



MONGOLIA



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Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I wish to extend to you, Mr. President, my delegation's warmest congratulations on your unanimous election as President of the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly and pledge my delegation's full support in discharge of your duties. I am confident that under your able stewardship this session will successfully accomplish its mission.

Mr. President,

The outgoing year has been a challenging time as the international community has been grappling with a host of formidable challenges including terrorist attacks, the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, violent internal conflicts, the surge of infectious diseases, natural disasters coupled with persisting poverty and

representation of developing and developed countries. In this regard, my Government supports the legitimate aspirations of such countries like Japan, Germany and India which are willing and able to shoulder greater responsibility in pursuit of international peace, security and development. Permanent seats, in our view, should also be allocated to Latin America and Africa. Enlargement is not, however, a goal in itself - the expanded Security Council must be fully equipped to effectively react to the crises and conflicts of the new Millennium. It is also our view that the veto power ought to be thoroughly reviewed, and efforts should be exerted to turn the Council into a more democratic institution through enhancing its accountability and transparency of its work.

There appear to be broad support emerging that the next year's High-Level review of the implementation the Millennium Development Goals and the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations ought to produce bold decisions on our way onward so that the family of nations could attain the ambitious yet achievable goals set in the Millennium Declaration through display of genuine solidarity, shared responsibility and effective partnership.

Mr. President,

As the Secretary-General has eloquently underscored last week in his statement to the General Assembly the need for upholding the rule of law in the whole spectrum of international and domestic politics, my delegation firmly believes that the rule of law and multilateralism represent the fundamental principles of international relations for the 21st century. We must not falter or fail in pursuing them. The value of international law as the only viable framework of rules to govern the behavior and interaction among states, must never be measured in short-term perspectives or for near-sighted goals, neither should virtues of collective decision-making be contested.

Mongolia is concerned with the security situation in Iraq. The end of occupation and the formal restoration of Iraqi sovereignty on 28 June 2004 were laudable achievements, yet the persisting climate of violence and insecurity threatens to undermine the efforts of the international community to bring peace, security and stability to the country. Mongolia wholeheartedly supports the political process based on UN Security Council resolutions 1483 and 1546, and the actions of the Interim Government towards convening a national conference, creation of an Interim Council, and holding elections early next year.

The approaching presidential and parliamentary elections are important milestones for a new, democratic Afghanistan. Elections are a necessary prerequisite and a litmus test of democracy. The registration of voters numbering more than 10 million, significant portion of whom are women, clearly demonstrates the strong determination of the Afghan people to rebuild their country. Continued engagement of the international community remains crucial in keeping the peace and stability in Afghanistan and promoting the Bonn process.

Mr. President,

The Korean nuclear crisis and the resulting tensions on the Korean peninsula cast dark clouds over the entire Northeast Asia. Being a Northeast Asian nation with a nuclear-weapon-free status, Mongolia stands for a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula, and sees it as an important condition leading to the reconciliation of both Koreas, therefore, to peace and stability in the region. The continuation of the six-party talks with a view to coming to a negotiated solution is of vital importance to maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the region as a whole.

Indeed, strengthening international peace and security, supporting practical disarmament measures in every possible way has been one of the main priorities of Mongolia's foreign policy. We firmly believe that disarmament efforts should equally focus on state-and-people-centered dimensions. The global landmine ban campaign and efforts to curb illicit trade in small arms and light weapons have immediate bearing on human security, social and economic development around the world.

As a strong advocate of WMD disarmament, and particularly nuclear disarmament, Mongolia believes that the full and effective implementation of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the part of both the nuclear and non-nuclear countries has a pivotal role in promoting international peace and nuclear security. In that context, Mongolia welcomes the UNSC resolution 1540 (2004) adopted unanimously under Chapter VII of the UN Charter as a meaningful step towards curbing the WMD proliferation, yet we also believe that a correspondingly significant step ought to be made in nuclear disarmament - the early entry into force and universalization of the Comprehensive-Test-Ban-Treaty as a first priority. This treaty, once in force, would greatly contribute to the prevention of horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the dangers posed by their possible acquisition by non-state actors.

Establishment of new and consolidation of existing nuclear-weapon-free-zones should remain high on the international agenda. My Government will continue its efforts towards institutionalizing its nuclear-weapon-free-status at the international level. Mongolia's internationally recognized and legally-binding nuclear-weapon-free-status

could further contribute towards ensuring peace and stability in the region of Northeast Asia and beyond.

Mr. President,

Global fight against terror remains high on the agenda of the international community. 9/11 heralded the start of an unprecedented global campaign drawing together countries, large and small, in their resolve to stand united to combat terrorism. And yet, despite the efforts of the international community, terrorism just like an ancient Hydra seems to grow new heads for every one lost. The outgoing year was not an exception from that sad pattern, it was marked by continuous attacks against civilians - both Iraqi and foreign nationals, in Iraq; havoc wrecked on commuter trains in Madrid; and a string of attacks across the Russian Federation, the latest being the school massacre in Beslan — where children fell victim to an unprecedented atrocity beyond human comprehension. These events have underlined once again the need for

One year from now the world leaders will meet in Summit here to review the progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In preparation for this