



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
VIENNA**

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Batjargal Gunaajav,
Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the
Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO,
at CTBT 20th Anniversary Ministerial Meeting**

Vienna International Centre, Monday, 13 June 2016

Mr. President,

Mr. Executive Secretary,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to join the previous speakers in condemning horrific attacks in Orlando, the United States. I wish to express our appreciation to you, Esteemed Foreign Minister of Romania, for presiding this important Ministerial Meeting of the Preparatory Commission.

Mongolia actively engaged in the negotiations of the CTBT and was, in fact, one of the first countries to ratify the treaty in 1997 with the vision to halt completely nuclear weapon tests and prevent nuclear proliferation in all its aspects.

Past twenty years have been crucial in building up the unprecedented global verification regime. The viability of the verification regime, though not

yet completed, has been vividly demonstrated during the explosions of nuclear weapon tests conducted by the DPRK in 2006, 2009 and yet again early this year, as well as by the "stress tests" in the wake of the Fukushima disaster in 2011. The IMS, the IDC and GCI all performed well, providing timely and reliable information and analysis. One of the critical elements of verification system is the OSI, the most intrusive of all inspection systems.

As the verification regime of the treaty progresses, the responsibility of all States Signatories is to demonstrate real action to make the CTBT universal without any further delay. In this context, like many others Mongolia calls on all remaining Annex 2 countries to sign and ratify this historic treaty for the benefit of global peace and security.

I also wish to commend every leadership of the PTS and its team for their tireless efforts in both verification and non-verification activities in the past. The notable progress has been made since current Executive Secretary Dr. Lassina Zerbo assumed his duty 3 years ago. In particular, his initiative of establishing the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) has proven its effectiveness by raising the profile of the CTBT, as well as the momentum towards the early entry into force of the Treaty. Mongolia warmly welcomes the launching of the CTBTO Youth Group for the same purpose - mobilizing tomorrow's leaders to advance the Treaty's entry into force for the cause of safe and secure future.

In conclusion, I would like to express our special thanks to the PTS and Executive Secretary for the preparations of this important Ministerial meeting and assure you, Mr. President, of our full support and cooperation in achieving the utmost outcome for the future of humanity.

Thank you.