

Statement by Ambassador J.Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia at the meeting of
IAEA Board of Governors on the issue of application of safeguards in
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

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First of all I would like to express my delegation's agreement with the comments made by the Director-General about the issue in his introductory remarks earlier this morning. Thus it shares his concern regarding a new uranium enrichment facility and the construction of a light water reactor, outside the Agency's safeguards and monitoring. It is unfortunate that the Directory General is still not able to carry out any monitoring and verification activities in a part of the world that logically needs such monitoring. A number of disturbing events have taken place since this Board and the General Conference have considered this issue, especially the exchange of artillery fire at Yeonpyeong in the Yellow Sea on 23 November. Mongolia deeply regrets the loss of human lives and material damages caused by it and extends the deepest condolences to the families of those that have lost their lives as a result of that tragic event. We are grateful to the South Korean authorities for the care provided at that time for Mongolian citizens living on that island.

The dangerous exchange of fire reminds us all that the cold war structure and mentality still remain along the 38th parallel and affects not only the security of the two Koreas but that of Northeast Asia and in fact world security. Therefore immediate measures need to be taken to prevent escalation or recurrence of another tragedy, to exercise utmost restraint on both sides and make sure that the contentious issues are addressed peacefully, through dialogue and negotiations.

Though the 2010 NPT Review conference was successful in general, unfortunately it was not able to mark any progress on the issue of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula. Waiting for the next review conference in the hope to mark progress is too long, very costly and highly risky. Instead the Six Party talks should be re-vitalized since it is the most realistic framework to address the issue of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in conjunction with other pressing issues that lie at the heart of the peninsular problems. As Mongolian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade has pointed out during his recent visit to Pyongyang, Mongolia is ready to continue its efforts to contribute to the resolution of the issue by diplomatic means, notably by actively contributing to progress at the Six-Party Talks. On the other hand it should be clear that any progress in denuclearizing the Korean peninsula cannot be achieved without DPRK honoring its international commitments related to the nuclear issue, including the NPT, the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement concluded with the Agency and honoring by all of the political commitments taken within the framework of the Six-Party talks.

As members states have underlined on many previous occasions, the door remains open for the DPRK to make use of the enormous benefits that the peaceful nuclear atom and the IAEA offer to

many states, including my own, be it for power generation or addressing the socio-economic challenges of development in the areas of human health, agriculture, water management or protecting the environment. With further development of nuclear science and knowledge, practical application of nuclear energy is also to expand and offer its benefits.

As a Northeast Asian state, Mongolia supports the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula as well as the establishment a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. For its part, Mongolia has been working for the past decade to institutionalize its nuclear-weapon-free status. This would make sure that its vast land area will be an area of durable peace, stability and predictability. It would also allow my country to maintain its balanced relationship with the two neighbors and continue to dedicate all its energy and resources for dynamic socio-economic development and further up-lifting the standard of living of its people.