



MONGOLIA

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STATEMENT BY Ms. GANKHUURAI BATTUNGALAG,
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AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 70TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 October 2015, New York

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation congratulates you and other members of the Bureau on your elections, and assures you of Mongolia's full support and cooperation. We are confident that under your able leadership the Committee would have fruitful outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

The past 70 years reaffirmed the role of the UN in the observance of the principles of international law and the maintenance of international peace and security. As the current state of world affairs shows, there can be no higher priority than maintenance of international peace and security.

Mongolia welcomes the historic agreement on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) reached between E3/EU+3 and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 14 July 2015, and believes that its successful implementation would provide the international community with necessary assurances in confidence building in the region.

Mongolia also welcomes the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, which would be an important instrument for preventing human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law.

My delegation underscores the importance of the General Assembly resolution 69/58 entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament", which provides a pathway for advancing the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, Mongolia is hopeful that the full implementation of this resolution, in particular through the commencement of negotiations in the CD, will ensure tangible progress on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Like many Member States, Mongolia notes with regret that despite all the efforts, the 2015 NPT Review Conference came short of reaching consensus on the draft Final Document. Nevertheless, this should not prevail us from promoting peace and security and thus should not prolong full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Treaty.

Nearly twenty years have passed since the CTBT has been open for signature. Mongolia welcomes the recent ratification of the CTBT by Angola. For Mongolia, universalization of the treaty signifies as an imperative step towards disarming the world from nuclear weapons. It is a matter of priority for each and every State to continue their efforts to promote prompt ratification by Annex 2 states. Thus, my delegation welcomes the Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty adopted by the Article XIV Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force of the CTBT held on 29th September 2015 in New York.

The Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) has fulfilled all necessary requirements to a full-scale testing phase for International Data Centre (IDC) known as the P5b of the IDC Progressive Commissioning Plan, allowing the Organization to act under its mandate as soon as the treaty enters into force. So, Provisional Technical Secretariat is moving forward with necessary infrastructural development for the verification regime. Now, it's the States Parties' responsibility to demonstrate their real actions.

Mongolia shares the concerns over the lack of universality in the acceptance of the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and the Additional Protocol and lack of progress in the implementation of the 1995 Middle-East resolution adopted 20 years ago. As a strong advocate of NWFZs, Mongolia is hopeful that international efforts will yield a progress in establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons.

Mongolia has always been a firm advocate of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and is making efforts to contribute to international peace and security by promoting its nuclear-weapons-free status. Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free

zones has proven to be an effective regional measure of non-proliferation and disarmament. Thus, Mongolia is pursuing its efforts and is supportive of nuclear-weapons-free zones. The existing zones need to be strengthened and measures to be taken to promote the establishment of new zones, including in the Middle East and in Northeast Asia.

Mongolia recognizes the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and looks forward to an earnest solution to the ongoing stalemate in the CD. We are hopeful that all members of the CD will demonstrate the necessary political will in order to ensure the commencement of its substantive work. We also believe that, given the present situation, innovative approaches need to be explored to make the resumption of meaningful disarmament negotiations possible.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia has pursued a peaceful, open, multi-pillar foreign policy, neutral in substance. This de-facto neutrality has been underpinned by Mongolia's geographic location, its history and the development path it has embraced. It has gained particular relevance at the current geopolitical juncture, prompting us to finally declare the status of permanent neutrality following the meeting of the National Security Council on 8 September 2015. Our national laws and international treaties, to which Mongolia is a signatory to, are consistent with neutrality principles.

The status of permanent neutrality makes no substantive change to Mongolia's current foreign policy, but rather combines in one single status all the elements of permanent neutrality contained in the Constitution and a range of separate laws and state policies.

Just as before, while developing equal, balanced relations with other countries, Mongolia will continue, in accordance with the UN Charter, to contribute to common efforts to resolve regional and global issues, including by supporting efforts to strengthen democracy and ensure human rights and freedoms.

In this regard, my delegation will present to the Committee a draft resolution entitled "Permanent neutrality of Mongolia" under agenda item 91. The main purpose of the draft resolution is to seek support and recognition of Mongolia's status by the international community. Proceeding from the premise that our status of permanent neutrality will contribute to the strengthening of peace, security and development in our region and beyond, I trust that the draft resolution will enjoy broad support of the Members States.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.