STATEMENT BY

H.E. MS. ENKHTSETSEG OCHIR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

New York, 12 July 2012
Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you sincerely on your election as President of this historic Conference and express its full confidence in your able stewardship. We assure you of our full support throughout the Conference.

It is hardly a matter of dispute that unregulated or poorly regulated trade in conventional weapons, as well as their diversion to the illicit market pose a grave danger to human rights and serve as a contributory factor to armed conflict, organized crime and terrorism. Mongolia has, therefore, consistently supported the international community's efforts to codify arms trade regulations in a legally binding treaty.

It is not only States who share the aspiration for an Arms Trade Treaty. A movement supporting the treaty has developed intensely in many parts of the world, including Mongolia, where Mongolia's Academy of Medical Sciences and Amnesty International Mongolia are actively collecting signatures in support of the Treaty.

Being committed to peace, stability and human rights, Mongolia supports the establishment of a strong, robust but effective legally binding treaty that would establish the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms and thereby prevent illicit trade in arms and their supply to terrorist groups and countries committing serious and systematic violations of international humanitarian law or human rights. It is of fundamental importance that the future treaty have clearly defined goals and require States to establish effective national...
controls based on common standards. As such, the treaty would advance the goals of international peace and security and those of socio-economic development. At the same time, it is essential that the Conference results in a treaty that respects the inalienable right of States to manufacture, import, export, transfer and retain conventional arms for self-defense and security needs, as well as their right to import arms for the purpose of participation in peacekeeping operations. To be effective, the ATT should be inclusive of major arms trading states.

Mr. President,

My delegation believes that an ATT should cover all conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, and ammunition. It is critical that the treaty establish a transparency mechanism. International cooperation and assistance are also a key element, if it is to be implemented effectively, especially in developing countries.

My delegation welcomes the adoption of the Rules of Procedure which stipulate that the Conference shall take its decisions and consider the text of the Treaty by consensus, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/48, and take decisions on all matters of procedure by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, only when the President decides that efforts to reach a consensus have been exhausted.

And lastly, my delegation wishes to voice its view of the Chair's discussion paper of 3 July as a viable starting point.

I thank you for attention.