



General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 July 2020

Original: English

Seventy-fifth session

Item 103 (r) of the provisional agenda*

General and complete disarmament

Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of new developments and the assistance accorded to the Government and people of Mongolia by the Secretariat and relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme. The report covers the period since the issuance in July 2018 of the previous report (A/73/202) and includes information reported by Mongolia, the Secretariat and relevant United Nations entities.

During the period under review, Mongolia continued to receive international recognition for its nuclear-weapon-free status and to promote other nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. The country continued to seek further institutionalization of its nuclear-weapon-free status.

* A/75/150.



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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 73/44 on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status, the General Assembly invited Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its independent foreign policy, its economic security and its ecological balance, as well as its nuclear-weapon-free status. The Assembly also appealed to the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region to support Mongolia's efforts to join the relevant regional security and economic arrangements. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide assistance to Mongolia in taking the aforementioned necessary measures and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its seventy-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and is based on the information concerning the implementation of the resolution received to date from Mongolia, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

II. Activities related to Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

3. The present section is based on the information received to date from Mongolia concerning the activities related to its international security and nuclear-weapon-free status during the reporting period.

4. As a responsible member of the international community, Mongolia has pursued an active policy within the United Nations and has contributed to promoting the Organization's noble goals. About 16,000 Mongolian peacekeepers have served in various peacekeeping operations. Mongolia has initiated and successfully promoted the adoption by the General Assembly of resolutions on the right of peoples to peace, disarmament week, education for all, cooperatives, rural women, the rights of landlocked developing countries, and the promotion of democratic reform and education for democracy.

5. Mongolia remains committed to a nuclear-weapon-free world and has consistently supported efforts by the international community to promote the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to achieve nuclear disarmament.

6. While reaffirming its commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world and supporting every effort of the international community in that regard, Mongolia has continued its internal process towards joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted on 7 July 2017.

7. As a demonstration of its commitment to maintaining international peace and security, Mongolia declared its territory a single-State nuclear-weapon-free zone in 1992. Since 1998, the General Assembly has considered the issue of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and has adopted resolutions on the subject every two years.

8. The present report provides an account of activities conducted over the past two years in implementation of Assembly resolution 73/44.

9. Since the submission in 2018 of the previous report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/43, the Government of Mongolia has continued its

efforts to strengthen its national security by promoting the continued implementation of the resolution at the international and regional levels.

A. Measures taken at the international level

10. The eighteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries was held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019. In their final documents, the Heads of State and Government expressed support for Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, the policy aimed at institutionalizing the status and the measures taken by Mongolia to consolidate and strengthen that status.

11. Mongolia participated in the third International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts, held in Vienna from 10 to 14 February 2020, and welcomed the ministerial statement issued at the outset of the conference. The Mongolian delegation reaffirmed its commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world and emphasized the role of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status in nuclear-non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

12. Mongolia continued to support and underline the importance of the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a universal and legally binding security assurance to non-nuclear-weapon States. In that regard, Mongolia welcomed the final declaration and measures to promote the entry into force of the Treaty adopted at the eleventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was held on 25 September 2019. As a steadfast supporter of the Treaty and its verification regime, Mongolia hosted the East Asia Regional National Data Centre Workshop in Ulaanbaatar in September 2018.

13. Mongolia currently serves as the coordinator of the fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, originally planned for 24 April 2020 and postponed by the General Assembly to a period in 2021 owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. During the period 2018–2020, Mongolia convened numerous informal preparatory meetings.

B. Measures taken at the regional level

14. A series of conferences and meetings were organized during the review period in the context of further promoting the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Security. Thus, Mongolia hosted the fifth and sixth international conferences of the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on 14 June 2018 and 5 June 2019, respectively. The United Nations was represented at the conferences at the level of a senior official from the Asia and the Pacific Division of the Department of Political Affairs and the Director of the Asia and the Pacific Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

15. Mongolia, in collaboration with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, organized a regional workshop on youth, peace and security in Northeast Asia in Ulaanbaatar on 3 and 4 June 2019 to exchange opinions and practices among generations and to create momentum for young people to participate in regional discussions on issues related to peace and security, as well as preventive diplomacy.

