

MEETING OF FOCAL POINTS OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE
TREATIES AND MONGOLIA

Message

By

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Delivered by the Chair of the Meeting on behalf of the High Representative



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I am pleased to send this message to the Meeting of Focal Points of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaties and Mongolia. I welcome this occasion to exchange views on the implementation of the Declaration for the Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) and to prepare for the follow-up conference of States parties and signatories of treaties creating such NWFZs. The meeting also provides an opportunity to discuss the third session of the preparatory committee (PrepCom) for the 2010 Review Conference of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

I strongly support the efforts by all participants in this meeting to promote the cooperation and consultation agreed at the conference of states parties to NWFZs in April 2005. I encourage all the States parties to the relevant treaties to share information and periodically to consider the adoption of common positions and approaches to strengthen the effectiveness of the zones. I note that the focal points of the NWFZs have met on the margins of the 2008 session of the First Committee. This illustrates the kind of practical actions and collaboration that can be constructively pursued by the States belonging to the NWFZs. Common positions adopted at such meetings could feed into other multilateral arenas, such as the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

There have been a number of positive developments this year in the NWFZs. On 21 March, the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia entered into force. A few days ago, on 25 April, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon in Latin America and the Caribbean (Tlatelolco Treaty) commemorated the 40th anniversary of its entry into force. Collectively, such developments help to strengthen the rule of law, as underscored on 24 October last year by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his five-point proposal to reinvigorate nuclear disarmament. The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty) only needs the ratification of two more States before it enters into force [this needs to be checked again in case Malawi ratifies the Treaty], an event that would be welcomed by the entire world community. Mongolia has continued to consolidate its Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status which will further contribute to nuclear non-proliferation and regional security efforts.

On the eve of the third session of the 2010 NPT PrepCom, I sincerely hope that this meeting in Ulaanbaatar will send a strong signal to the world that the NWFZs enhance global and regional peace and security and contribute to our quest for a world free of nuclear weapons.

In that spirit of cooperation, please accept my best wishes for a successful meeting.