

# **REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNGA RESOLUTION 77/56 (2022) ENTITLED “MONGOLIA’S INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE STATUS”**

(Ulaanbaatar, June 2024)

Mongolia has made considerable efforts to strengthen international peace and security and achieved success in the past 32 years since it declared its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ).

Mongolia has deployed nearly 21,000 Blue Helmets to 15 UN peacekeeping operations on three different continents since 2002. It ranks high globally in terms of per capita deployment of peacekeepers and the number of military personnel.

As a demonstration of its commitment to maintaining international peace and security, Mongolia declared its territory as a single state nuclear-weapon-free zone back in 1992. Since 1998 the UN General Assembly has considered the issue related to Mongolia’s nuclear-weapon-free status (NWFS) and adopted respective resolutions on a biannual basis.

While reassuring its firm commitment to the nuclear-weapon-free world and supporting every international community effort, Mongolia officially joined the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as it has been legally bound by it since 10 March 2022.

The present report contains activities undertaken over the last two years to implement UNGA resolution 77/56 titled “Mongolia’s international security and nuclear-weapon-free status.”

## **One. Activities related to Mongolia’s international security and NWFS**

Since the last report on implementing the UNGA resolution (75/41) on Mongolia’s nuclear-weapon-free status was submitted in June 2022, the Government of Mongolia has continued its efforts to strengthen its national security and promote further the implementation of the resolution at international and regional levels.

### **Measures taken at the international level**

- Despite the evolving situation in international relations and the worsening geopolitical climate, Mongolia continues to pursue its peace-oriented, open, independent, and multi-pillared foreign policy in accordance with its Foreign Policy Concept, adopted in 1994 and renewed in 2011.
- As a landlocked developing country, Mongolia prioritises maintaining good neighbourly relations and close cooperation with its neighbouring countries while implementing its "third neighbour" policy, strengthening partnerships, and fostering mutually beneficial cooperation with nations across the globe.
- Mongolia aims to strengthen its global relations and cooperation through proactive measures, including the organisation of events, visits and dialogues on multiple levels, despite the challenges posed by the current state of international relations.

- For instance, Mongolia has successfully organised female peacekeepers international conference on “Strengthening the role of women in peacekeeping” in 2022. The conference, attended by female peacekeepers from 30 countries, spotlighted Mongolia’s leadership in promoting women in peacekeeping to reduce gender parity in international peacekeeping operations.
- Mongolia has successfully organised Female Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on June 30, 2023, in Ulaanbaatar, bringing together female foreign ministers from around the world to promote multilateral cooperation in addressing global challenges through consensus and solidarity.
- Since its full-fledged membership to the United Nations on October 27, 1961, Mongolia has actively contributed to the activities, goals, and objectives of the United Nations. By signing the Joint Communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Botswana on December 6, 2023, Mongolia has achieved its goal of establishing diplomatic relations with all 192 member states of the United Nations. Additionally, Mongolia has diplomatic relations with the State of Palestine, the Holy See, and the European Union, which have observer status at the United Nations.
- Mongolia has outlined activities related to its accession to the Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), the Revised Small Quantity Protocol, the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management to the National Plan of Action for implementing the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).
- In August 2023, Mongolia reviewed and updated its Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan, originally approved in 2015. The Nuclear Energy Commission of Mongolia subsequently approved the new Integrated Nuclear Security Support Roadmap and its accompanying Action Plan, which contain activities aimed at the sustainable development of the nuclear security infrastructure.
- The Nuclear Energy Commission of Mongolia approved a resolution aimed at enhancing cooperation and procedures for detecting illicit trafficking, strengthening technical and human resource capabilities, and establishing a central monitoring system for radiation portal monitors at border ports.

### **Measure taken at the regional level**

- Maintaining stability on the Korean Peninsula is of vital importance to the peace and security and sustainable development of the region. Contributing to the security of Northeast Asia is a main priority of Mongolia’s foreign policy, and it closely cooperates with regional countries and the partners around the world. Mongolia believes in keeping negotiation channels open with North Korea for multilateral talks.
- Since 2014, Mongolia has been organizing an International Conference of the “Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Security,” which aims to establish an effective dialogue mechanism in the region. Mongolia is hosting the Ninth International Conference of the “Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Security” on June 6-7, 2024, in Ulaanbaatar. In this two-day conference, 200 representatives including government officials, experts and others came from not only from the Northeast Asian countries, but also from more than 30 countries across various regions including

Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

### **Measure taken at the national level**

- Mongolia joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1969. Agreement for the Application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1972. The Agreement between Mongolia and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was approved by the Board of Governors on 11 September 2001. It was signed in Vienna on 5 December 2001. Pursuant to Article 17 of the Additional Protocol, the Protocol entered into force on 12 May 2003, the date on which the Agency received from Mongolia written notification that Mongolia's statutory requirements for entry into force have been met.
- The Executive Office of the Nuclear Energy Commission (NEC) is the State authority responsible for Safeguards implementation in Mongolia.
- The national-level regulatory control of safeguards is implemented by NEC, including the establishing and maintaining a System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material, providing specified information to the IAEA concerning nuclear material, facilities, locations outside facilities, and activities, providing access to the IAEA for purposes of inspections and design information verification, Cooperate with the IAEA in the implementation of safeguards and development of the necessary legal and regulatory infrastructure for safeguards, and strengthening of the State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC).
- As part of efforts to improve the legal framework, the NEC developed the regulation on Nuclear material accountancy control which was approved by the Government resolution No 229, dated 23 December 2020. Mongolia, a State with limited quantities of nuclear material, is aware of the importance of physical protection of nuclear materials used for peaceful purposes.
- The Executive Office of the NEC is responsible to submit the AP declarations of Mongolia and has to collect all relevant information from the relevant organizations under the scope of the AP. Mongolia provides information on a broader range of nuclear fuel cycle material or activities, including fuel cycle research and development not involving nuclear material, activities in all buildings on a site, nuclear-related manufacturing activities, capacities of uranium mines and concentration plants, and thorium concentration plants, holdings of source material not suitable for enrichment or fuel fabrication whether in nuclear or non-nuclear use and imports/exports, nuclear material exempted from safeguards for non-nuclear purposes or waste containing nuclear material for which safeguards have been terminated, exports and imports of especially designed equipment and non-nuclear material and ten-year plan relevant to nuclear fuel cycle development.
- NEC supports the IAEA verification activities and IAEA safeguards inspectors conducted Complimentary access to verify the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in the Uranium site (Pilot Test Plant) in May 2023. NEC coordinates the effective administrative measures that were implemented to facilitate IAEA complimentary access.

- Human resources are being empowered under the IAEA and INSEP programs. Mongolia participating in the INSEP program since 2019. Within the support of the US International Nuclear Safeguards and Engagement Program (INSEP), the National training course on Safeguards Implementation was held on Mongolia in May, 2023 and improved in the area of identification of nuclear material and how to prepare and fill out an initial declaration, and preparing for the IAEA Complimentary access.
- Under the technical support of US department of Energy, the NEC received the Identifinder R400-T2 portable handheld gamma detectors and capability to identify nuclear and other radioactive materials at a national level.
- In 2015, the Mongolian Parliament approved Resolution No60 “Bringing Nuclear Weapon Free status of Mongolia to a new level”. Article 3 of this resolution stipulates the Government to join the following conventions and protocols:
  - o Convention on Nuclear Safety (1994);
  - o Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (1997);
  - o Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM);
  - o Modified Small Quantities Protocols;
- As part of implementation of the Government resolution, the NEC requested a IAEA Legislative Assistance Mission on Relevant International Nuclear Legal Instruments for Mongolia. The IAEA conducted a mission to Ulaanbaatar in June 2023 to advise on the significance and benefits of the country’s adherence to four international legal instruments: the Convention on Nuclear Safety; the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management; the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material; and the Modified Small Quantities Protocol. The event, which took place from 26 to 30 June, was jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Executive Office of the Nuclear Energy Commission and the IAEA Office of Legal Affairs together with the IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, and the Department of Safeguards. A total of 150 representatives from 65 organizations participated in the event, which consisted of five parts: bilateral ministerial level meetings; a high-level conference for key decision makers; a national consultation to promote adherence to the instruments; a bilateral meeting with civil society organizations and researchers to discuss the importance of the instruments; and a bilateral meeting on the draft amendments to the national Nuclear Energy Law.
- During the discussions, the IAEA team met with decision makers, governmental organizations, researchers, and civil society representatives. The experts provided clarifications on issues to support the country’s efforts to join the instruments and the involvement of civil society during the process. They provided a comprehensive overview of the instruments, as well as the benefits of joining them and the procedural steps for the accession process. In addition, the IAEA team also discussed the main elements of a comprehensive nuclear law and the experiences of Member States. The IAEA Legislative Assistance Programme and IAEA advisory services and missions, as well as the benefits for Member States in receiving these services, were highlighted. This mission was an important activity, which has contributed one step forward in the process of joining these international legal instruments.

## **Two. Non-nuclear aspects of Mongolia's international security**

Measures have also been undertaken to promote non-nuclear aspects of security as they constitute an integral part of Mongolia's national security concept.