16. The fifth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, held on 15 June 2019, welcomed Mongolia's status contributing to security and confidence-building in the Asia region, and reiterated similar messages from earlier summits and ministerial meetings.

17. In his summary of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva from 23 April to 4 May 2018, the Chair stated that the States parties recognized the continuing contributions that the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia's nuclear weapon-free status were making towards attaining the objectives of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

C. Measures taken at the national level

18. In accordance with resolution 60 of the parliament of Mongolia on strengthening the country's nuclear-weapon-free status, which was renewed in 2015, Mongolia continues to make efforts to achieve that goal.

19. Mongolia adopted a national law on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and counter-terrorism in October 2019.

III. Non-nuclear aspects of Mongolia's international security

20. The present section is based on the information received to date from Mongolia on measures undertaken during the reporting period to promote non-nuclear aspects of security as they constitute an integral part of Mongolia's national security concept.

A. Economic security

21. Mongolia is endowed with mineral resources, strong potential in agriculture and tourism and a young and dynamic population. Effective policy measures and close cooperation with partner countries and international organizations, including the successful implementation of the International Monetary Fund's Extended Fund Facility to restore economic stability and debt sustainability, has allowed Mongolia to reverse the downward trends of declining economic growth and foreign direct investment flow. Gross domestic product growth reached 7.2 per cent in 2018 and 5.1 per cent in 2019. However, the country's economy remains vulnerable to external shocks owing to its commodity dependence.

22. The Government of Mongolia has implemented several major policy documents and programmes aimed at supporting non-mining sectors of the economy. In May 2020, the parliament of Mongolia adopted Vision 2050, a long-term development policy that has nine fundamental goals and 50 development targets and includes expanded reliance on innovation and technology-based knowledge, as well as economic diversification and green development.

23. Aware of the high cost of trade related to its landlocked geographical position, Mongolia continues to face multiple challenges with regard to expanding international trade. Therefore, facilitating trade and transit transportation continues to be high on the agenda of the Government of Mongolia.

24. Mongolia continues to actively engage with its neighbours on transit transportation and infrastructure development in pursuit of increased economic competitiveness. With close cooperation from neighbouring China and the Russian Federation, the trilateral Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network and bilateral agreements on transit transportation are being successfully implemented. While implementing major infrastructure projects with grants and concessional loans from neighbouring countries, Mongolia is also building two new railway lines funded by domestic resources.

25. Mongolia, China and the Russian Federation are also taking a joint approach to improving trade and transit transportation. The three countries are actively discussing how to advance the economic corridor programme agreed upon in 2016, which includes 32 major projects. The three parties have established a vice-ministerial mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the projects along the corridor. The fifth tripartite meeting of Heads of State of Mongolia, China and the Russian Federation was held in Bishkek on 14 June 2019. A preliminary joint feasibility study on building a gas pipeline through the Mongolian territory to supply gas from the Russian Federation to China has begun.

26. Mongolia welcomes the Belt and Road Initiative of China, which is aimed at improving connectivity in infrastructure, trade, finance and policies to provide new opportunities for overcoming development challenges relating to landlockedness. On 11 May 2017, an intergovernmental memorandum of understanding on aligning the Development Road Programme of Mongolia and the Belt and Road Initiative of China was signed, followed by a two-year implementation plan, adopted in April 2019.

27. The World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation, containing provisions for the expedited movement, release and clearance of goods across borders, including goods in transit, is expected to significantly reduce trade costs for landlocked countries. Therefore, Mongolia is taking active efforts to implement the Agreement by establishing in May 2017 a national committee for implementation of the Agreement and adopting the 2018–2022 national road map for trade facilitation and the national committee strategic plan for 2018–2022. However, Mongolia is in need of technical assistance from development partners to fully implement the “B” and “C” category provisions of the Agreement. Mongolia also requires the continued support of neighbouring transit countries to implement trade facilitation measures on simplification of border-crossing operations, implement joint border management systems and harmonize customs and other border crossing rules, procedures and documentation with a view to ensuring faster and cheaper cross-border trade.

28. Mongolia attaches great importance to advancing the interests of landlocked developing countries at the global and regional levels. Mongolia has actively participated in the midterm review process for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and will continue to make the utmost effort to implement that important document with an overarching goal of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries. As a landlocked developing country, Mongolia appeals to transit countries and development partners to implement the necessary actions to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action that were highlighted in the political declaration of the high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Programme adopted on 5 December 2019.

