

Check against delivery



STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. PUREVSUREN LUNDEG,
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020
Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on
the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Mr. Chair,

1. Mongolia wishes to extend to you its warm congratulations on your assumption of duties as Chairperson of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. We are confident that the session will be a success under your able leadership.

2. Mongolia aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the NPT.

3. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation demand our particular attention in light of the many challenges the global non-proliferation regime and nuclear disarmament process have been confronted with over recent years. One of such challenges was the failure of the 2015 NPT Review Conference to adopt an outcome document. This highlights the need to put forth even more concerted effort and, most importantly, demonstrate the much-needed flexibility necessary to achieve a meaningful NPT Review Conference in 2020. At the same time, we must ensure implementation of the outcome documents of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences. Otherwise, there is no point in holding review conferences, if their outcome documents are not implemented.

The only viable way to maintain the vitality of NPT is to give equal priority to its three pillars of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy. Without question, these three pillars complement one another.

4. The ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament is a world without nuclear weapons. The current stalemate over nuclear disarmament brings forth the need for progress in the implementation of Article VI of NPT. We are convinced that vigorous implementation by the nuclear-weapon states of Article VI would considerably bolster the non-proliferation pillar of NPT.

It is of critical importance that any disarmament measures are subject to the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability. We also call on the nuclear-weapon states to lessen the role of nuclear

weapons in their security and military policies and lower the operational status of nuclear weapon systems in order to reduce the risk of nuclear catastrophe.

We believe that NPT norms, in particular Article VI, are strengthened with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted last year. The Ban Treaty does not undermine NPT. On the contrary, it is conducive to achieving the purpose of NPT.

Mr. Chair,

5. If we are to maintain and reinforce the credibility of the arms control regime, we cannot confine our concern to the challenges confronting the disarmament provisions of the NPT. Challenges on the non-proliferation side are to be given equal priority.

6. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is one of the key components to achieving nuclear non-proliferation since it constrains further development of nuclear weapons. Therefore, the entry into force of the treaty is an imperative if the NPT regime is to be effective and viable.

Even though not yet in force, the CTBT has proven itself as a successful treaty. One of the Treaty's biggest assets is its effective verification mechanism. Mongolia is proud to be hosting 4 monitoring stations under the International Monitoring System (IMS). However, so long as the Treaty is not in force, the global regime banning nuclear testing will remain fragile.

Mr. Chair,

7. We believe that the conclusion of a legally-binding instrument on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States is essential, if confidence of these states in multilateral mechanisms is to be reinforced. Conclusion of such an instrument should be pursued as a matter of highest priority.

8. The third pillar of NPT – peaceful use of nuclear energy – should also be at the forefront of our common efforts to strengthen NPT. Mongolia commends the International Atomic Energy Agency's work

pursuant to Articles III and IV of NPT in verifying compliance with nuclear non-proliferation undertakings and in supporting the Parties to the Treaty in fulfilling their inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The Agency's technical cooperation programme is an indispensable part of its mandate. It has a positive bearing not only on the implementation of NPT but also Sustainable Development Goals. Judging by the outcomes of Technical Cooperation projects in my own country, Mongolia, I can say with confidence that IAEA projects on food and agriculture, geology, mining and health such as the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) contribute significantly to the scientific progress and sustainable socio-economic development of recipient Member States.

Mr. Chair,

9. Nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status are a stand-out in their contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In addition to reinforcing NPT, they contribute to confidence building in their respective regions. As such, they strengthen world and regional peace and security.

Contributing to the international community's efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is one of the objectives of Mongolia's foreign policy. It is gratifying that Mongolia's internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free status contributes to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime as well as international and regional peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

10. The Conference on Disarmament's unique history affords impressive examples of negotiating international instruments complicated both in nature and scope. Yet, the CD's dismal failure to adopt a programme of work has seriously undermined its role.

The establishment of subsidiary bodies pursuant to CD decision 2119 adopted in February this year enables the CD to engage in substantive discussions for the first time in over 20 years. It is

important that CD advance technical discussions until the adoption of its programme of work. However, we need to bear in mind that the decision to establish subsidiary bodies to engage in substantive discussions shall not replace a programme of work, but rather facilitate its adoption.

11. Potential spread of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors remains a dire threat that needs to be addressed, including through UN Security Council resolution 1540. The resolution provides a solid basis for improving national control facilities with assistance pledged under the resolution. We are pleased to have been one of the first states to receive assistance in fulfilling our obligations under Security Council resolution 1540.

Mr. Chair,

12. In closing, Mongolia reaffirms its enduring commitment to strengthening NPT norms.

Thank you for attention.