



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
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VIENNA**

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Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia in the general debate
of the first PrepCom for 2015 NPT Review conference

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At the outset allow me to congratulate you, Amb. Woolcott, on your election as the Chair of this session of the PrepCom. Bearing in mind your vast experience my delegation has no doubt that you will be able to steer the session to a successful conclusion.

The NPT is the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Here in Vienna we are embarking upon a new NPT review cycle following a successful 2010 Review conference and adoption of a balanced and forward looking 64-point Action Plan. My delegation totally agrees with the High Commissioner for Disarmament Affairs when she said that the NPT without a review process would be but an empty shell without any effective means of maintaining genuine accountability for the fulfillment of commitments and legal obligations of the Treaty.

Almost two years after the 2010 conference, the time has come now to take first stock of what has so far been achieved in implementing the agreed Action Plan, and, more important, what needs to be done and how to implement most effectively the agreements reached.

My delegation believes that though some concrete actions have been undertaken to which many previous speakers have justly made reference, still much more needs to be done, whether in diminishing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in military concepts and doctrines or accelerating the entry into force of the CTBT, starting the long sought FMCT negotiations or the process of establishing a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. With respect to the latter, my delegation joins the others in welcoming Finland's decision to host that conference at the end of this year and for appointing Mr. Jaako Laajeva as its facilitator. His efforts and mission will be successful only with full cooperation of the countries of the region and the major actors. My delegation wishes every success in his important and highly delicate mission.

Due to lack of time and since specific issues would be addressed later in greater detail, allow me in this general debate to touch upon an issue of great importance to all the participants, i.e. the issue of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs). The states parties to these zones last Friday held their first preparatory meeting for their 2015 Third conference of nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia (NWFZM). Having served as the chair of that preparatory meeting I would like to briefly inform the delegates about it, which was attended by representatives of over 50 countries.

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Second NWFZM conference held in 2010 in New York. It was addressed by UN High Representative for Disarmament, representatives of the IAEA, CTBTO, OPANAL and of the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies. Focal points of NWFZs, some states parties to zone treaties and representative of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status made statements that focused on different issues of implementing the NWFZ treaties, the decisions of the Second NWFZM conference and the challenges that still lay ahead. They underlined the importance of the early preparations for the Third NWFZM Conference as well as of making a concrete input to the work of this and subsequent preparatory committee sessions leading to yet another productive NPT Review conference in 2015. Special political importance was given to a successful convening of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. It was announced that Indonesia had agreed to chair the Third NWFZM conference in 2015.

The meeting also heard statements by observers from nuclear-weapon states, namely the U.S., France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom, underlining the importance that nuclear-weapon states attach to the issues pertaining to NWFZs.

The Mongolian delegation, as a contribution to promoting the goals of NWFZs proposed to ask the Secretary General of the United Nations to undertake a comprehensive study of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all their aspects and report to member states by 2014 in advance of the third conference. The first and only such a study had been made as far back as in 1975, i.e. 37 years ago.

The third issue that my delegation would like to briefly touch upon is Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, which this year marks its twentieth anniversary. For two decades Mongolia has been working to have that status formally recognized and institutionalized. Today the initiative enjoys a wide international support, as reflected in numerous United Nations General Assembly resolutions and other international documents. Though we are not yet there, our consistent, or should I say persistent, policy and the results achieved so far demonstrate that all nations, including individual small states, can make concrete contribution towards the common goal of promoting a safer world.

At present Mongolia is consulting with the P5 regarding the content and format of the assurance that it believes is needed to finally institutionalize the status. The uniqueness of the case resides in the fact that Mongolia cannot be part of any traditional (i.e. regional) NWFZ. Hence this unique case needs equally unique approach. The assurance that Mongolia is seeking, bearing in mind that it is located between two nuclear-weapon states only, is to have the P5 formally recognize its status and commit not to contribute to any act that would violate that status. Thus the vast Mongolian territory, an area of 1.5 mln. square kms, will be off limits to nuclear weapons as long as such weapons exist. That would be our practical contribution to predictability and stability in the region.

On the margins of this prepcom session Mongolia shall be meeting with the P5 on this issue. It appreciates the P5 engagement on this issue and expresses the hope that the renewed spirit of understanding would soon lead to its recognition of the status by the P5 and its formal institutionalization.

Allow me to end this statement with the best wishes of my delegation for a successful session. Thank you.