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MONGOLIA

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AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman,
Mr Director-General and Ms Deputy Director-General,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Mongolian delegation, I would like to join the other delegates in congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. I pledge the full support of the Mongolian delegation to assist you in your work.

I welcome the statement delivered by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, his presence has given great impetus to the unique existing and essential relationship between the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Further, I also express our gratitude to the Director-General of the OPCW, Ahmet Üzümcü, for his statement of its comprehensive information on the activities of the Organisation.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is a pioneering treaty, a model for the international disarmament architecture. Mongolia has a special relationship with the Convention: At a time when the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction remains real, and global peace and international security are at risk, the OPCW has a vital role: It has proved that it is possible to effectively address questions of disarmament and non-proliferation through multilateral action.

Indeed, we live in a world of great insecurity. Today the changing nature of the global chemical industry and the potential for the manufacture of new types of chemicals can impact the verification regime of the Convention. Mongolia appreciates the OPCW's ongoing work to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention, ensure the full implementation of its provisions, and foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry. The OPCW's continued support for national capacity building and facilitation of national implementation is highly commendable.

Mongolia has taken several measures to implement the Convention.



Firstly, Mongolia has enacted the following legislation and regulations relevant to the Convention:

A revised Law on Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals adopted by the Parliament in May 2006 introduced new controls on chemicals imports and use and forms the foundation of the Mongolian legislation on chemicals.

Secondly, in August 2006 Mongolia's National Authority and the OPCW held a national seminar on the practical implementation of the Convention in Mongolia. This seminar was attended by senior officials from the key government agencies involved in areas related to the Convention.

The seminar contributed significantly to enhancing national personnel's expertise in Convention implementation issues. I wish to take this opportunity to express Mongolia's sincere appreciation for the OPCW's assistance in the organisation of this particular seminar and in the capacity building of our national personnel in general.

Thirdly, in 1997 Mongolia declared assets for the OPCW's disposal in case of delivery of assistance operations under Article X. A Technical Secretariat team inspected the offered assets in September 2010 and certified them to be in a good condition.

In the regards, we fully support the readiness of the Technical Secretariat to offer its resources and expertise to the investigation of the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria and we remind Syria of the of the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons by international customary law and by the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

The OPCW's mandate to promote international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention is of vital importance to developing countries like Mongolia. It is critical to allocate a sufficient amount of the Organisation's resources to international cooperation and assistance activities. Strengthening chemical analysis capabilities, in particular the technical competence of publicly funded chemical laboratories, is an important element in facilitating national implementation of the Convention and is in line with national objectives and priorities for the peaceful applications of chemistry.

Although the Chemical Weapons Convention is one of the most comprehensive arms control agreements, complete universality remains a challenge. Unless the last remaining seven States outside the treaty can be persuaded to accede, it will be difficult to achieve a world without chemical weapons. Patient and continuous dialogue in a non-confrontational manner seems to be the most promising way forward.

On the other hand, the Technical Secretariat continues its efforts toward the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention in relation to the remaining seven States not Party and in particular the two States not Party in Asia, namely Myanmar and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As regards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Secretariat continues to make efforts to reach out to their authorities.

In this context, geographically, Mongolia has a unique position. It is a landlocked developing country sandwiched between the two powerful nations of the world—China and Russia. Mongolia's two neighbours' bilateral relationship is crucially important for security and

stability in both Northeast Asia and Central Asia. Due to its strategic positions Mongolia develops balanced relationships with these two powers.

Northeast Asia is the only region which lacks a formal regional set-up for security cooperation. Mongolia stands firm by its policy of active engagement of the DPRK in dialogues and negotiations and remains against isolating North Korea in the international arena. We also stand for a nuclear weapon free Korea Peninsula and always advocate the resolution of the Korean Peninsula's nuclear issues by peaceful means.

The fact that Northeast Asia has no multilateral framework for managing disputes has led Mongolian to consistently call for setting up a multilateral security cooperation mechanism in the region.

In closing, let me reiterate Mongolia's strong commitment to the Convention and its objectives. We stress that a balanced outcome of the Third Review Conference to the current and future work of the Convention is crucial to its full and effective implementation.

Thank you for attention.

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