

**STATEMENT BY MR. GUNAAJAV MANLAIJAV
SECRETARY OF NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION OF MONGOLIA**

The 62nd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna, 18 September 2018

Madame President,

Let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the 62nd General Conference of the IAEA. I am confident that the Conference will have productive deliberations under your guidance and able leadership. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Madame President,

The IAEA has continued to showcase its solid commitment to ensuring effective implementation of its mandate, through promoting the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, enhancing national and international nuclear safety and security and strengthening nuclear verification and non-proliferation.

With the ever-increasing social and security challenges of our time, the IAEA under its longstanding motto "atoms for peace and development" has adapted its programmatic activities to better address the needs of its Member States, particularly in enhancing the role of the atom in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

The Sustainable Development Goals-2030 cover many important areas closely connected with Agency's activities including energy, food security, nutrition, health, environment protection and use of water resources. Therefore, it is indeed important and timely to organize this year the Scientific Forum on "**Nuclear Technology for Climate: Mitigation, Monitoring and Adaptation**". More importantly, the Agency has a significant role to play in implementing the goals of countering the negative impacts of climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and global warming.

Madame President,

As a state with a nuclear-weapon-free status as well as a party to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), Mongolia is committed to nuclear non-proliferation and adheres fully to its obligations under the IAEA Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol.

The IAEA's nuclear safeguards system is a fundamental component of global nuclear non-proliferation. Strengthening and enhancing the safeguards system is a continuous and critical task for the IAEA. Thus, we consider that the completion of the MOSAIC project would contribute to the improvement of the safeguards system.

We commend the IAEA's efforts in capacity building of experts as well as in strengthening of the implementation of safeguards obligations by Members States. In this regard, I wish to highlight that Mongolia recently received the Complementary access of IAEA's Safeguard's inspectors. We value such activities which provide a meaningful input for the continuous improvement of the national nuclear security framework.

Nuclear safety is a firm and unwavering commitment of Mongolia. In accordance with Parliament resolution 60 on strengthening Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, which was renewed in 2015, the Government of Mongolia will continue to take step-by-step actions towards acceding to the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management as well as to the Revised Small Quantity Protocol.

Mongolia emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and the development of common approaches for nuclear safety. With a view to ensuring the safe and secure use of nuclear energy my Government has given high priority to promoting, implementing and improving regulatory procedures, standards and regulations. The IAEA safety standards, tools, and peer review missions carried out in previous years in Mongolia has been of utmost importance in fulfilling these efforts.

With a view to improving and enhancing the regulatory aspects of nuclear energy use, including radiation safety, radiological protection and safe management of radioactive sources, the special Working group is making efforts to strengthen and amend the Law on Nuclear Energy. The mineral resources sector is a critical pillar of our country's economy. Thus, in 2018, important codes of conduct on radiation safety on exploitation and exploration of radioactive minerals were approved to ensure the sustainable and safe use of mining practices.

In a line with efforts to enhance safety measures, incident and emergency preparedness has been an important focus area for the Government of Mongolia. Therefore, within the framework of developing a national action plan on incident and emergency preparedness and response to nuclear or radiological emergencies, a number of training, workshops and exercises have been organized. Building on our national efforts, Mongolia continues to take part in the IAEA CONVEX exercises, which have been effective in building capacity for coordination and response at the domestic level.

Madame President,

Along with strengthening cooperation with the IAEA, Mongolia continues to develop its bilateral cooperation in the nuclear field. Nuclear Energy Commission has been implementing a cooperation project with the European Commission to enhance the capabilities of the Mongolian regulatory authority in the areas of radiation safety and nuclear safeguards and to promote regulatory standards and practices in Mongolia, in accordance with the European Commission and best international practices.

In 2018, the Nuclear Energy Commission of Mongolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Atomic Energy Cooperation ROSATOM to implement the Project of the Establishment of the Centre for Nuclear Science and Technology in Mongolia. We believe that such cooperation will enable Mongolia to enhance nuclear technology capabilities and its applications, train nuclear professionals and instill safety culture. Also, we are upstarting our cooperation with the Republic of Kazakhstan in experience exchange in the field of nuclear energy.

Madame President,

Mongolia is an active partner of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Program. On behalf of my Government, I wish to express our appreciation to the IAEA for its valuable and essential contribution to Mongolia's efforts in enhancing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the economic and social development of the country.

Mongolia has jointly implemented numerous TC projects in various areas, including human and animal health, food and agriculture, industry, science, geology and mining, and other fields pertaining to nuclear waste, safety and security.

As result of the IAEA TC projects medical imaging systems have been upgraded and installed, which contribute to better health care outreach and diagnosis, cancer control and treatment. Biosecurity laboratories also have been renovated. And improved research and diagnostic capacities using nuclear and nuclear derived techniques have led to successful containment of transboundary animal diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease.

Creating interest and understanding of nuclear science and technology at an early age and supporting and enhancing nuclear study opportunities for our students is important. This year we concluded an Agreement with the IAEA, to join the Internet Reactor Laboratory Project. For a country with no research reactor, implementation of such a project will greatly contribute to training of our future nuclear professionals, giving students the opportunity to do experiments through an e-platform. We also welcome the TC project on "Educating Secondary Students and Science Teachers on Nuclear Science and Technology", which will allow nuclear education to be incorporated better into our secondary school curricula's.

The Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) has been an effective tool in promoting, coordinating and implementing cooperative research, development and training projects in the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology in the region. We assure of our commitment to work with our partners in the region for joint fruitful outcomes.

The TC and RCA projects have been crucial to the achievement of our development agenda. We are confident that the Mongolia-IAEA Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period of 2016-2021 would greatly contribute to Mongolia's efforts to achieve its Sustainable Development.

Mongolia has been making its contribution to IAEA's various programmatic and infrastructure activities, and we do support the ongoing modernization of the Agency's nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf. Mongolia appreciates the constant progress of such work. We look forward to the inauguration of the Flexible Modular Laboratory in November during the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology.

Madame President,

In conclusion, I would like to once again assure of our full support and cooperation in achieving the utmost outcome during your presidency.

I thank you, Madame President.