

Brief remarks by Amb. Enkhksaikhan (Mongolia) at the meeting of members of NWFZs in preparations for the second conference of NWFZs and Mongolia

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Thank you, Amb. Macedo.

Last October the Mongolian focal point raised the issue of starting preparations for the second conference of NWFZs with OPANAL and Mexico, current coordinators of NWFZs, and representatives of other zones. It was agreed that a meeting of focal points would be useful to exchange views on strengthening the NWFZ coordination mechanism, to prepare for the second conference of the zones and for the 2010 NPT revcon.

Bearing that in mind, the Mongolian focal point hosted the first meeting of focal points of NWFZs and Mongolia on 27-28 April in Ulaanbaatar with the agenda mentioned above. The meeting was attended by focal points/representatives of the Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Central Asia treaties as well as of Mongolia. Also representatives of some non-NWFZ states, of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated as observers (see the details from the report of the meeting that is being distributed FYI). High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for the United Nations, the Director-General of IAEA and the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of CTBTO have sent messages to the meeting in which each shared their vision of the nuclear disarmament and how NWFZs fitted into it.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the existing and newly established focal points to meet and exchange information regarding the activities of the NWFZs. They reaffirmed the validity of the Tlatelolco declaration and reviewed its implementation. The participants pointed to the new positive signs and opportunities for promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and expressed their views on how to make use of these opportunities both at the 2010 NPT revcon and at other international fora. They welcomed the entry into force of the Central Asian NWFZ as the first such zone in the northern hemisphere that covers an area where nuclear weapons were previously based. They expressed the hope that the Pelindaba treaty would soon follow suit. In this connection suggestions were made that zones could perhaps share experience in this regard both within or among the zones.

Addressing the issue of future zones, the participants were briefed on the measures taken to promote a NWFZ in the Middle-East. Support was voiced for establishment of NWFZs in the Middle East, Northeast Asia, South Asia and Central Europe.

The meeting made a first step for NWFZs, when deemed appropriate and useful, to make joint statements on issues of common interest and shared views. Thus Mongolia, as organizer of the meeting, was asked to make a statement at this session of prepcom reflecting the common views of the participants on some of the issues under

consideration. There was agreement that henceforth NWFZs, representing almost 120 states with a common vision, goal and commitment, should speak up, when necessary, on issues of common interest and “establish their due presence” at appropriate international fora and negotiations where their interests are affected. It was decided to organize a side event during this session of prepcom on the role of NWFZs in non-proliferation, disarmament and security. That side event would be held on Thursday May 14 at 1:15-2:45 in Conference room E. All are welcome to attend that event.

One of the sessions of the meeting focused on practical issues of closer cooperation among and between zones. A number of concrete suggestions were made as food for reflection and perhaps for a follow-up decision at the second conference. These included enhanced communications, for example establishing a web page, developing a calendar of events and meetings, updating on ratifications, making wider use of email, etc. Some participants suggested rotational coordinatorship to build momentum for the political cooperation as envisaged by the Tlatelolco declaration. It was also suggested that perhaps the Secretary-General could be asked to prepare a second comprehensive report on NWFZs in all their aspects, since 34 years have passed since the first such report was prepared and considered by the General Assembly.

In short, the participants found the meeting of focal points quite useful for better coordination, exchange of information and experience among zones, and, as needed, for advancing policies of common interest at international fora such as this one.

Participants also discussed preparations for the second conference. The current coordinator of NWFZs informed about the possible date and venue of the conference. In order to better prepare for the conference, it was agreed to hold a working meeting of focal points or their representatives as well as interested member States of zones prior to the conference. It was suggested that as in Mexico in 2005, representatives of other states, intergovernmental organizations could be invited as observer. A parallel civil society forum could be useful as it was the case in Mexico. It was also decided that during this session of the prepcom a meeting of representatives of NWFZs needed to be held to report on the focal points’ meeting and discuss the outlines for preparations for the conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mexico for taking the initiative to organize this meeting to discuss the outlines of preparations for the conference.

Thank you.