

Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia on agenda item 6 regarding the IAEA's activities in response to the Fukushima accident

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I would like to thank the Director General for his report on the Agency's activities in response to the Fukushima accident and commend him and his staff for their activities taken since March 11.

Ever since the accident, the Mongolian government and its people have been following closely the heroic efforts of the Japanese people, especially the engineers and the workers of the Fukushima NPP to minimize the effects of the partial meltdown by taking drastic and unconventional measures to cool the nuclear fuel in the reactors and the spent fuel in the pools to restore the vitally needed electric power and contain the spread of harmful radiation. We are relieved that the efforts have proved to be effective. My delegation is confident that the Japanese people, with the support and assistance of the international community, would be able to overcome the crisis.

At this stage we see no reason to go into detailed analysis of the Agency's activities in response to the Fukushima accident. The 18 page report and its annex speak for themselves. We will also have ample opportunity to discuss the issue once the international fact-finding mission's report is submitted and when the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety is held at the end of this month.

In my view, it would be useful at some stage to hear the Agency's thoughts on what practical difficulties and legal/administrative constraints it faced when trying to respond to the evolving situation and what the Agency believes needs to be done to make its assistance more effective. There was a feeling that in a situation similar to that of Fukushima, the Agency needs to take more forceful measures than waiting for the concerned government to lead the way. Though nuclear safety and security are primarily the responsibility of governments, nevertheless when accidents happen that will clearly affect the security interests of other states (i.e. when accidents happen that could be qualified as level 5 or higher of INES scale), there should be more automatic involvement of the Agency. I personally subscribe to that view and would appreciate to hear the thoughts of the experts of the Agency on this issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the CTBTO for sharing its monitoring data and analysis reports with the Agency as well as the WHO, WMO, the FAO, academic and scientific institutions that provided vital information on the developing situation and on possible wider dispersal of radioactive substances and their possible impact on the environment and the health of the people. It believes that such close cooperation needs to be encouraged in the future. CTBTO's data and experience might also be useful for making decisions on citing new NPPs or building nuclear waste facilities. In short possible civil and scientific applications of CTBT verification technologies should be made greater use of in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Regarding the technical cooperation project in support of a marine benchmark study on the possible impact of the Fukushima radioactive releases in the Asia-Pacific region, my delegation supports the RCA's request a technical cooperation footnote-a/ project. This would

enable the RCA member states to evaluate the extent and the possible impact of the releases of radioactivity for the marine environment and to make scientific assessments of the data.

Like others, my delegation welcomes the Director General's initiative to hold an international ministerial conference on nuclear safety, and Amb. Antonio Guerrero of Brazil for his efforts to make the conference practically useful for strengthening further nuclear safety.

Likewise, Mongolia supports fully the proposal of the Government of Japan to host together with the Agency a conference in the second half of 2012 that would enable Japan to share its experience in addressing the challenges of the Fukushima NPP for the benefit of all countries.

With these comments my delegation takes note of the report.