### **Economic security**

- The COVID-19 pandemic has escalated into a medical and socio-economic crisis worldwide and in Mongolia. To support Mongolia, the IMF approved in June 2020 a request for emergency financial assistance under the Rapid Financing Facility (RFI), enabling the Government to meet urgent budget and balance of payments needs. Due to the Covid-19 crisis and supply chain disruptions, Mongolia's economy contracted by 4.6% in 2020, and thanks to a successful vaccination campaign in 2021, it recorded a growth of 1.6%. Although GDP of Mongolia in 2022 grew by 5.03%, as per the World Bank data, the country's economy remains vulnerable to external shocks due to the ongoing geopolitical tensions.
- The Government of Mongolia has implemented several important policy documents and programs to support specific sectors of the economy. In December 2021, the Government of Mongolia passed its New Economic Recovery plan aimed at boosting the recovery in the post pandemic period. The program is the first part of the country's "Vision 2050" long-term development programme. The plan aims to address the key economic constraints such as border ports, energy, industrialisation, urban and rural development, green development, and the public services efficiency.
- In 2023, the gross domestic product of Mongolia reached MNT 68.9 trillion, and the gross domestic product per capita reached USD 5,678 for the first time. The export amount reached \$13.8 billion, and the import amount was \$3.7 billion. The mining products exported from Mongolia to China included 1 million tons of fluorite, 5.7 million tons of iron ore, 1.5 million tons of copper concentrate, 150,000 tons of zinc ore, 6364.3 tons of molybdenum, 69.6 million tons of coal, and 47 million barrels of oil. Increasing trade turnover in Mongolia can be achieved through expanding port capacity, developing infrastructure such as roads and railways, and establishing international transport connections with neighbouring countries.
- Facilitating trade and transit transportation continues to be high on the agenda of the Government of Mongolia. Mongolia became a signatory to the Trade Facilitation Agreement in November 2016 and established the National Trade Facilitation Committee in August 2017. To further facilitate and simplify the foreign trade, Mongolia became a party to the UNESCAP's Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific in April 2022. It is expected that the successful implementation of both the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Paperless Trade Facilitation Agreement will reduce Mongolia's trade costs by 30%. Mongolia's implementation rate of the Trade Facilitation Agreement is 79.8.
- The government of Mongolia organised the "Port Revival" national forum from 26 to 27 March 2024. The port revival policy will be implemented in coordination with the regional development policy. In the past three years, the passenger and cargo transport complex of the Zamiin-Uud port has been put into entire operation and brought up to international standards. The road transport port has been open 24 hours for five months starting April 1. Gashuunsukhait passenger and cargo transportation facilities have a completion of 61%. The first and fourth parts of Altanbulag port cargo transportation facilities have been put into operation. The work of the one-stop service

facility at the Sukhbaatar port has been completed and handed over by the state commission. The construction work of Borshoo port was completed, and the expansion work of Bichit port started in 2023. In 2024, engineering infrastructure works will begin at Tsagaannuur, Bulgan and Khavirga ports. In 2021, Mongolia completed the construction of the Tavan Tolgoi-Zuunbayan railway, which spans 414.6 km, connecting several major mining deposits. The 267 km Tavantolgoi-Gashuunsukhait heavy-duty rail line to the border with China was completed in September 2022.

- In accordance with government resolution, the Mongolian-Russian Joint Commission of Inspection border has been established based on the Agreement between Mongolia and the Russian Federation on the Border Regime of Mongolia and Russia and the Mongolian Border Law.
- President of Mongolia, Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, put forward the "Transit Mongolia" initiative, reflected in the Government's Action Plan for 2020-2024, to develop infrastructure and transit capacities. With the support of UNESCAP, Mongolia, China and Russia signed an Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along with the Asian Highway Network.
- Mongolia attaches great importance to the implementation of the Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (Roadmap), which provides a comprehensive map of activities and responsibilities of the international and regional organizations in seven priority areas of the LLDCs, including transit, trade, and transport facilitation, Energy and ICT, Structural economic transformation, Cooperation between LLDCs and Transit countries, Means of implementation and international support, COVID-19 and other areas.
- On behalf of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Mongolia submitted the LLDC Ministerial Declaration to the WTO, adopted by the WTO Ministerial Meeting of the LLDC Group on November 4, 2021, as a document for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference. The Declaration includes a commitment to revitalize the work of the LLDC group in Geneva to meet regularly, exchange experiences, and seek increased support, including capacity building for LLDCs, in critical areas of WTO work.
- Mongolia regards renewable energy as a critical resource for its development and aims to achieve 30 percent of its total energy production from renewable energy sources by 2030. In the light of a significant potential to supply renewable energy-based resources to regional countries, Mongolia seeks to implement the Northeast Asia super-grid project.
- Actively participating in economic and trade integration in the Asia-Pacific region and expanding business and economic cooperation with its main trading partners is the goal of the long-term development policy of Mongolia, "Vision 2050".
- In September 2020, Mongolia became the seventh member of the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement and is implementing the agreement since January 2021. Participation in APTA enables Mongolia to enjoy reduced tariff barriers and enhance its market access to its trading partners, including China and the Republic of Korea. The agreement primarily reiterates trade facilitation obligations made by participating states elsewhere, such as at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

