



MONGOLIA

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**STATEMENT BY H.E.MR.OCH OD,
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS,**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF
THE 68TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

11 October 2013, New York

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your elections and assure you of my delegation's full support to your leadership and to your efforts in addressing important work of this Committee.

I also wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mrs. Angela Kane, and her Office for their commendable efforts and work.

Mr. Chairman,

As a member of the international "disarmament machinery", and as a Party to international instruments on disarmament, my delegation wishes to reiterate Mongolia's firm commitments and aspiration to contribute to strengthening international peace and security and to building a trust in the region and world-wide.

Mongolia welcomes positive developments that has been made during this year in the field of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and arms control.

The High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament held on 26 September has created a momentum to take meaningful steps to achieve disarmament goals. Mongolia still believes in a bold vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and will continue to contribute to global efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

Recalling the Declaration of 17 September 2012 by the Five nuclear-weapon States recognizing Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, my delegation wishes to express once again its appreciation to P5 for their concrete steps in contributing to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We do not believe that nuclear weapon States have an interest to put humanity in an unimaginable danger.

We trust that they will undertake their commitments and exercise their responsibilities to fulfill the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

It is an undisputable fact that nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) strengthen both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and thereby international peace and security. 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.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is catalyst for nuclear disarmament. It is a strong instrument for non-proliferation. Mongolia welcomes recent ratification by Chad, Guinea Bissau and Iraq. Progress on the CTBT is the one multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament measures that is most urgently awaited by the international community. It is also one measure where progress can be achieved in a relatively short time. Thus, the CTBT should be brought into force at an early date and we call upon those States that have not ratified it, in particular the remaining Annex II States to do so urgently.

Senior diplomats, experts, inspectors, scientists, lawyers, journalists, academics, from every sector and at every level, have been tirelessly working for nuclear disarmament and have been a great source of inspiration in moving forward. UN Secretary-General's 5 point proposals, "Global Zero" international campaign and many other valuable initiatives are all calling for practical, systematic and progressive nuclear disarmament efforts and ultimately a world free of nuclear weapons. Their thorough ideas, proposals, roadmaps for the achievement of the ultimate goal should be shared by all States and by all peoples. To pursue this inspiration, Mongolia joins the call to designate 26 September as an International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapon. Such global campaign will definitely promote living up disarmament obligations and will absolutely enhance public awareness and education about the threat posed by nuclear weapons to humanity and necessity for their total elimination.

On the other hand, the international disarmament machinery, which we set up, must work vigorously and we need to resume our deliberations immediately. Thus, Mongolia calls for urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference of Disarmament (CD). We need to end the stalemate and avoid any further erosion of its capability to fulfill its mandate. We should not leave the momentum which would lead to the proposed UN High-Level International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, people around the world are distressed by the endless cycles of conflict. Military forces and weapons are being used to settle disputes. The grave situation in Syria is the latest example. We express the hope that the US-Russian initiative will bear fruit and lead to a peaceful resolution of the Syrian conflict.

Mongolia firmly stands for non-proliferation and complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction and welcomes UN Security Council Resolution 2118. We cannot tolerate the use of chemical weapons and strongly condemn violation of the universally accepted international law.

Potential spread of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors remains as immediate threat to international peace and security. My delegation considers that the High-Level Meeting on countering nuclear terrorism was an important step forward in promoting international cooperation and strengthening the legal framework. We should continue to build our capacity to implement all four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant resolutions of the UNGA. Mongolia reaffirms its commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

Mr. Chairman,

The Adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by the UN General Assembly was another diplomatic achievement to be underscored. My delegation believes that it will be a powerful tool for preventing human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law. Thus, Mongolia has joined 113 signatories of the ATT.

The Illicit trade in small arms light weapons (SALW) continue to fuel armed violence and the challenge posed by the proliferations of small arms and related materials remains on our agenda. We need to take UN Programme of Action on SALW seriously and continue to make a progress on a way forward. We welcome the inclusion of SALW in the ATT and as well as adoption of the first ever resolution on SALW by the UN Security Council.

I thank you. Mr. Chairman