

Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia on agenda item “Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety”

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Mongolia associates itself with the statement made by the chairman of G-77 and China on this issue. In my national capacity I would like to make the following remarks.

My delegation commends the approval by the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) and publishing of the Agency’s Safety Guide entitled “Establishing the Safety Infrastructure for a Nuclear Power Programme”, which is intended to assist member states in applying the Agency’s standards in a phased manner, particularly during the establishment of safety infrastructure. The guide identifies 200 concrete actions that need to be taken so as to ensure safety standards from the inception of the NPP programme and ending with the de-commissioning of the plant (the so-called cradle-to-grave scheme). In the wake of the Fukushima NPP accident earlier this year, it would be useful if the CSS reviews the standards once again bearing in mind the lessons of the accident, especially the occurrence of multiple severe hazards. The 15 conclusions and 16 lessons derived from the fact-finding mission sent to Fukushima in May-June and the Ministerial declaration that outlined a number of concrete measures to improve nuclear safety need to be taken into account.

Likewise, Mongolia is looking forward to the safety package with 11 modules that is currently being prepared to assist in implementing the Safety Guide as well as the self-assessment guidelines to support the work.

As pointed out in para. 13 of the Director-General’s report contained in document 15, the CSS has also endorsed the fifth draft of the revised Basic Safety Standard (BSS) which is being submitted to this meeting of the Board. Mongolia believes that this document thoroughly considered by the experts in the field, should be duly taken note of by this Board and by the General Conference.

Mongolia is also interested in the work of the technical and legal experts’ meeting to discuss the development of code of conduct on the trans-boundary movement of scrap metal that may inadvertently contain radioactive material. It expresses the hope that open-ended meeting of the technical and legal experts would be able to produce an agreed text of the code of conduct in the near future.

The Fukushima Daichi nuclear accident has underlined the need to continue the works related to civil liability and compensation for nuclear damage. In this respect we welcome the activities undertaken by the Agency and especially by International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability (INLEX) during the period in review. The latter’s 11th meeting, held after the Fukushima accident, has naturally focused on the issue of liability and compensation resulting from the accident, especially the Japanese national legislation, touching upon such issues as

channeling of liability to the operator, the government's indemnity in the case of an earthquake or tsunami, and the concept of exemption from liability in the case of "damage caused by a grave natural disaster of an exceptional character".

Paras. 16 and 19 of the report mention a proposal to allow exclusion of certain nuclear installations from the scope of application of international nuclear liability conventions. As a country seriously studying the issues connected with international liability, we are interested in the material content of the German proposal and the revised version. Though the issue deals with Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), it might have implications well beyond its intended scope of application. Therefore it would be useful if some light might be shed on this issue in the Director-General's next report.

Mongolia is working to make use of its uranium reserves and become an important uranium producer. To that end it is working with the Agency to organize and regulate its uranium mining sector, starting with developing appropriate law and regulations and implement other defined national policies. It has also signed general cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding with some states with developed nuclear industry. Contrary to some reports in the press, Mongolia is not prepared to enter into any commercial nuclear fuel leasing agreement that would allow import of foreign spent nuclear fuel nor to build an international storage depot for spent nuclear fuel in the country. The first priority at this stage is to learn more about the nuclear industry and business, establish national capability through training of its experts and developing nuclear expertise as well as laying from the very outset of solid foundations of nuclear safety and security. .

One of the first concrete steps in this area is to become party to the Joint Convention on the safety of spent fuel management and the safety of radioactive waste management. My Government is now in the process of finalizing the translation of the text of the convention and submitting it for consideration and ratification by the parliament. It is also working to accede to the Convention on nuclear safety. Next on line would be convention on civil liability for nuclear damage.

With these remarks my delegation takes note of the report to be submitted for consideration by the General Conference.