

Brief remarks by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan, Mongolian Focal Point at the
opening of the Second Conference of NEFZs and Mongolia

New York

30 April 2010

Mr. President,
Esteemed delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure Mr. President, Amb. Labbe of Chile, to congratulate you on your unanimous election as President of this important conference and wish you every success. My delegation's congratulations also to go the other members of the bureau on their election. You can rest assured of the full support of the Mongolian delegation in your tasks to make this conference a successful and highly productive one.

It is the second time that the states parties or signatories to NWFZ treaties and Mongolia are meeting to discuss and take decisions to strengthen NWFZ regimes, promote establishment of new zones and contribute to disarmament and non-proliferation that should lead to a world free of nuclear weapons. My delegation fully shares the view that compared to 5 years ago, when the first conference was held in Mexico, today's international environment is more conducive to making real positive steps towards our shared goal of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. In the area of NWFZs, three regional zones have been established with the entry into force of the treaties of Bangkok, Pelindaba and Semipalatinsk. Some steps have been taken to institutionalize Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. However, no movement has been registered in establishing a NWFZ in the Middle-East despite the adoption of a resolution to this effect 15 years ago at the 1995 review and extension conference. Effective measures need to be taken to fully implement that important resolution. This conference should send a strong and unequivocal signal to the NPT review conference.

Therefore NWFZ states should make the best use of the prevailing favorable international environment to take further practical steps to make this world a safer and more secure place for the present and succeeding generations.

Today's deliberations and its outcome should be aimed at addressing the issues of further strengthening the existing zones from within as well as from the outside by promoting signing and/or ratifying them, as the case may be, by nuclear-weapon states or withdrawal of existing reservations and unilateral interpretative declarations. The conference should also underline its full support for the establishment of new zones, especially in the Middle East, for the total ban on all nuclear tests and the support of the inalienable right of all states to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

With respect to strengthening the existing NWFZs and making them an effective disarmament tool, my delegation believes that full implementation of the principles and provisions of NWFZ treaties and closer cooperation within and among zones is needed. In this respect the focal points can play an important role. With this in mind last year Mongolia hosted the first meeting of focal points of NWFZs and Mongolia. Its primary aim was to promote exchange of views on strengthening NWFZ coordination mechanism and start preparations for this second conference. The meeting reaffirmed the validity of the 2005 Tlatelolco declaration and briefly reviewed its implementation. Addressing the issues of future zones, the participants were briefed on the measures taken to promote NWFZs in the Middle East, Delegates also exchanged views on the chances of promoting NWFZs in Northeast Asia, South Asia and Central Europe. The meeting also took the first step for NWFZs, when deemed appropriate and useful, to make joint statements on issues of common interest. There was a broad agreement that henceforth NWFZs, that represent almost 120 states with a common vision, goal and commitment, should speak up, when necessary, on issues of common interest and “establish their due presence” at appropriate international fora and negotiations where their interests are affected. With that in mind the meeting of focal points made a joint statement that was circulated as an official document of the third prepcom in 2009. My delegation believes that this conference needs to express its support for such joint measures when deemed necessary and practically useful.

Mr. President, Exactly 35 years ago the first comprehensive study on NWFZs in all its aspects was undertaken, which played an important role in raising awareness of the utility of such zones as important effective regional measures of non-proliferation and disarmament. Compared to 1975, with the end of the cold war, the international landscape has changed. However, only marginal changes have been registered in making this world a safer place for the present and succeeding generations. NWFZs have demonstrated that they can play an important role in strengthening international security, mutual confidence and promoting nuclear disarmament. Therefore, my delegation believes that a second comprehensive study on NWFZs in all their forms and aspect needs to be undertaken. A resolution asking the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake such a study could be adopted at the next session of the General Assembly.

In conclusion, I would like to underline once again the readiness of the Mongolian focal point and the Mongolian delegation to work with you and the delegates to make this conference an important international event in our common goal of making this world a safer place for all the peoples of the world.

Thank you.