29. Mongolia also calls for Member States and other relevant stakeholders to support the activities of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, established in Ulaanbaatar in October 2017. At the same time, Mongolia has put forward an initiative to form a landlocked developing countries group at the World Trade Organization and has been discussing the issue through its mission to the organization.

30. Mongolia is implementing projects aimed at facilitating regional trade and infrastructure development through regional mechanisms, such as the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme and the Greater Tumen Initiative.

31. Mongolia regards renewable energy as a key resource for the country’s development and aims to achieve 30 per cent 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.

32. Active participation in regional trade and economic integration arrangements remains an important factor in improving Mongolia's market access to major trading partners. A considerable step was made in that direction in December 2019, when Mongolia concluded the internal procedure to ratify the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. Mongolia is expected to start implementing the Agreement on 1 January 2021 in close cooperation with States members of the Agreement.

33. Mongolia's first free trade agreement – the country's economic partnership agreement with Japan – is being fully implemented with modest but positive effects on bilateral trade turnover. Additional work is needed to increase the capacity of Mongolian companies to make better use of the agreement. Mongolia is also studying the feasibility of free trade agreements with the Eurasian Economic Union, China and the Republic of Korea.

34. Mongolia actively seeks to deepen trade and economic cooperation with major world economies. The Roadmap for Expanded Economic Partnership between the United States of America and Mongolia, in which opportunities are envisaged for further widening bilateral ties in the fields of agriculture, food production, infrastructure and energy, was announced on 20 September 2018. The Third Neighbour Trade Act, a draft law supported by nearly 100 members of the United States Congress, is expected to give a strong impetus to bilateral cooperation by giving duty-free treatment to certain imports from Mongolia. The India-Mongolia strategic partnership is being enriched with important economic contents, such as the ongoing oil refinery project implemented with the use of soft loans from India. The Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between Mongolia and the European Union entered into force in 2017 and opened greater opportunities for cooperation in areas such as trade, agriculture, rural development, energy, climate change, research and innovation. The Trade-Related Assistance for Mongolia Project, supported by the European Union, is effectively helping Mongolia to enhance trade diversification, trade policy formulation and implementation capacity.

35. Food security remains an important issue in Mongolia not only because of the negative impacts of global climate change and environmental degradation, but also because of its own specific challenges. Agricultural and food industry policies are formulated within the national development priorities articulated in the 2030 Sustainable Development Vision, the Government action plan for the period 2016–2020, national programmes on food security, livestock and industrialization, the first meat and milk production campaign and the crop cultivation programme.

36. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is currently assisting Mongolia in the implementation of a recently adopted animal health law, the promulgation of a pastureland management law and the development and protection of a variety of seeds. Assistance is also focused on building capacity for post-entry quarantine management systems and improving livestock health through effective control, containment and prevention of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks. Successful Early Warning Early Action projects have been implemented to protect the livelihoods of vulnerable households at high risk of *dzud* (famine) in drought-affected areas, while emergency response and assistance is also being provided. Another key feature of cooperation lies in conservation and sustainable forest management to compensate for and mitigate climate change. Other projects address disaster resilience; mainstreaming agro-biodiversity; value chain development in collaboration with the European Union; crop diversification; support for integrated livestock-based livelihoods; and enhanced food and nutrition security.

37. The eighth multi-stakeholder partnership meeting of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock was successfully organized by Mongolia in June 2018. Attended by experts and international development partners, the meeting promoted development of sustainable livestock in Mongolia through improved herd-health quality, as well as feed, fodder and grazing and pasture management. One of the keys to sustainable livestock is the promulgation of the pastureland management law to improve grazing land and increase foreign direct investment in the national livestock industry.

B. Human security

38. In its national security concept, Mongolia identifies human security as one of the fundamental pillars of the country's national security. Creating a healthy and safe living environment, ensuring food security, guaranteeing security of residence and living environment and protecting persons from becoming victims of crime and assault are defined as the basis for ensuring human security.

