

Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia
on cluster 2 issues relating to NWFZs

Vienna, VIC

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Mr. Chairman,

As a non-nuclear-weapon state, Mongolia attaches great importance to the issues related to establishing and strengthening of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs). In this regard it supports the content of working paper 28 submitted by members of the group of non-aligned states parties to the NPT. Mongolia believes that establishment of NWFZs contributes to the goals of non-proliferation and total elimination of nuclear weapons. On the other hand the nuclear-weapon states, according to the NPT, are duty bound to eliminate their arsenals. Only implemented together will the NPT's objective and hence the noble goal of a nuclear-weapon-free will be achieved.

Two years that have passed since 2010 successful NPT review conference have witnessed encouraging steps to implement the agreement related to NWFZs. Some of the previous speakers have already made reference to these actions. In this connection my delegation would like to welcome the two monitoring reports undertaken after the 2010 conference and circulated among delegations by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and Reaching Critical Will. These reports show what steps have been taken and what steps are still needed to be taken by the nuclear-weapon states and states parties or signatories to NWFZ treaties to implement the 2010 agreements.

Mongolia welcomes the entry into force of the Semipalatinsk and Pelindaba treaties and establishment of AFCONE and of the review process of the Pelindaba treaty. It also welcomes Russia's ratification of the protocol to that treaty. Significant progress has been recorded to bringing closer together the parties to the Bangkok treaty and the nuclear weapon states that might allow the latter to sign the protocols. U.S. leadership in this needs to be mentioned. Likewise, we hope that the talks regarding possible endorsement by the P3 of the Semipalatinsk treaty and its protocol would allow signing of the protocol. We are hopeful that the positive atmosphere regarding the existing NWFZs will allow further progress, especially in withdrawing reservations and interpretative declarations made when signing the protocols.

Establishment of new NWFZs is another issue that prepcom is to address. The issue of establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction will be considered separately tomorrow after hearing an initial report on preparations to the conference by its facilitator - Mr. Jaakko Laajava. Therefore my delegation chooses not to comment on this issue at this meeting but would only welcome Finland's decision to host the conference and express its full support for a successful conference. My delegation believes that the proceedings of the IAEA forum on this issue, held in Vienna last November, would be useful for substantive and procedural preparations.

I would like to draw your attention to the first preparatory meeting for the 2015 Third Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia (NWFZM), which was held last

Friday here in Vienna, and which my country had the honor to chair. The meeting was attended by representatives of over 50 countries. It addressed various issues connected with implementing the provisions of NWFZ treaties and protocols to them. It heard reports by NWFZs and some member states on implementation of the decisions of the Second conference and exchanged views on early preparations for the third conference. Questions of further cooperation within and among NWFZs were discussed. Also was discussed how this growing group of like-minded and dedicated countries can contribute to this and subsequent two preparatory committee meetings and to the successful outcome of the 2015 NPT review conference. Special importance was attached to a successful convening of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The preparatory meeting welcomed Indonesia's decision to host the third conference. The meeting also heard statements by observers from nuclear-weapon states which underlined the importance that they attach to the issues pertaining to NWFZs.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, about Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. Since I have dealt on this issue in the general debate, I see no reason to do so now. I would just like to inform you that Mongolia is working to institutionalize its unique status, which enjoys the support of all the non-nuclear-weapon states parties to the NPT. At present Mongolia is re-engaged with the P5 on this issue. It will be holding a meeting with the P5 on the margins of this preparatory meeting to address the issues of content and format of security assurances that we are seeking. If need be, my delegation will submit a working paper on this issue.

Thank you.