STATEMENT BY GUNAAJAV MANLAIJAV, SECRETARY OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION OF MONGOLIA

The 65th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Virtual, 20-24 September 2021

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I would like to convey my congratulations on your election as President of the 65th Session of the General Conference. My delegation extends its full support to you, Mr. President, as well as all members of the Bureau.

Mr. President,

We are living in an uncertain new reality. In this challenging environment with national lockdowns, reduced operations, and global transport limitations, the Agency proved itself to be an important partner to countries battling this pandemic.

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I would like to start by highlighting the Agency's absolute solidarity with its member States during these unprecedented times. I would also like to thank the IAEA for assisting its Member States, including Mongolia, in strengthening the national technical capacity to fight the COVID-19.

Mr. President,

Mongolia is fully committed to nuclear non-proliferation as it believes that the nuclear non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty of Non-Proliferation and the Agency's safeguards system is the cornerstone of international security and indispensable to sustainable development of nuclear energy. We thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for their reports on the ongoing verification efforts and commend the Director-General for his efforts to ensure that the Agency is able to continue essential verification work despite the challenging environment.

To support the implementation of Non-Proliferation Treaty and to make a worthwhile contribution to the peace and security of mankind, Mongolia is committed to its obligations to the implementation of the Safeguards Agreements by accessing the Convention on Nuclear Safety, modified Small Quantity Protocol, Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

The Mongolian Government has been making its utmost efforts in strengthening and

enhancing national safeguards regime in compliance with the IAEA safeguards, by enacting key regulations in the last year such as Regulation for States' Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials and Regulation on Transport of Nuclear and Radioactive Material.

Mr. President,

Mongolia fully supports the promotion of a global nuclear safety and security framework in the Member States. In a line with efforts to enhance safety measures, incident and emergency preparedness has been an important focus area for the Government of Mongolia and within the area, the "National plan on Radiological emergency" was approved by the Government in 2020.

Mongolia continues to take part in the IAEA CONVEX exercises, which has been effective in building capacity for coordination and response at the domestic level.

Mr. President,

Mongolia would like to express its appreciation for the Agency's efforts to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and introduce nuclear technology through the IAEA TC program. The Country Program Framework between Mongolia and IAEA for 2016-2021 was successfully implemented.

Within the framework, Mongolia welcomes the Agency's international efforts to strengthen global capacity to detect, prevent and respond to zoonotic diseases through the use of nuclear and nuclear derived techniques.

Mongolia aims to fully utilize nuclear science and technology in its socio-economic sectors to make an impact on the objectives of the national sustainable development which set forth in Mongolia's Long-Term Development Policy. In this frame, the Government of Mongolia has successfully introduced the first ever PET/CT facility to battle the most common cancer nationwide.

Mr. President,

The Government of Mongolia is convinced that nuclear technology has great potential to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. We would like to highlight the increased demand for nuclear technology by the Member States for peaceful applications with a view to meet their SDGs.

In conclusion, Mongolia will continue to support the IAEA activities in promoting the international cooperation in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy and for the application of the Safeguards. I would like to once again assure you, Mr. President, of our full support and cooperation in achieving the utmost outcome at this session of the General Conference.

Thank you for your attention.