

Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
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Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I wish to join the others in expressing our gratitude to the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the organization of this international conference which provides another opportunity for us to discuss and exchange views on humanitarian and developmental consequences of nuclear weapon detonation. I would also like to thank our panelists for their informative and thought-provoking presentations.

Mr. Chairman,

As we can see from their presentations and our discussions the impact of nuclear weapon detonation is enormous and dangerous, and more concerted efforts should be made by the international community to further strengthen nuclear security.

It goes without saying that the sole guarantee against the risk of use and proliferation of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. Nevertheless, pending the achievement of this ultimate goal, a number of steps should be undertaken as a matter of urgent priority, including the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, vigorous implementation of forward-looking action plans agreed upon in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. This also includes putting an end to the protracted stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament, the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

Mongolia strongly believes that nuclear weapon free zones greatly contribute to enhancing global and regional peace and security, expanding and strengthening nuclear non-proliferation regime, and advancing the goals of nuclear disarmament. Therefore, we support the strengthening further the existing nuclear weapon free

zones, and encourage establishing new zones in other regions. As a Northeast Asian country Mongolia attaches particular importance to the situation in this sub-region, and would support all efforts aimed at making it free of nuclear weapons. We believe that the six party talks have an important bearing to that end.

We are of the view that along with the international efforts the activities at the national level could greatly contribute to the course of promoting a nuclear-weapon-free world. As you are well aware a number of countries, including my own country – Mongolia, have national legislation banning nuclear weapons. Last year we celebrated the twentieth anniversary since Mongolia declared its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone and started making efforts to institutionalize its nuclear weapon free status. Today Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status enjoys a wide international support being reflected in numerous UN General Assembly resolutions and other international documents. On 17 September 2012 five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council signed joint Declaration in which they affirmed their intent to respect Mongolia's status and not to contribute to any act that would violate it.

I fully share the view expressed at this conference by a number of delegations that we should concentrate our attention not only on promoting awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapon detonation, but also think about the concrete actions that could be undertaken to prevent it. I believe that the exchange of national experiences would be of particular importance. Mongolia would be ready to cooperate with other countries in this regard.

Thank you.