

***STATEMENT OF MONGOLIA TO THE SECOND SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION***

***STATEMENT BY
MRS. BATSUKH OYUN
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY OF MONGOLIA
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CWC***

THE HAGUE, APRIL 9, 2008

**STATEMENT OF MONGOLIA TO THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE
OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director General,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Mongolian delegation, I would like to join the other delegates in congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. I pledge the full support of the Mongolian delegation to assist you in your work.

Mr. Chairman,

The Chemical Weapons Convention makes a crucial contribution to international efforts to address the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It established the first global disarmament regime banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under strict verification.

Mongolia appreciates OPCW's ongoing work to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention, ensure the full implementation of its provisions, and foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry. The OPCW's continued support for national capacity building and facilitation of national implementation is highly commendable.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia has taken several measures to implement the CWC. Firstly, Mongolia has enacted the following legislation and regulations relevant to the Convention:

- A revised Law on Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals adopted by the Parliament in May 2006 introduced new controls on chemicals imports and use and forms the foundation of the Mongolian legislation on chemicals. The Law prohibits the export, import, cross-border transport, production, storage, trade, purchase, transport, use and transfer of toxic and hazardous chemicals for chemicals weapons and sabotage purposes.

Pursuant to this Law, a National Council in charge of providing advice on toxic and hazardous chemicals policy and coordination has been established under the Prime Minister's Office, and its regional councils are working under the relevant ministries, governors of aimags and the capital city.

- The Government is amending the relevant regulations as part of its work to implement the revised Law on Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals. In particular:

- In April 2007, the Regulation for the storage, transport, use and destruction of toxic and hazardous chemicals was put into effect. A draft Regulation for the export, import, cross-border transport, production and trade in toxic and hazardous chemicals has been submitted for approval.
- In April 2007, the Government enacted the revised Lists of toxic and hazardous chemicals prohibited and restricted for use in Mongolia. The revised List contains over a hundred chemicals covered by annexes to several international conventions, including the Chemical Weapons Convention.

- The production, export, import, use and trade in toxic and hazardous chemicals require a special license under the Law on Special License for Commercial Activity.

- Under Government Resolution №219 on Re-Adoption of the procedure and list of code-named goods requiring license when transported across the state borders, authority for granting consent

for toxic chemicals exports and imports rests with the Ministry of Nature and Environment.

- All of the above-mentioned laws prescribe administrative penalties for violations. Criminal penalties are imposed under the amended Criminal Code of Mongolia, which states that “acquisition, production or proliferation of chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction prohibited by the international treaties to which Mongolia is a state party shall be punishable by imprisonment for 5-8 years”. The Criminal Code can also be used to punish code-specified crimes committed by Mongolian nationals, even if those crimes are committed in another country.

Mongolia has yet to improve its existing national legislation to ensure the full implementation of the CWC.

Secondly, in August 2006 Mongolia’s National Authority and the OPCW held a National seminar on the practical implementation of the CWC in Mongolia. The 3-day seminar was attended by senior officials from the key government agencies involved in areas related to the Convention.

The seminar contributed significantly to enhancing national personnel’s expertise in CWC implementation issues. I wish to take this opportunity to express Mongolia’s sincere appreciation for the OPCW’s assistance in the organization of this particular seminar and in the capacity building of our national personnel in general.

Thirdly, in 1997 Mongolia declared assets for the OPCW’s disposal in case of delivery of assistance operations under Article X. A Technical Secretariat team inspected the offered assets in September 2007 and certified them to be in a good condition.

Mr. Chairman,

The OPCW’s mandate to promote international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention is of vital importance to developing countries like

Mongolia. It is critical to allocate a sufficient amount of the Organization's resources to international cooperation and assistance activities.

Strengthening chemical analysis capabilities, in particular the technical competence of publicly funded chemical laboratories is an important element in facilitating national implementation of the CWC and are in line with national objectives and priorities for the peaceful applications of chemistry.

In closing, let me reiterate Mongolia's strong commitment to the CWC and its objectives.

Thank you for attention.