

**STATEMENT BY
MR. GUNAAJAV MANLAIJAV, SECRETARY OF THE NUCLEAR
ENERGY COMMISSION OF MONGOLIA**

The 66th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna, September 28, 2022

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Alessandro Cortese on his election as the President of the 66th Session of the General Conference. My delegation wishes to reiterate its full support to you, Mr. President, as well as to all Members of the Bureau.

The world is facing new challenges such as nuclear safety, climate change, energy and food crises and disruption to public health. We highly appreciate the efforts and actions of the IAEA to address these problems. On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I would like to express my gratitude to Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, the staff and Member States, who have worked tirelessly to ensure nuclear safety, protection and safeguards and provided much needed assistance to Member States in building national capacity.

Mr. President,

Mongolia is fully committed to its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the IAEA Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol. We will continue to consistently support and work closely with the Agency to ensure the implementation of safeguards.

In June 2015, the Parliament of Mongolia adopted Resolution 60 aimed at further strengthening the nuclear-weapon-free status of Mongolia. The resolution calls upon the Government to take decisive actions to accede to the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and the Small Quantities Protocol. In accordance with the resolution, Mongolia took appropriate measures to join the conventions.

Mongolia effectively fulfills its obligations to ensure nuclear and radiation safety in accordance with international agreements, to which it is a party. Based on the IAEA

recommendations, we are working with relevant government authorities to amend the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP).

Mongolia adheres to the activities, standards and recommendations of the IAEA in developing the infrastructure for radiation protection and safety, as well as in improving the national legal framework.

Mr. President,

Nuclear energy is a vital source of energy that emits the least greenhouse gas and therefore is critical in the fight against global warming and climate change. In this regard, the Government of Mongolia is studying the possibility of using nuclear energy, taking into account national specifics, and has established a Working Group on this issue. We are also working to host an IAEA Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) mission in the near future.

Mongolia intends to exploit its radioactive mineral resources to support the socio-economic development of the country. The IAEA conducted a Uranium Production Site Appraisal Team (UPSAT) Review mission in May this year. The UPSAT team has issued recommendations. We are looking forward to working with the IAEA in implementing these recommendations, and we are confident that this will make a significant contribution to the exploration, mining and processing of radioactive minerals using environmentally friendly technologies and to strengthening the legal and regulatory framework.

Mr. President,

Mongolia is aware of the importance of using nuclear science and technology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and fully supports the role and engagement of the IAEA in achieving these goals. We thank the IAEA for building the capacity of its Member States to implement the safe use of nuclear technology through its Technical Cooperation Program.

The Country Program Framework between Mongolia and the IAEA for the period of 2016-2021 has been successfully implemented. Projects implemented under the Country Program Framework, including in the areas of health, food, agriculture, science, geology and mining, have made significant contributions to the social and economic development of Mongolia.

We look forward to continued cooperation with the IAEA for the successful implementation of the Country Program Framework for the period of 2022-2027, which was signed in April this year.

Furthermore, Mongolia will actively support the "ZODIAC", "Rays of Hope" and "NUTEC Plastics" projects initiated by the IAEA. We also take this opportunity to thank the IAEA for providing the emergency assistance of 500,000 doses of vaccine to prevent outbreaks of lumpy skin disease.

Mr. President,

Mongolia would like to reaffirm its full commitment to continue close cooperation with the IAEA, fulfill its obligations as a Member State, further expand the scope of cooperation and actively participate in the activities of the Agency.

In conclusion, I would like to once again assure you, Mr. President, of our full support and cooperation in achieving the utmost outcome at this session of the General Conference.

I thank you.