

**Report of the Meeting of Focal Points of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and Mongolia
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
27-28 April 2009**

A meeting of focal points of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and Mongolia was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 27-28 April 2009. The meeting was attended by representatives of State Parties to Nuclear Weapon Free Zones, and Mongolia. Representatives of Egypt and Turkey participated as observers, along with a representative of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation, and representatives from civil society.

Opening remarks were delivered by H.E. Mr Bolor Bayarbaatar, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia. Statements were delivered on behalf of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for the United Nations, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation, and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Mexico, as coordinator of the group of focal points for the Nuclear Weapon Free Zones, outlined the contribution of the Zones to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and noted the valuable cooperation with civil society.

The first plenary session addressed the implementation of the Tlatelolco Declaration, coordination and cooperation among NWFZs. Statements were delivered by Brazil on behalf of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, New Zealand on behalf of the South Pacific Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, Thailand on behalf of the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, the Kyrgyz Republic on behalf of the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, and Mongolia. Egypt briefed the meeting on measures taken to promote a NWFZ in the Middle East in accordance with the Resolution on the Middle East of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and the final document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Representatives of Turkey, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the CTBTO, and Mayors for Peace participated in the debate.

Common themes of the discussion were: the new positive signs and opportunities for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; the significance of the entry into force of the Central Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone – the first Zone in the northern hemisphere, and a Zone where nuclear weapons had been present in the past; and the contribution that Zones could make to confidence-building, particularly in areas of tension such as the Middle East.

It was noted that only two more ratifications were required for the Treaty of Pelindaba to enter into force. It was recalled that some Nuclear Weapon States had yet to ratify protocols to the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaties and suggested that Zones could share experiences towards achieving such ratifications. The importance of universalisation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was stressed. The need for entry

into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was also reinforced. In that respect, a paper was presented proposing that the Zones could be strengthened by the adoption of national implementing legislation, including the criminalisation of activities prohibited by the NWFZ Treaties. The meeting was updated on recent developments concerning the possible establishment of Zones in North East Asia, Central Europe, and the Arctic Circle. Participants were briefed on the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Mayors proposal for a protocol to the NPT banning nuclear weapons.

Some practical issues were raised about the cooperation between Zones, with some participants suggesting measures to enhance communications such as a web page, calendar of meetings, updates on ratifications, and more coordination via email. It was suggested by some delegations that a rotational coordinatorship might be useful in building momentum for the political cooperation envisaged in the Tlatelolco Declaration arising from the 2005 Conference.

The second plenary session discussed preparations for the follow-up conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that establish NWFZs and Mongolia. Representatives of Mexico, Brazil, Egypt, New Zealand, Thailand, Mongolia, the PNND and the CTBTO participated in the debate on logistical and substantive issues. Key issues discussed were:

a/ Dates for the Second Conference: possible dates of 29-30 April 2010 had been provisionally suggested, to precede the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (to be held 3-28 May 2010), with one delegation noting that it should be no later than that and possibly beforehand. It was proposed that, as in 2005, a parallel civil society forum also be convened;

b/ New York was discussed as the most practical venue, to allow for the participation of as many delegations as possible. This timing would depend, however, on availability of conference facilities in New York. An additional issue that would need to be resolved was whether a First Committee/UNGA resolution would be required to secure the availability of conference services, and how financial issues arising would be managed;

c/ the possibility of holding interactive debates with, for example, the NPT nuclear weapon states, other potential NWFZ member states, and others was discussed;

d/ a decision would need to be taken on an outcome document and its format (and substance), and how that document should contribute to the RevCon; and

e/ the question of who should be invited to participate. At the First Conference, member states of the Zones, along with NPT members, were invited. Members of the Zones had full participation rights, with NPT members and others having speaking rights but as observers. It was proposed that it may be useful to invite all members of the United Nations.

f/ It was agreed that a small working-level committee should be established to move forward with preparations for the Conference. Such a group might comprise representatives of the NWFZ focal points, along with others.

The third plenary session discussed preparations for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and the Third Preparatory Committee for the RevCon. Representatives of Brazil, Mongolia, Thailand, Mexico, New Zealand, Egypt and the PNND participated in the debate. Delegates discussed how the Zones could establish a presence in forthcoming meetings, and the modalities for approval by members and Zones not represented at the Ulaanbaatar meeting of any proposed statements. It was decided that Mongolia as Chair of the Ulaanbaatar meeting would present a statement at the forthcoming Third PrepCom under his own authority, provided there was an opportunity under the operating procedures for the PrepCom. If it were logistically possible, a side event could be pursued during the second week of the meeting. It was also suggested that a side event on Zones might be considered during the First Committee.

Looking forward to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and the Second Conference of NWFZs it was proposed that the meeting could work towards a substantive outcome document that could be presented at the RevCon, outlining the shared views of members of the Zones.

It was discussed that there may be value in requesting the Secretary General to prepare a comprehensive report on the contribution of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. Such a request for a report should be further discussed in the context of the UNGA First Committee.

Representatives of the Zones met to discuss elements of a Chairman's statement to the forthcoming Third PrepCom of the NPT. New Zealand, as rapporteur of the meeting, presented a draft report, which was adopted by the participants.

The meeting was closed on 28 April by Ambassador Enkhsaikhan Jargalsaikhan, Mongolia's Focal Point. Participants warmly thanked the Government of Mongolia for hosting the meeting, and for the excellent arrangements made by Secretariat staff.