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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ELBEGDORJ TSAKHIA,
PRESIDENT OF MONGOLIA,
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

26 September 2013
New York

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Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored and privileged to address this important meeting and share my thoughts on some of the issues under discussion and thus contribute to sending a clear and strong message on the need for taking resolute measures aimed at promoting a world without nuclear weapons.

We have gathered here today because we all support the bold vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and believe that it can be achieved with persistent efforts, mutual understanding, hard negotiations and close cooperation of all members of the international community, especially the nuclear-weapon states.

Nuclear disarmament has multiple aspects each one of which needs careful consideration. Due to the time constraint, I shall briefly focus on the following seven issues.

One. *Banning of nuclear weapons.* Mongolia supports the Secretary-General's five point proposal on nuclear disarmament. Hence it agrees that one of the most urgent issues that needs to be addressed is banning of nuclear weapons. It believes that it is high time to start negotiations on the nuclear weapons convention, a preliminary draft of which has already been circulated to member states. The results of the meetings of the Open Ended Working Group and the humanitarian effects of nuclear weapons clearly underline the urgency of such an action. In this connection I join the call to designate the 26th September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Two. *CTBTO.* The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a catalyst for nuclear disarmament and a strong instrument for non-proliferation. Hence its entry into force is urgently awaited by the international community. Given due political will, progress can be achieved in a relatively short time. Therefore, I call upon those States that have not ratified it, in particular the remaining eight Annex II states, to do so urgently.

Three. Disarmament negotiations and campaigns. It is regrettable that the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum – the Conference on Disarmament - has not been able to live up to its expectation. Though consultations are underway to revitalize its work, the CD still remains paralyzed. The international community should not be at the mercy of individual states in matters that affect vital interests of all. That is why international practice has demonstrated the indispensable role of coalitions of states and of NGOs, when the disarmament machinery fails, as exemplified by the successful conclusion of land-mines convention in 1997 and of the cluster munitions convention in 2008. Here I would like to specifically mention the role of the New Agenda Coalition in the NPT the review conference, of the global network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), of the Middle Powers Initiative to encourage the nuclear-weapon states to live up to their commitments, the inspiring and organizing roles of the Global Zero campaign, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and many other valuable coalitions and initiatives aimed at promoting practical nuclear disarmament efforts.

The conference of states parties to nuclear-weapon-free zone and Mongolia (NWFZM) is a new phenomenon which is expected to amplify the voice of this group of 116 countries and make it an important player in nuclear disarmament negotiations. As part of NWFZM, in 2009 Mongolia organized the first meeting of focal points in Ulaanbaatar, in 2012 in Vienna it chaired the preparatory meeting for the Third conference of NWFZM scheduled for 2015. This year, together with Mexico, it co-chaired the Geneva preparatory meeting.

Four. Nuclear-weapon-free zones. Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones has proven to be an effective regional measure of non-proliferation and disarmament. As of today, there are nine nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs): the Antarctic, the outer space, the sea bed as well as zones in populated areas: Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, South East Asia, Africa, Central Asia and Mongolia as a single-State zone that covers a territory of over 1.5 mln. sq. kms. They are widely recognized as important and effective regional measures that complement global measures. The existing zones need to be strengthened and measures taken to promote the establishment of new zones, including in the Middle East and in Northeast Asia. Since the latter have lingering disputes, establishment of zones would not be easy. But that should not deter or discourage us.

Establishment of aforementioned zones has produced a rich wealth of experience that would be useful in establishing new ones. Therefore Mongolia has proposed that the United Nations undertake a second comprehensive study on the establishment NWFZs in all its aspects, since the first such practically useful study had been undertaken 38 years ago and proved useful in establishing the above zones. The study can be undertaken

before the international community celebrates 40th anniversary of establishment of the first zone in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Five. Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. In line with a vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world, over 20 years ago Mongolia, situated between two nuclear-weapon states, has declared itself a single-state nuclear-weapon-free zone and has been working hard to institutionalize that status. At the national level in 2000 it adopted a legislation that clearly defined the status and had criminalized acts that would violate it. At the international level, as a result of the wide support of the international community and of our flexible and yet principled and persistent policy, this unique status of Mongolia today enjoys broad international recognition. In September 2012 the five nuclear-weapon states have signed a joint declaration that not only recognized Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, but also committed them to respect that status and not contribute to any act that would violate it. Thus we have a pledge by all P5 that Mongolia will not be pressured to accept any part of system of nuclear weapons. Hence it will not be allowed to be used as a pawn in future geopolitical competition and great power rivalry. Stable, non-aligned and re-assured Mongolia will be a zone of confidence and stability, a territory which will not be used to harm interests of others. Mongolia's experience inspires and demonstrates that even small states can contribute to promoting the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Six. Northeast Asia. As a country with firsthand experience in ensuring security primarily by political and diplomatic means, Mongolia is prepared, on an informal basis, to work with the countries of Northeast Asia to see if and how a nuclear-weapon-free zone could be established in the region. Though we know well that that would not be easy and would require courage, political will and perseverance, it is doable, if not right away. In the meantime, steps should be taken to promote greater confidence. With that in mind, last March I have proposed to start the "Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Security" and have invited the countries of the region to an open dialogue so as to gradually build confidence in the region.

Mr. President, Let us spare no effort to move forward nuclear disarmament. Today's momentous gathering should give the needed boost. I thank you.

