

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BAATAR CHOISUREN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 58TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. Chairman,

I join the previous speakers in extending to you my delegation's warm congratulations on your election as Chairman of the First Committee and through you to other members of the Bureau. I assure you my delegation's full support and cooperation in discharging your duties for the successful conclusion of the committee's work. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Under-Secretary-General Nobuyashi Abe and wish him every success on his new important post.

Mr. Chairman,

To say that we are meeting at an important juncture of international relations, really does not convey the urgency with which we are confronted. Global military expenditure is expected to exceed far beyond the Cold War time record, reaching an incredible one trillion dollars, at a time when hunger and poverty continues to plague more than half of the world's population. No progress has been made in reducing the arsenals of and curbing of the spread of weapons of mass destruction. WMD and the means of their delivery continues to pose grave threat to international peace and security. The tragic events of 9/11 highlighted the dangers that may arise from the spread of WMD and the worst, of possible access to these weapons of horror by non-State actors and terrorist groups.

We consider that it is not the time to debate about which one - the nonproliferation or global nuclear disarmament should be accorded the highest priority in our quest for a safer world free from the fear of annihilation. Move to the right direction on both fronts would bring us closer to the cherished goal of general and complete disarmament. However, my delegation believes that at present the most important task is to secure strict observance and effective implementation of all international disarmament agreements, first of all the NPT. Without such a commitment and full compliance the goals of Millennium Declaration to free peoples from the scourge of war and eliminate the dangers posed by WMD will remain a declaration of good intent.

Mongolia firmly believes that nuclear disarmament is not only the key to the solution of a wide range of disarmament and non-proliferation issues, but also for maintaining and strengthening of international peace and security. In this

context my delegation attaches special importance to the universal adherence to and preserving the integrity of the NPT. We share the view that the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of global non-proliferation regime, and the foundation for further concerted efforts towards nuclear disarmament. We also underline the importance of achieving universality of the Treaty and join the others in calling upon those States outside the Treaty to accede to it as soon as possible.

“The creeping retreat from nuclear disarmament” to which a number of speakers alluded, be it, in form of a revision of military doctrine that lowers the threshold of the possible use of nuclear weapons, spread of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery should not erode the credibility and effectiveness of NPT.

In the light of recent challenges to the NPT and to the non-proliferation regime, securing full compliance and universal adherence to it and strengthening the Treaty have become the most urgent task before us. To demonstrate the seriousness of our commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation international community as a whole, and first and foremost the NWS, must take more concrete and practical steps. Any measure implemented by the NWS, aimed at drastic reduction and eventual elimination of their nuclear arsenals would make a genuine and tangible contribution to the cause of disarmament. In this context, Mongolia attaches great importance to the implementation of the Program of action and the “Thirteen Steps” adopted at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, which is rightly considered as the blue print to achieve nuclear disarmament.

In short, urgent measures to stop further proliferation of weapons of mass destruction should be taken, inspection regimes should be strengthened and verification of the implementation of the relevant provisions of the disarmament treaties should be enforced rigorously. Our delegation considers the international safeguards system, including the Additional Protocol of the IAEA as an important pillar of the global no-proliferation regime and joins the call on all States, that have not done so, to sign them.

Mongolia welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions between Russian Federation and the United States. Its implementation representing the largest ever reduction in nuclear forces will be an important step towards nuclear disarmament.

In the opinion of my delegation, an area where concrete measures could be taken may be, for a number of reasons, developing a more effective control regime over the TNWs and reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons. According to the UNIDIR study on Tactical Nuclear Weapons due to their forward basing, often inadequate physical protection are vulnerable to theft or unauthorized use. TNW could become a very attractive target for non-State actors to gain access to it. Reaffirmation by the United States and Russia their continued commitment to the 1991/92 unilateral declarations, strengthening the

informal TNWs regime by more legal instruments, introducing transparency are cited among the possible measures to reinforce TNWs control regime.

My delegation, like many others, would like to see an early entry into force of the Comprehensive nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and calls upon all states who have not yet become parties to the Treaty to accede to it as soon as possible, in particular, those States whose ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force.

My delegation attaches special importance to the negotiation of a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. 2 years ago the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, speaking at CD session, proposed that pending the negotiations on the Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty, the nuclear-weapon States declare a moratorium on the production of weapons grade fissile materials and promote greater transparency through disclosure of their present stocks. He also urged the United Nations to establish a Register for all stocks of weapons-grade fissile material.

Creation of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ), on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region, constitutes an important non-proliferation measure, which enhances regional peace and security and promotes nuclear disarmament. The number of States covered by the NWFZ's had now exceeded 100. Mongolia warmly welcomed the 5 Central Asian States on reaching an agreement to conclude a treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. In conjunction with properly institutionalized Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, this new treaty will establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this vast and volatile region thus making a valuable contribution to the cause of turning Central Asia into a zone of peace and predictability.

Mongolia, together with the relevant UN bodies, is working to find ways of proper institutionalization of its NWF status. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the UN Member-States, relevant UN bodies for their steadfast support and assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

While there were setbacks in priority areas of nuclear disarmament and related issues progress has been made on a number of issues such as the successful conclusion of the first Review Conference of the Chemical weapons Convention, which now enjoys close to universal adherence. Destruction of declared stocks of CW's is going on, while the verification regime of CWC has demonstrated its credibility. Though the efforts to negotiate an instrument to strengthen the Biological weapons Convention had not been successful, the follow-up process arises the hope that ways to improve the compliance with Convention could be developed.

Mongolia likewise welcomes the adoption of an International Code of Conduct against the proliferation of ballistic missiles, which we consider as important initial step towards creation of a legal norm in this field.

Increasing awareness of the danger of excessive use of small arms and light weapons (SALW), its devastating impact on national and human security, political stability, economic and social development prompted the States to take concrete actions individually and collectively to implement the Program of Action of 2001 UN Conference on small arms. One of the important initiative related to this issue is the efforts to establish effective instrument to regulate and control the flow of SALW. Launching negotiation process to work out an international instrument for tracing small arms and light weapons would constitute an important breakthrough in preventing, combating and eliminating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking of small arms.

Mr. Chairman,

Before concluding I would like to say that my delegation shares the view that working methods of the Committee needs streamlining. That we need a balanced agenda, which faithfully reflects the priorities. And our work should be focused on the most important goals which requires the immediate attention and actions. In this context we share the view that non-compliance with, or inadequate implementation of existing arms control and non-proliferation treaty regimes should be one the main issues the First Committee should be addressing.

I thank you.