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RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO PEACE

Letter dated 6 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the further reply of the Mongolian People's Republic in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 41/10 of 24 October 1986 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 21 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Gendengiin NYAMDOO
Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Views of the Government of Mongolia on the implementation of
the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace

The Government of Mongolia had an opportunity to state its position regarding the right of peoples to peace in its letter of 12 August 1986 pursuant to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 40/11 (A/41/628).

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 41/10, it submits the following views on the current relevance of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace and ways of implementing its provisions.

1. With the adoption of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, an important step was taken in the juridical confirmation by the international community of mankind's age-old need to live in peace without wars and violence. The right of States and peoples to peace may be said to be rooted in the right of the individual to life and creation and in the right of nations to self-determination and independent choice of the course of their societal development.

The implementation of this right derives from the effort to guarantee common security, and from strict compliance with the principle of peaceful coexistence as the only possible mode of inter-State relations in today's world. It is thus natural that the spirit and provisions of the Declaration should have a great deal in common with General Assembly resolution 42/93, "Comprehensive system of international peace and security".

It should be emphasized that the practical implementation of the right of peoples to peace is a basic external, international condition for the implementation of other human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace carries great political and moral force. It starts from the assumption that the preservation of peace is an obligation and vital need of every individual, every people, every State and the international community as a whole. Since in the nuclear-missile age the security of all is interrelated, it can be guaranteed only by joint efforts. This requires the democratization and humanization of international relations on the basis of respect for the right of each country to security.

The content of the Declaration gives rise to a responsibility for the fate of peace on earth. The desire to live in peace obliges peoples to act in defence of peace and influence the policies of their Governments if these are not consistent with their desire for peace. This finds confirmation in the mass popular anti-war and anti-nuclear movement which is extending to ever more sectors of society and becoming world-wide in scope. Particular evidence of this is the organization in 1987 of the "Peace Wave" which, starting in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, spread around the world.

In their search for effective means of guaranteeing the right to peace, representatives of various sectors of the world community are studying the philosophy and essence of the Declaration in order to promote the proper understanding of its purpose by all. Thus the participants in the fourteenth symposium "Christians and Marxists in a dialogue about peace" (Strasbourg, France, Autumn 1987) agreed to study the question of the right to peace from both the juridical and the philosophical standpoints and thus make a real contribution to the cause of strengthening peace.

The International Year of Peace held in 1986 on the initiative of the United Nations became a major campaign to mobilize world public opinion against the threat of war. It focused the attention of the world community on the most important task of the modern age - the defence of peace and life on earth against the threat of nuclear weapons - gave impetus to the extension and activation of the universal campaign to halt the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race, and promoted the unification of anti-war, anti-nuclear action by the broad masses throughout the world. Mongolia considers that the momentum generated by the International Year of Peace should be maintained and developed. The international community could proclaim the 1990s as a Decade of efforts to lay the foundations of a non-nuclear, non-violent world. Apart from everything else, this would help the United Nations expand its links with all sectors of the earth's population in the attainment of its principal objective of maintaining international peace.

2. The main prerequisites for the implementation of the right to peace must include, above all, the following:

Exclusion of war as a means of solving disputes and abstention from the use in international relations of force in all its manifestations;

Adoption of measures to strengthen universal security in all its components: military-political, economic, humanitarian, environmental, etc.;

Respect for the sovereignty and independence of States and the course of societal development chosen by peoples;

Promotion of the cause of universal and complete disarmament under strict international control.

It follows from the above that the protection and implementation of the right of peoples to live in peace requires the application not only of so-called negative measures, i.e. abstention from the use of force and from intervention and interference in the internal affairs of other peoples, but also of positive measures, i.e. ensuring that security is equal for all, attaining the objectives of disarmament, developing confidence-building measures, settling international disputes exclusively by peaceful means, establishing systems for such settlement at the regional level, promoting the development of co-operation in the economic, social and other spheres, ensuring international conditions conducive to progress and justice, and so on.

3. Every practical step in the field of disarmament and international détente strengthens the material guarantees of the right of peoples to peace. In this connection, Mongolia attaches exceptional importance to the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, which stands out as the first major achievement in halting the nuclear arms race and bringing about real nuclear disarmament. The Treaty bears witness to the possibility of achieving the objectives of the 1986 Soviet programme for the elimination of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000. The Treaty that has been concluded and the spirit of the Soviet-American summit talks give grounds for hope that agreements can be reached regarding a considerable reduction in their strategic strike weapons while maintaining the ABM Treaty. Mongolia considers that this should be followed by agreements on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons and their destruction and on the reduction of conventional weapons and forces on the basis of the concept of reasonable sufficiency. Such measures would bring closer the prospect of laying the foundations for a world free from weapons, wars and violence and implementing the provisions of our Declaration.

4. Today, in the face of universal nuclear catastrophe, implementing the right to peace is coming to be as important as ensuring the survival of mankind.

The Mexico Declaration of 7 August 1986 by the "New Delhi Six" says: "We are meeting today to proclaim humanity's right to Peace, and to reiterate our commitment to the task of protecting this right so that the human race may endure" (A/41/518-S/18277, p. 3).

