result of this incident, the parties concerned would give careful consideration to this issue, exercise utmost restraint and work towards its resolution through negotiation.

Therefore I support the call made by the Director General yesterday in his statement for the DPRK to fully implement all relevant nuclear non-proliferation obligations and for the parties to the Six Party Talks to make concerted efforts to resume these talks aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.