

**Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan, Head of the Mongolian  
delegation in the general debate of the 55<sup>th</sup> General Conference of IAEA**

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Austria Center Vienna

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Mongolian delegation, I would like to extend our congratulations to you Mr. President on your well-deserved election to guide the work of this Conference. I am sure that under your able leadership the Conference will have rich debate and discussions and take important decisions.

My delegation also extends its warm welcome to the Kingdom of Tonga, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Commonwealth of Dominica, the newest members of the Agency.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Director General Yukiya Amano for providing a comprehensive overview of the enormous work done by the Agency during the past year. Today, as never before, the Agency is called upon to play an increasing role in international affairs; hence its mandate needs to be strengthened accordingly, especially with regard to nuclear safety and security, so as to reflect that objective reality and need.

The nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi NPP, that occurred a quarter century after the Chernobyl disaster, compel us all to look once again at the measures that are necessary to ensure utmost safety and security at NPPs and other nuclear facilities. The fact that the two accidents were of different nature has not changed the unifying importance of a constant need for upgrading safety and security. Therefore we welcomed the convening by the Director General of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June and the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration aimed at strengthening nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and radiation protection of people and the environment worldwide. Likewise, Mongolia attaches great importance to the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety that was adopted by the Agency's Board of Governors at its last meeting. The plan proposes to take 12 main actions focusing on safety assessments, IAEA peer reviews, emergency preparedness and response, capacity building, communication and information dissemination as well as research and development.

As I have pointed out in my opening statement, the IAEA is not only a technical agency that is called upon to play an increasing role in promoting freedom from fear or want, or just a watch-dog. It is also called upon to play an important role in promoting the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Therefore this General Conference should take decisions that would promote favorable political conditions for convening in 2012 of an international conference on the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East. As a country with well recognized nuclear-weapon-free status, Mongolia fully supports international efforts to convene that conference. Therefore the understanding reached by the Director General with the states concerned to convene in November a forum on this issue is welcomed. Besides the background

documentation to be prepared for the 2012 conference, this could be the Agency's another contribution to the successful convening of that conference.

As the issues of safety and security are important for all countries, especially for those seeking nuclear power or other peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Mongolia is interested in working closely with the Agency and its member states to strengthen national, regional and international standards. On its part, it is currently working to accede to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the safety of spent fuel management and on the safety of radioactive waste management.

Mr. President,

Allow me to briefly touch upon some aspects of Mongolia's nuclear policy and its cooperation with the Agency. As this general debate vividly demonstrates, the Agency's technical assistance and cooperation programs offer important benefits for its member states. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Agency for the role it has been playing in promoting the transfer of nuclear knowledge, science and technology to its members, including Mongolia. In the past 8 years in my country the number of workers that deal with radioactive material has more than tripled. Last year the country has been designated as the 8<sup>th</sup> PACT Model Demonstration Site (PMDS) country. The Government of Mongolia is seriously committed to developing the required capacity in radiotherapy, so as to ensure better and more effective early detection and treatment of cancer.

In the framework of cooperating with PACT, the Government of Mongolia has drawn up General Action Plan on Cancer Prevention and Control for 2011-2021 and adopted a Strategic Plan for Development of Radiotherapy covering the same period, implementation of which would enable us to professionally and more effectively address the growing threat of cancer and at the same time share, as a PMDS country, its experience with others.

Mongolia is a developing country with limited infrastructure, expertise and human resources. That is why we would like the Agency to continue to provide assistance in capacity building, development of skilled and well-trained human resources and establishing an infrastructure required for nuclear activities. The report to this Conference points out that to be more effective there is a need to further contribute to the Technical Cooperation Fund and other sources so as to advance the goals, programs and concrete cooperation projects. In this respect my delegation believes that contributions made through the Peaceful Uses Initiative is most welcome and would surely benefit many member states.

In line with the national commitment to prevent illicit trafficking of radioactive sources, the Government of Mongolia, with the technical assistance of member states, is installing radiation detection equipments at its main border crossing points. At the same time it is working with the Agency and member states in putting in place of an effective system of responding to emergencies, a system of notification, import and export, entry point control inspection and enforcement of radiation safety and security of nuclear and radioactive sources.

Mr. President,

Mongolia is blessed with uranium resources. It is planning to exploit these resources for national development, including addressing its rising energy needs. It is well aware that exploitation of uranium would pose a number of challenges, including ensuring physical security of nuclear material at all stages of nuclear fuel cycle, including waste disposal. It will therefore be looking to the Agency and international partners for advice and assistance in the proper exploitation of its uranium. As my delegation had pointed out at the meeting of the Board of Governors a week ago, 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 today is to learn more about the nuclear industry and business, establish the required national capacity as well as laying from the very outset of solid foundations of a true safety culture.

As Mongolia prepares its pre-feasibility study to explore whether nuclear power should be included as part of its energy mix, it hopes to work more closely with the Agency to benefit from its expert advice and support.

In conclusion my delegation would like to express once again its assurances of full support of the work of the conference.

Thank you.