This imperative requires active collective and individual efforts by the States and peoples of the world to ensure guaranteed universal security, primarily through disarmament. This notion has been repeatedly endorsed by the world community, notably at the United Nations General Assembly. This is how we understand the thrust of the United Nations resolution on a comprehensive system of international peace and security, which puts the chief emphasis on disarmament. Using the United Nations as an indispensable instrument for balancing the interests of States both during the construction of such a system and in operating the safeguards it provides, is becoming especially relevant. Mongolia believes that the establishment of just such a system of universal and all-embracing security based on the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations could create the conditions necessary for the survival of mankind and the implementation of the right of peoples to peaceful development.

5. The implementation of the right of peoples to peace makes it imperative for States to orient their policies towards the elimination of the threat of nuclear war and to assign supreme priority in their international affairs to universal human values.

In this sense, the spirit of the Declaration is closely interwoven with the purposes and objectives advanced in the numerous declarations and resolutions by the General Assembly on the preservation and strengthening of peace, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the basic documents

emanating from the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, the Soviet-Indian Delhi Declaration on Principles for a Nuclear-weapon-free and Non-violent World, and the conclusions of the Palme Commission's report.

In their practical affairs, many States promote the implementation of the Declaration, as can be seen in the replies of States contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/41/628 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2). Mongolia has repeatedly affirmed its strong commitment to the spirit and letter of the Declaration. It is firmly in favour of eliminating the threat of war, in particular nuclear war, of refraining from the use of force in relations between States, and of settling international disputes by peaceful means on the basis of the Charter. In the General Assembly and at the Conference on Disarmament it advances concrete proposals aimed at the preservation and strengthening of international peace, and seeks thus to contribute what it can to this noble cause.

The adoption by the United Nations of the Declaration on the Enhancement of the Effectiveness of the Principle of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations is promoting a reduction in tensions and increased trust between States. Mongolia advocates the practical implementation of the Declaration. It in turn has proposed machinery to preclude the use of force in relations between States in Asia and the Pacific Ocean.

This Mongolian proposal and Mongolian initiatives calling for meetings of parliamentarians from the Asian and Pacific countries and a Pan-Asiatic gathering on peace and co-operation, to be attended by representatives of the general public, have been met with sympathy and support in the countries of the region. They have left their imprint in documents adopted at international public gatherings in support of peace and security in Sydney, Bangalore, Manila and Delhi. The advancement of these ideas was promoted by the meetings of representatives of trade union and youth organizations, communist and workers' parties of Asian and Pacific countries that have been held in recent years in Ulan Bator. Mongolia consistently supports peace initiatives by other Asian and Pacific countries concerned with stabilizing the situation and arranging peaceful settlements of conflicts and with establishing zones of peace and nuclear-free zones in various parts of the region.

Mongolia welcomes the conclusion of the Geneva accords relating to a political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan as an example of a responsible approach by the parties in international affairs, and a model of progress being made peacefully in a complicated regional conflict. The application of the Geneva accords could create an important element in a system of security for Asia and the Pacific.

6. In order to implement the Declaration at the national level, States should take steps to increase the material and legal underpinnings for its implementation as they guarantee the rights and fundamental freedoms of their domestic populations. Such steps could include the adoption by Governments of constitutional and other legislative acts on the defence of peace, guarantees of the right of their citizens and civil organizations to advocate peace and oppose

the threat of war, and the introduction of educational and informational programmes to give wide publicity to the ideas of peace, mutual understanding, co-operation and so forth. These have all become normal features of life for the Mongolian people and an inseparable element of the Mongolian Government's efforts in support of peace.

7. At the international level, implementation of the Declaration would be facilitated by:

- The organization of international seminars and symposiums devoted to the study of ways of implementing United Nations declarations on questions of international peace and security;
- Assistance with the conduct of national and international seminars and symposiums on questions of nuclear disarmament, the general and complete prohibition of nuclear-weapons testing, the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons, and reductions in conventional weaponry and armed forces;
- The continued celebration of Disarmament Week, under the slogan of guaranteeing the right of peoples to peace;
- Encouragement for the study by scholars and experts from different countries of questions related to the implementation of the right to peace and the dissemination of their view points in defence and support of that right;
- Discussions among representatives of international non-governmental organizations about their contribution to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace and the United Nations resolution on a comprehensive system of international peace and security;
- Encouragement for the creation of national, subregional or regional organizations concerned with questions of security and co-operation;
- The regular publication by the United Nations of information on the activities of Governments, governmental and non-governmental international organizations pursuant to the Declaration.

8. It is the view of Mongolia that the United Nations, whose primary goal is to maintain international peace and security, must take the initiative in these matters. The Mongolian Government supports all efforts to strengthen the role of the United Nations so that it can, as the Secretary-General emphasized, "make its full contribution to a peaceful world" (A/41/PV.33, p. 12). It is eager to support efforts by the United Nations to encourage public participation in the campaign to strengthen universal peace. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the President of the Presidium of the Great People's Khural, J. Batmunkh, in his message to the President of the forty-second session of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General on United Nations Day, said that "The Mongolian People's Republic, together with other peace-loving forces, has always striven to promote the effectiveness of the United Nations as a genuine tool for shaping an international system of equal security for all" (A/42/684, p. 2).

Mongolia believes that the United Nations should keep the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace under constant review. The General Assembly should consider the subject periodically. Mongolia will continue to provide the Secretary-General with information on the steps it intends to take pursuant to the Declaration.
