

Mongolia  
Final version

Statement by Amb.J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia in the  
general debate of IAEA's Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security

Vienna, VIC

21 June 2011

Mr. President,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I would like first of all to congratulate you, Mr. President on your unanimous and well-deserved appointment as President of this important Ministerial Conference.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the people of Mongolia and its Government to express once again our deep condolences to the Japanese people for the tragedy of 11 March and the loss of human life, human suffering and material damage as a result of it. We are sure that with the assistance and support of the international community the Japanese people will overcome soon this crisis and reemerge even stronger and more resilient.

My delegation welcomes the holding of this Ministerial meeting as a timely undertaking aimed at strengthening further nuclear safety and security in all its aspects. The report submitted by Japan and the Agency's International Fact-Finding Mission have served as a good basis to work on the draft declaration.

It is widely accepted that nuclear safety knows no borders and that in this business safety must always come first. And these formed the basis of the declaration adopted yesterday. It formally launched the process of learning and acting upon lessons learned to strengthen nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and radiation protection of people and the environment. It also reflects the time-bound proposals of the Director General made in his introductory statement yesterday regarding strengthening the Agency's safety standards and their universal applicability, undertaking the review of safety of all nuclear power plants (the so-called stress tests), strengthening the authority and competence of national regulatory bodies, making more effective the global emergency preparedness and response system, and underlining the Agency's central role in receiving and disseminating the related information. We also believe that safety reviews need not be limited to NPPs but also need to involve other nuclear installations and facilities as part of the safety culture.

My delegation believes that bearing in mind the Fukushima accident, the Agency needs to be empowered to be involved automatically in the assessment of the accident and dissemination of information when it is at level 5 or higher according to the International Nuclear and Radiological Even Scale (INES) so that it would be able to provide objective information without any loss of time.

My delegation welcomes the decision to encourage strengthened and high quality independent international safety expert assessments through periodic reviews and evaluation missions assessing national regulatory frameworks, emergency preparedness and response and nuclear power plant operation. This would ensure continuous improvement of the safety of nuclear installations on the basis of internationally agreed rules and procedures.

My delegation fully supports the statement made by the Austrian Vice-Chancellor, Minister M. Spindelegger regarding the importance of strengthening nuclear liability.

The 25 point declaration has mandated the Director General to prepare a report on the outcome of this conference and a draft Action Plan based on this declaration as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the three Working sessions. The Board of Governors and the General Conference would then be asked to reflect the outcome of this conference in their decisions and to support the effective, prompt and adequately resourced implementation of the Action Plan. There is thus unanimity on our further action and hence let us act accordingly without delay.

Mr. President,

As member of the Agency that is embarking upon a nuclear power program based on its economic need and availability of uranium resources, Mongolia supports universal adherence to and effective implementation of international instruments related to nuclear safety and security. The Government of Mongolia will very soon submit for consideration and ratification by the State Great Hural (parliament) of the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the safety of spent fuel management and on the safety of radioactive waste management. It is committed to further strengthen the nuclear and radiological safety infrastructure based on the Agency's safety standards and guidances, including implementation of the Code of conduct on the safety and security of radioactive sources. It will also carefully review its legislation regarding mining and processing of radioactive material, the criteria for approving license applications and the responsibility of the licensees. We are sure that we can count on the Agency and its experienced members for needed advice and support.