

**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. MS. BATTUNGALAG GANKHUURAI,  
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

**The 61<sup>st</sup> General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

Vienna, 20 September 2017

Madame President,

Let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your elections as President of the 61<sup>st</sup> General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). I am confident that the Conference will have productive deliberations under your guidance and able leadership. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

We congratulate Director- General Mr. Yukiya Amano on his re-appointment. We wish the Director-General every success in his dedicated duties and assure him of our continued support.

Mongolia welcomes and congratulates Grenada, the newest member of the Agency. Every year, new members are joining the Agency. This is a clear reflection of the importance of the IAEA.

Madame President,

During the six decades, the IAEA has successfully achieved its objectives to accelerate and enlarge the "contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity of the world".

As the international community continues to witness the social, economic, environmental and security challenges of our time, the IAEA, more than ever has an important role to ensure that the use of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity is enhanced and secured. Therefore, Mongolia attaches a great importance to nuclear security and safety, safeguards and the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology.

As a nation with nuclear-weapon-free status as well as a party to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), Mongolia places nuclear weapon non-proliferation at the top of our agenda, for the simple reason that it is fundamental to global peace and security. The IAEA's safeguards are a key to the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Mongolia is committed to its obligations to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol.

My Government has been making its utmost efforts in promoting and implementing regulatory procedures and standards to assure the peaceful nature of nuclear applications and its safety and security.

We improved the legislative framework and introduced well developed standards, rules and regulations on radiation safety, radiological protection and the safe management of radioactive sources in accordance with IAEA guidance.

Mongolia welcomes the IAEA's continued support and assistance rendered to member states in improving their nuclear safety standards. We also appreciate IAEA's contribution to our efforts in capacity building. Mongolia was one of beneficiaries of IAEA's assessment missions conducted in areas of safety and security. We note that such activities are important to assess the regulatory infrastructure and detection capabilities for nuclear, radiation, radioactive waste safety and security.

Mongolia attaches an importance in promoting education on nuclear energy and its peaceful uses. We have been organizing numerous capacity building workshops to enhance the capacity of our professionals. For an instance, in August of this year, jointly with the IAEA, we hosted the workshop on "Threat assessment and design basis threat (DBT)". Such activities are important in building capacity to identify and assess nuclear and radioactive threats and providing an appropriate system design for an effective physical protection system.

Madame President,

The IAEA is called upon to play an active role in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. Mongolia supports the use of nuclear technologies in areas of food and agriculture, human health, water resources and environment that are main pillar of our sustainable development.

We appreciate the work of the Agency in responding to human and animal health disease outbreaks. With assistance of the Agency we introduced climate-start soil. We have been also improving the management of water resources. For further development of nuclear techniques, we believe that the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) is important to achieve our development goals.

We encourage the development of many apps, including FIGO and NUCARD, e-learning modules and online training, such as the Virtual University for Cancer Control. It is indeed a very effective tool to share our experiences and educate our experts. That's why the work of the IAEA in achieving SDG goals through information and communication technologies was recognized in the ICT4SDG report as a successful one.

Madame President,

Agency's Technical Cooperation Program is a key to achieve our common agenda. On behalf of my Government, I wish to express our deep appreciation to the IAEA for its valuable and essential contribution to our development efforts.

Since joining the IAEA, Mongolia has been implementing numerous TC projects that have concrete results in development of all sectors, including health, food and agriculture, industry, science, geology and mining.

One of the best results of our fruitful partnership was introducing nuclear medicine and treatment, especially in cancer care. Through the TC and PACT programs, gamma beam radiation protection, x-ray calibration and tomography medical imaging systems have been upgraded and installed, which have highly contributed to better health care outreach and diagnosis, cancer control and treatment.

Through veterinary projects, new laboratories were established, with the use of ELISA, that are able to conduct early diagnosis of animal diseases and infections and detect the possible level of further spread of the contaminant.

The Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) has been an effective tool in promoting, coordinating and implementing cooperative research, development and training projects in the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology in the Asia and the Pacific Region. The Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology 2017 (the 2017 RCA) was adopted at the 38<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives held in Mongolia last year and we will continue to work with our partners in the region for joint outcomes.

We are confident that the Mongolia-IAEA Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period of 2016-2021 would greatly contribute to Mongolia's efforts to achieve its SDGs.

Madame President,

In conclusion, I would like to once again assure of our full support and cooperation in achieving the utmost outcome during your presidency.

I Thank you Madame President.