

STATEMENTS AND INTERVIEWS

Statement by His Excellency Mr. Tserenpiliin GOMBOSUREN

*Minister for External Relations of Mongolia
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Mr. President.

A retrospective look at the development of events since the end of the “cold war” has revealed the complexity of advancing toward a new fabric of international relations.

On the one hand, the spirit of cooperation and inter-action is becoming a prevalent trend.

The new democracies are making headway in the face of formidable difficulties of transition. This can amply be evidenced by the recent events in Russia. We are confident that the democratic forces led by President B. Yeltsin will overcome the present ordeal and succeed in their endeavours. The significance of the success of Russia’s reforms for the region and the entire world can hardly be over-emphasized.

Furthermore, solutions are being found even to the most protracted regional conflicts. The recent historic act of mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization and the interim peace agreement are the case in point. We hope that this will lead to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

An important breakthrough toward democracy and multi-racial society in South Africa has been made.

Peace and national reconciliation that eluded Cambodia for so long is restored on this land of ancient civilization.

Landmark agreements on the prohibition of chemical weapons and on the reduction of nuclear armaments have been concluded.

In the meantime, one can readily discern old deep-seated problems still awaiting their solution and the emergence of new ones, once held in check by the circumstances of the time.

Indeed, no tangible progress has been registered in addressing the issues of poverty, external debt, drugs, and organized crime, widening gap between affluent and poor, and environmental crisis.

Though the cold war is over, the “hot wars” multiplied. Suffice it to mention the continuing tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Nagorny Karabakh and Abkhazia.

Mr. President.

It is being widely recognized today that the concept of development has acquired a multi-dimensional character encompassing not only economic growth but political, social and environmental aspects as well. Moreover, a greater emphasis is being accentuated on human dimension of development, as in the final analysis the well-being of people stands as a true measurement of development. We believe that the United Nations is the only and irreplaceable mechanism to translate this concept into reality.

In this respect, a sequence of UN-sponsored world conferences on population, women and the Summit for Social Development are called upon to open up better prospect to that end. No lasting solution to a variety of today’s problems could be sought unless the developmental challenges are adequately addressed. The concept of development and its practical aspects will certainly be enriched by the Secretary-General’s interim report entitled “An agenda for development” and its upcoming discussion during this session.

Now is the time to resolutely address the long-standing agenda of economic disparities between North and South, including poverty eradication, debt relief, elimination of trade protectionism and early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. In this regard, Mongolia welcomes the meeting of the Chairmen of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of Seven held last July in Tokyo, which represents a first step towards relenting the North-South dialogue. My delegation believes it important that following a serious consideration of the NAM initiative on Reactivation of the North-South dialogue to strengthen international cooperation for development at this session of the General Assembly a positive decision will be taken in this regard.

Mr. President,

It is of signal importance to maintain the momentum gained at the Rio Conference on Environment and Development through an effective follow-up at both international and national level.

We commend the dynamic role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as a central political forum for the monitoring and review of the implementation of Agenda 21.

Mongolia has recently ratified the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions and her national plan of action to implement the Agenda 21 is under elaboration

For a country where desertification is a major challenge, Mongolia deems it necessary to have such a Convention concluded by 1995.

Mr. President.

Mongolia believes that the observance of human rights in accordance with the universally-accepted norms would be essential in promoting just cooperation among States. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms can in no way be reconciled with biased criteria which divide countries into big and small, developed and underdeveloped, majority and minority groups, and along ethnic, racial and religious lines.

Furthermore, Mongolia proceeds from the premise that human rights and fundamental freedoms, as universal values, do not recognize borders.

It is of utmost importance that the Vienna Conference on Human Rights held last June was able to reach an agreement on the indivisibility of economic, social, cultural and political, and civil rights, and on the need to respect, and implement them on an equal footing.

Mr. President,

It is gratifying to note that with "cold war" demise, propaganda around disarmament issues has faded away and a businesslike atmosphere to cooperate has taken shape.

Earlier this year the Treaty on substantive reductions of strategic offensive armaments between the Russian Federation and the United States has been concluded. Also, a commendable initiative with respect to the moratorium on nuclear testing emanated. The decision has been taken by the Geneva Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty.

As a country uniquely positioned between the two nuclear-weapon powers Mongolia attaches exceptional importance to this issue. That is precisely why my country last year declared its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone. In this context Mongolia welcomes the ideas to turn Central Asia into a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

The issue of timely and full implementation of nuclear weapons reduction agreements and the complete prohibition and elimination of these weapons should not escape the priority attention of the world community. The cessation

of nuclear-weapon tests and the strict observance of the NPT is acquiring special importance.

We support the indefinite extension of the NPT during its review conference in 1995. It is of great importance that the parties to the Treaty, especially the nuclear-weapon states, honor their commitments and refrain from any action that might undermine it.

Mr. President,

Mongolia is entering the fourth year of democratic reforms. We, as many others like us, are facing the formidable challenges. As an underdeveloped, landlocked country inadequately integrated into the world transportation network with its high vulnerability to natural calamities, Mongolia experiences added difficulties in its transition.

In addition to the political and economic reforms there is an onerous task of dealing with spiritual renewal. We, Mongols, during the years of the socialist experiment were forced to abandon our centuries - old traditions and cultural heritage. Suffice it to say that virtually all the houses of worship - sanctuaries of spiritual life - over 700 all in all, were destroyed, and the traditional script of Mongols - an important cultural heritage of mankind, was buried in oblivion. The task is now to rectify this wrong. It is a nation-wide task requiring enormous efforts and resources, and cannot be allowed to be left on its own.

For all the problems, Mongolia's democratic reforms are steadily gaining ground.

The new democratic system of governance proclaimed in the 1992 democratic Constitution is being consolidated. The first ever direct presidential elections held last June culminated in the choice of a President put forward by the new political parties.

The legal foundation of ongoing reforms is being strengthened. It has come to embrace all the key aspects of the societal life.

The present Government has set itself a task of checking the economic decline within the two-year period. And the target seems to be within the realm of the possible.

We associate these gains primarily with the understanding and support on the part of the international community. In recent years a donor community in

Support of Mongolia has emerged. Japan, World Bank-sponsored donor meeting has recently held its 3rd round in Tokyo where 24 countries and 6 international organizations took part.

Donor Governments' grants and soft loans significantly help alleviate the present difficulties and lay the new basis for future development. In addition, we are keenly interested in attracting private sector investment in Mongolia. This would not only contribute to the economic recover)' but would also help make the future cooperation with our partners mutually advantageous. The revised Foreign Investment Law creates favorable conditions for such investment opportunities.

Furthermore, we consider that an active involvement in regional economic cooperation is an essential factor in fulfilling the tasks of transition. With this in mind, we, for instance, are interested in becoming a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. We hope that the member States of this organization will find it possible to understand and support our position.

Mr. President,

The United Nations has emerged as an important focal point of international efforts and assumed much increased peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building responsibilities. The detailed Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization is a lucid illustration of this point

Mongolia fully supports the efforts designed to reform the United Nations, in particular, to restructure and revitalize the activities of the General Assembly as well as to review the Security Council composition to reflect the changing realities of the time and dramatically increased membership of the world organization

Today the United Nations is wrestling hard to see to it that it is able to meet the many challenges of a rapidly changing world. It goes without saying that the success of this undertaking will depend on painstaking efforts and above all, on the political will and greater realism on the part of member states.

Thank you.