

STATEMENT BY
DR. LUVSANDAGVA ENKHTAIVAN,
HEAD OF THE MONGOLIAN DELEGATION
AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE IAEA
AT THE 48TH REGULAR SESSION OF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
Vienna, 20-24 September 2004

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Mongolian delegation I wish to congratulate you on your election to the high office of the presidency of this 48th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I assure you and the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat of the full support of Mongolia for your efforts to make this Conference a success.

Mongolia warmly welcomes the Republic of Chad, the logolese Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania as new members of the Agency and wishes them all well.

We greatly appreciate the dedicated service's of Dr. Mohammed ElBaradei, Director General of the IAEA and the Secretariat in fulfilling the objectives entrusted to the Agency. Mongolia consistently supports the activities of the Agency and commends the Director-General for his annual report which highlights significant achievements of the Agency despite the difficulties it has encountered.

Mr. President,

Mongolia remains fully committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and regards them as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit to nuclear disarmament.

As one of the first States that has ratified the CTBT, Mongolia attaches utmost importance to its earliest possible entry force. We also welcome the Director General's comments on this topic.

The IAEA safeguards system is crucial strengthening and promoting the nuclear non-proliferation regime. And we are committed to strengthening the international safeguards system. Thus, Mongolia ratified the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement last year.

It is true that humankind achieved a great deal in the application of nuclear science and technology, particularly in the use and utilization of nuclear energy. Yet, further development of nuclear technology in the new millennium should be aimed at improving the quality of human life. Mongolia seeks new avenues and opportunities for the development of energy sources for its social and economic developmental strategies. To this end, we need professional expertise and technical assistance from the Agency. We are confident that the IAEA support in this area will make a major contribution to addressing the existing critical energy situation in Mongolia.

As for bilateral cooperation between Mongolia and the IAEA, we consider that the execution of various projects under the Technical Cooperation Program of the Agency continue to help promoting social and economic development in Mongolia. This Program covers such fields as human resource development and nuclear technology support, integrated energy demand and supply, livestock production and human health and etc.

We are pleased that the Agency is increasing its funding for its activities in Mongolia over the next two years. Further expansion of the technical assistance programme into new areas such as environmental impact assessment of the uranium mining, transboundary animal diseases, isotope application in water, soil and plant studies are of great importance to Mongolia.

We attach special importance to the Agency's model projects on upgrading radiation protection and waste safety infrastructure in view of their significant relevance to promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Agency's activities in this area have resulted in in establishing legal framework for radiation protection and safety and strengthening an independent nuclear regulatory authority in Mongolia.

In addition, we continue to rely on active cooperation as a member within the Regional Cooperative Agreement for research, development and training related to nuclear science and technology which is a useful mechanism of nuclear technology transfer for the benefits of the countries in the region.

In spite of the current economic and financial difficulties that Mongolia now faces, we have made the payments of 200.000 USD in the last two years to the Technical Cooperation Fund and are committed to settle in full our assessed contributions both to the regular budget and outstanding arrears to the Fund.

Mr. President,

We commend the efforts of the Agency towards proliferation of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The national legislation on Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status serves as a good basis for attaining recognition, acceptance of and respect for such a Status at the international level. Therefore, in our view, the involvement of the IAEA in the institutionalization of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, particularly through the verification of the implementation of the above national legislation, is another avenue for our cooperation.

Thank you.