39. It should be highlighted that, while a relatively new phenomenon in Mongolia, combating human trafficking is becoming a serious issue. According to studies undertaken by the non-governmental organization Gender Equality Centre, over 200 persons become victims of human trafficking annually. Although some measures have been taken in recent years, including the adoption of a national programme and the establishment of a relevant system to monitor its implementation, the number of cases is on the rise. The national programme to combat human trafficking (2017–2021) was adopted in May 2017. It is aimed at strengthening the implementation of human trafficking laws, preventing the occurrence of human trafficking and protecting victims.

40. Child trafficking has been criminalized under article 16.6 of Mongolia's new Criminal Code, which entered into force on 1 July 2017, and human trafficking has been criminalized under article 13.1 thereof. The crime of human trafficking is punishable by a minimum sentence of two years up to a maximum of lifetime imprisonment. The crime of child trafficking is punishable by 5 to 12 years of imprisonment under article 13.1.2 of the Criminal Code.

41. Mongolia has undertaken systemic legal reforms to protect and promote human rights. In the period 2015–2020, a number of important pieces of legislation have been enacted, including a revised law on the National Human Rights Commission, a revised Criminal Code and new laws on administrative offences, children's rights, child protection, childcare services, youth development support, the rights of older persons and the rights of persons with disabilities. Several policy programmes were adopted to facilitate the implementation of the aforementioned laws, including programmes on child development and protection; on supporting the rights, development and participation of persons with disabilities; on the development and protection of young people and senior citizens; and on reducing unemployment and poverty. The laws and programmes are aimed at protecting the fundamental rights of various population groups and are based on the principles of equal participation in social life and prohibition of discrimination.

42. In compliance with its obligations set out in the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Mongolia abolished the death penalty in its new Criminal Code, which has been in effect since 1 July 2017.

43. On 23 January 2020, the revised law on the National Human Rights Commission was adopted. The law sets up a legal framework for establishing a national mechanism on the prevention of torture, obligatory under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

44. The revised law on the National Human Rights Commission increased the number of national commissioners from three to five and established detailed regulations for the nomination and selection of the commissioners, who would run for open selection on vacant positions in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles). The law further provided for the Commission to have a budget sufficient to function fully independently. The legislative act tightened sanctions for cases in which there was deliberate slowing down of the resolution process, or in which urgent and decisive action was taken to halt human rights violations, upon the commissioners' recommendations.

45. Torture has been criminalized in accordance with article 21.12 of Mongolia's new Criminal Code. Article 1.9 of the Criminal Procedure Code sets out the principles of prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, and article 16.12 stipulates that evidence obtained through torture shall not be considered as evidence, but used as evidence in resolving the crime of torture. Paragraph 4 of article 6.1 of the same law stipulates that prosecutors shall possess jurisdiction over registration and investigation of torture-related violations committed by officers of the Intelligence Agency, Police Agency and Independent Authority Against Corruption.

46. The revised law on combating domestic violence was approved in 2016. An additional 33 regulations and two standards were adopted and enforced in the wake of the revision. Articles 4.4, 10.4, 11.7, 12.1, 13.13, 15.3 and 16.4 of the Criminal Code now criminalize domestic violence, marital rape and sexual harassment.

47. The revised Criminal Code equally criminalizes discrimination "on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity", providing greater legal incentives for protecting the rights of persons with different sexual orientations and gender identities. In general, all the laws adopted within the framework of the criminal legal system reform incorporate the principles of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The legal mechanisms and procedures for the filing and handling of complaints related to discrimination have also been improved.

48. The new and revised laws have brought the following changes designed to further advance the human rights of the citizens of Mongolia, particularly those belonging to vulnerable groups:

(a) Improved education and health services and better employment opportunities for young people and the elderly;

(b) Improved social guarantees for single parents with children under the age of 3, in accordance with the law on benefits to single parents with multiple children;

(c) First-time classification of domestic violence as a criminal offence. This demonstrates the Government's commitment to combating domestic violence, protecting victims and holding perpetrators accountable;

(d) Abolishment of the death penalty and introduction of provisions on the prohibition of torture in the new Criminal Code, as defined in the Convention against Torture. The new Code has also established increased penalties against perpetrators of crimes against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity;

(e) Adoption of a new law on violations for the purpose of developing a liability system to distinguish between criminal acts and violations that are not considered a crime and preventing overlapping liabilities for the same violation under different laws.