- Since the Agreement between Japan and Mongolia for an Economic Partnership came into force in 2016, imports to Mongolia from Japan have been steadily increasing, while exports from Mongolia to Japan have fluctuated and did not show any particular trend. More work is needed to increase the degree of utilization of the agreement by Mongolian companies. Mongolia is also negotiating an economic partnership agreement with the Republic of Korea.

## **Human security**

- The National security concept identifies human security as one of the fundamental pillars of Mongolia's national security. Creating a healthy and safe living environment and conditions, ensuring food security, guaranteeing the security of residence and living environment, and protecting from becoming a victim of crime and assault are the basis for ensuring human security.
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- Mongolia has acceded to 313 multilateral treaties, including the 8 core international human rights instruments and their 9 additional protocols. The Government of Mongolia pays special attention to ensuring the implementation of these multilateral treaties. Mongolia endeavours to fully support and cooperate with the UN Human Rights Mechanisms and Special procedures. So far, Mongolia hosted 13 UN special mandate holders' visits to Mongolia. The visit of the UN special mandate holders is an important opportunity to make an external evaluation and conclusion on the situation of human rights and on the activities implemented by the Government in the field of ensuring and protecting them and to receive opinions and recommendations on issues that need further attention.
- In accordance with the revised Law on the Human Rights Commission of Mongolia, which was adopted on 23 January, the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia was designated as the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture on 2 June 2022 by the State Great Hural (Parliament) resolution №29 the Commissioner on Prevention of Torture was appointed.
- The Parliament adopted the revised Law on Child Protection on 17 January 2024, which will enter into force on 1 September 2024. The revised law improved the prevention of violence against children in all social settings and the provision of protection services in cases where children are at risk.
- In the field of combating human trafficking, to facilitate the effective investigation and prosecution of human trafficking and to provide better services to victims, the amendments to the "Criminal Code" were adopted by the Parliament on 7 December 2023.

## **Environmental security**

- Desertification is threatening the livelihoods of more than two billion people worldwide, and the sand storm originating from Mongolia are becoming a significant problem for the region.

- Therefore, with a view to combat climate change, desertification, and dust storms, and to increase forest and water resources, Mongolia launched the "Billion Trees" national movement to plant, grow and protect billions of trees. Mongolian President U.Khurelsukh announced a campaign to plant billions of trees by 2030 from the General Assembly podium in September 2021.
- Mongolia will convene the World Women's Forum under the theme "Towards Green Future" on 22-23 August 2024 in Ulaanbaatar. The Forum will be organized under the auspices of H.E.Mr.Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, President of Mongolia in cooperation with the United Nations.
- Mongolia has proceeded with preparations for hosting the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 2026.
- The dwindling availability of pastures poses a significant threat to nomadic civilizations, potentially leading to their extinction. As pastures diminish due to factors like urbanization, climate change, and land degradation, nomadic communities find themselves increasingly constrained in their traditional way of life.
- To improve pasture management and preserve ecosystem balance, and provide global food security and supply, Mongolia initiated a UNGA resolution proclaiming the year of 2026 as the "International year of Rangelands and Pastoralists", and it was adopted on March 15, 2022.
- Mongolia is successfully implementing interrelated national movements such as "Food Supply and Security," and "Healthy Mongolian" to bolster efforts toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Conclusion**

The report of the Government of Mongolia on its activities undertaken in the implementations of the UNGA resolution 77/56 demonstrates once again the country's determination to fully implement the provisions of the resolution at the national and international levels.

As a result of its consistent efforts and the support of the international community, the nuclear-weapon-free status of Mongolia enjoys today a wide international recognition.

On its part, Mongolia is ready to cooperate with other Member States and relevant UN bodies and specialized agencies in strengthening the non-nuclear aspects of its security that would contribute to stability, greater trust and mutually beneficial cooperation in the region and beyond it.