

**Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan, Governor of Mongolia on the Agency's  
Technical Cooperation Report for 2009**

Vienna

8 June 2010

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the Director General and his team for the report on the Agency's technical cooperation activities contained in document GOV/2010/26 which provides rich information on the activities of the Agency and their results in 2009.

I would also like to thank DDG Ms. Ana Maria Cetto for introducing the report and highlighting some issue. Mongolia associates itself with the principled position of G-77 and China that the Agency's technical cooperation programme is the main statutory vehicle for nuclear technology transfer, that it plays a key role in the promotion of nuclear technology for sustainable socio-economic progress in developing countries and, as such contributes to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)..

In my national capacity allow me to make the following brief remarks.

My delegation welcomes the strong emphasis that the Agency placed on human health as well as food and agriculture in its technical cooperation programme in 2009, as these two sectors are critical for many Member States to address their basic needs.

My country welcomes its growing cooperation with the Agency, especially in developing human resources for the peaceful and productive application of nuclear energy and technology. This has found clear reflection in the 2009-2014 Country Program Framework signed last year. Our national priorities include human health and agriculture/livestock production, both of which are important in meeting the basic human needs and thus in attaining the MDGs.

In human health area, the focus is on cancer which now is already the second leading cause of death. The tragedy is that almost 80 percent of cancer patients are diagnosed at the 3-rd or even the 4-th –i.e. the terminal- stages, with only a few years to live. The existing nuclear medical facilities for diagnostics and radiation therapy are insufficient. Existing one radiation therapy center is utterly insufficient for a country with a territory almost as large as Western Europe. The focus of our cooperation with IAEA is thus on prevention, early detection and fighting cancer, especially on up-grading the country's capacity to provide cancer diagnostics and radiotherapy.

After an imPACT mission to Mongolia in 2009, in February my country has been designated as the eighth PACT Model Demonstration Site (PMDS) country. This would allow Mongolia to combine its resources and experience with those of the IAEA/PACT, the WHO and other partners and stakeholders to most effectively address the increasing cancer epidemic. I would like to take this opportunity to express my Government's gratitude to IAEA and its PACT office for their assistance and support.

The second area, where IAEA can make a substantial impact on our socio-economic development priority is agriculture, which has historically been the backbone of our economy. The two sub-areas are crop productivity and prevention of animal and zoonotic diseases.

Crop productivity is essential not only for ensuring food security and sufficiency (which in itself is an important goal), but also for improving the quality and nutritional value of animal fodder. This is very important for the following reason. Due to severe winter known as "dzud", when temperatures drop to -40 or even -50 degrees centigrade, the animals that have been weakened by previous dry summer and cold autumn, perish in millions, depriving the cattle-breeders and their families of their only source of income, of food and fuel. This winter alone Mongolia lost over 8.5 million heads of livestock, which amounts to over 20 percent of the country's entire livestock population. Unlike sudden onset emergencies, the dzud evolves slowly with the chances of more livestock losses throughout the long cold and windy spring, i.e. long after the winter is over. The dzud this time affected 15 of 21 provinces. A 35-40 percent increase in under-five mortality is just one indicator of the dramatic impact of this disaster. Acute and chronic malnutrition, micro-nutrient deficiencies among pregnant women, widespread food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, severe psychological trauma among the herders and their families are on the increase. Many of

those affected are now forced to seek alternate employment and are migrating to already overcrowded and underserviced peri-urban areas. Though Mongolia was quite successful in meeting some of the MDG goals, the dzud is reversing many positive changes achieved in the past decade. National emergency measures and emergency assistance play a positive role in overcoming part of the devastation. However, they are only short term solutions. With the climate change underway, Mongolia is bracing for more frequent occurrences of dzud and not once in a decade. Therefore we are exchanging views with the IAEA experts on joining forces in trying to use radiation mutation, efficiency enhancing bio-and molecular and other technologies to improve the nutritional quality of fodder (feed supplementation strategy) that could help the livestock to endure the country's harsh winters, especially the dzud, and thus limit the future losses.

With respect to animal and zoonotic diseases, the OIE declared Mongolia rinderpest-free, which is a major achievement. With this encouraging achievement, which needs to be maintained, Mongolia is now working to produce locally most vaccines and diagnostic kits for trans-boundary animal diseases (eg. foot-and-mouth disease, sheep and goat pox, CBPP, PPR, etc). In this case Mongolia shall be working with the IAEA for training, exchange of information and experience as well as acquiring some needed reagents.

Mr. Chairman,

The national project implementation rate for Mongolia in 2009 was 80% which is higher than the average for recipient countries as a whole, and for which we are very proud. We shall do our most to expand further our bilateral cooperation. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank the Agency and its dedicated staff for their contribution to promoting the noble goals of the Agency throughout the world, including in Mongolia.

With these remarks, my delegation takes note of the Technical Cooperation report for 2009.

Thank you.