49. Mongolia has been the initial sponsor of General Assembly resolutions on improving the situation of women and girls in rural areas; cooperatives in social

development; literacy for life: shaping future agendas; and democracy for education. Mongolia was also represented in the group of initial sponsors of the Human Rights Council's resolutions on preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age and the resolution on the question of the death penalty.

50. As an active member of the Support Group of the International Commission against the Death Penalty, Mongolia supports efforts by the international community directed at the elimination of the death penalty. Mongolia, in collaboration with the European Union and Argentina, started the Global Alliance to end trade in goods used for capital punishment and torture initiative in 2017.

51. In the period 2016–2018, Mongolia for the first time became a member of the Human Rights Council. In that period, Mongolia actively pursued policies aimed at protecting civil society; supporting human rights defenders and the National Human Rights Commission; enhancing freedom of expression; preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; collaborating with the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council; abolishing the death penalty; and protecting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

52. The annual Mongolia and European Union Human Rights Dialogue began in 2017. The most recent dialogue was held in Ulaanbaatar on 26 June 2019. As a follow-up to that dialogue, the two sides agreed to take action in the following areas:

- (a) Training of journalists from Mongolia on the subject of the death penalty and other human rights and rule-of-law-related issues;
- (b) Promoting the effective application of international human rights treaties and strengthening the rule of law;
- (c) Protecting children's rights with an emphasis on juvenile justice and the prevention of crimes against children;
- (d) Sharing expertise and good practices on freedom of the press, business and human rights;
- (e) Promoting the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade.

C. Environmental security

53. Over the past two years, Mongolia, with the support and cooperation of international organizations and bilateral donors, has established and expanded its necessary legal framework, ensured compliance with international conventions and agreements and implemented national programmes and projects aimed at addressing increasing environmental problems.

54. Mongolia participated in the ministerial-level International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power, held in Vienna from 7 to 11 October 2019. During the Conference, Mongolia highlighted its national policies on sustainable development and emphasized the role of nuclear power in supporting the low carbon energy transition needed to achieve climate change goals.

55. Mongolia adopted its national programme on the reduction of air pollution in 2017. As a result, during the winter season in 2018, 2019 and 2020, air pollution was reduced by half and parameters showed positive results owing to the banning of raw coal consumption in Ulaanbaatar and the enforcement of consumption limits on secondary cities. A processed charcoal briquette industry was established to exclusively supply households and small heat boiler users, while bigger industries or organizations were required to install air pollution filters to mitigate their environmental impact.

56. In 2019, Mongolia's national programme on soil conservation and reduction of land degradation was adopted with the following targets to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030:

(a) Reduce deforestation and forest degradation to preserve forest areas and reach 9 per cent of Mongolia's total area by 2030, compared with 7.85 per cent in 2015;

(b) Promote sustainable grassland management and stop further grassland degradation;

(c) Increase agricultural yields by 2.5 t/ha per annum by 2030, compared with 1.6 t/ha per annum in 2015;

(d) Ensure no net loss of wetlands by 2030, compared with levels of 2015 (3963.3 sq. km).

57. According to Mongolia's national programme, commitments under the international agreements and national-level efforts on combating desertification will be synergized and prioritized. Finance-wise, it is expected that the programme will be financed and implemented under the national budget and with donor or partner engagement.

58. In 2019, Mongolia finalized and submitted its real-time nationally determined contribution and action plan to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with support from donors and partners. Its initial nationally determined contribution of a 14 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 as identified in 2016 has been upgraded following a technical and policy reformulation so as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22.7 per cent by 2030.

59. With financial support from the Global Environment Facility in its sixth and seventh replenishments, four full-size multifocal projects were approved, two of which have already begun to be implemented. The two projects are focused mainly on systematic planning and landscape performance, aimed at improving environmental and socioeconomic safeguards, governance and livelihoods, while conserving biodiversity and maintaining land-related actions. Another regional project on mercury phase-out was initiated in 2019 and is aimed at improving the value chain and supply market.

60. In 2019, the Asian Development Bank funded a project to improve environmental statistic and data collection norms and formats. In parallel, and with the aim of mainstreaming environmental thinking in the context of Mongolia's development planning, the National Development Agency launched a project to minimize negative impact on the environment and to improve sustainable natural resource management.

D. Conclusion

61. The report of the Government of Mongolia on the activities it has undertaken in the implementation of General Assembly resolution [73/44](#) demonstrates the country's resolve to fully implement the provisions of the resolution at the national, regional and international levels.

62. Although Mongolia has not been recognized as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, its unique status has been widely recognized and supported by the international community as a contribution to nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of regional confidence and predictability.

63. Mongolia has demonstrated its readiness to cooperate with other Member States and relevant United Nations 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.

IV. Assistance provided by United Nations entities

64. The present section is based on the information received to date from IAEA and UNEP concerning their respective assistance activities during the reporting period.

A. International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[13 May 2020]

65. During the reporting period, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to support Mongolia in meeting its safeguards obligations and nuclear non-proliferation commitments by providing assistance to enhance the country's State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material.

66. In June 2018 and June 2019, Mongolia participated in an IAEA-led international training course on safeguards implementation for States with small quantities protocols, held in Tokai, Japan.

67. With regard to nuclear safety and security, IAEA continued to work on the development and implementation of an integrated nuclear security support plan to assist Mongolia in applying a structured and holistic approach to nuclear security capacity-building, and to enable increased coordination among IAEA, the State and potential donors. The plan, officially approved by Mongolia in September 2015, covers all aspects of nuclear security, including radioactive source security, border detection and human resources development. Mongolia is party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities but not yet to the 2005 Amendment thereto.

68. Mongolia participated in several regional and international meetings and training courses on various aspects of nuclear security. These included a regional meeting on integrated nuclear security support plans for States in South and East Asia, conducted in Beijing in November 2018; an international training course on essential elements of nuclear security for nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control, held at Argonne National Laboratory in the United States of America in May 2019; the IAEA School on drafting regulations for radiation safety for participants from Asia and the Pacific, held in Vienna from 29 July to 2 August 2019; and a regional workshop on threat assessment and design basis threats, held in Beijing in November 2019.

69. In terms of nuclear safety, Mongolia is not yet party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety or the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. However, representatives from Mongolia participated in a regional workshop for Asian countries to promote the Joint Convention, held in Jakarta in October 2018.

70. Representatives from Mongolia also participated in a subregional workshop on nuclear law for Asia and the Pacific held in Jakarta in August 2019, which was focused on establishing and enhancing national legal frameworks for the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation.

71. In addition, assistance has been provided to Mongolia through the technical cooperation programme on training, expert advice and the provision of equipment and material for the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. During the 2018–2019 technical cooperation programme cycle, Mongolia implemented projects focused on capacity-building in the areas of animal health and production; human health, nuclear medicine and cancer therapy; environmental protection; and science and education.

B. United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]
[23 March 2020]

72. Under the UNEP Waste and Climate Change project, a waste composition study was conducted in Ulaanbaatar to update the solid waste database and inform policy development. With an explicit focus on short-lived climate pollutants and identifying environmentally sound technologies in the waste sector, the 2019 report entitled “Ulaanbaatar household waste composition study” relates directly to outcome 1 of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, on promoting inclusive growth and the sustainable management of natural resources.

73. Over the course of 2019, the National Adaptation Plan for Mongolia served to promote inclusive growth and sustainable management of natural resources by initiating a review of sectoral policies for integrating adaptation priorities in Mongolia’s development strategies in the following seven thematic areas:

- (a) Agriculture (crops);
- (b) Biodiversity;
- (c) Public health;
- (d) Water;
- (e) Disaster management;
- (f) Forestry;
- (g) Social protection and livelihoods.

74. The policy briefs highlighted key aspects for assessing policy coherence, financial needs, policy impacts and relevant indicators, serving as a basis to inform the elaboration of the adaptation section of a draft revised nationally determined contribution of Mongolia, which was approved by the Government on 20 November 2019. An online platform on the nationally determined contribution was launched on 22 November 2019.

V. Conclusion

75. As described in the present report, various departments of the Secretariat, and relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, have provided assistance to Mongolia in addressing the developmental, ecological, economic, humanitarian and human security aspects of its international security. The Secretary General hopes that the assistance provided by the United Nations will further contribute to consolidating the nuclear-weapon-free status of Mongolia and to helping the country to achieve sustainable development and balanced growth.