

**Committee/Council:** Disarmament Committee

**Issue:** The question of Mongolia's international security and nuclear weapon free status

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## Introduction

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free-zones is an effective effort to promote nuclear disarmament and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and, as such, promotes international and regional security and conformity. Mongolia welcomes the steps taken to strengthen the existing NWFZs, without necessarily excluding any nation due to their political relations, affiliations or geographical conditions. Unlike other NWFZs throughout the world, Mongolia initiated a unilateral act in order to render its territory a NWFZ. However, Mongolia had to take various international measures to institutionalize, since a unilateral decision would not make a credible and secure zone as a multilateral one. Through the treaties signed with China and Russia, and consultations with other P5 countries, Mongolia aimed to create a favorable legal and political base for their nuclear-weapon-free status both in the national and international level.



*Mongolia's geographic location ([www.opanal.org](http://www.opanal.org))*

## Definition of Key-Terms

### Nuclear Weapon

Any explosive device that is aimed to release nuclear energy uncontrollably and that serves for hostile purposes, also known as the most destructible weapons the humankind has ever created.

### Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone

A concrete manifestation of national and international efforts, in order to limit the creation and usage of nuclear weapons. It prohibits the development, possession, production testing, manufacture, stockpiling, transportation and acquisition of nuclear weapons anywhere within the zone, including both the land and inland waters. Following the Negative Security Assurance (NSA), it does not permit the usage or even the threat of using nuclear weapons against nations. All the NWFZs establish an on-going organization to ensure compliance with the NPT.

### Single-State-Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone

It refers to an individual nation's international status of being free from nuclear weapons.

### Nuclear-Weapons-Grade

The substances, which are pure enough to generate a nuclear weapon, or which have properties that are suitable to use it.



*NWFZs around the world, according to the treaties they are established by*

([www.opanal.org](http://www.opanal.org))

## Background Information

In late 1960s, China and Soviet Union, both being nuclear states, were about to begin a full-on conflict. Mongolia, which was then hosting Soviet military bases, was right in the middle of this emerging conflict. A comprehensive study on the possibility of a single-state nuclear-weapon-free zone was conducted in 1976. According to this study, it was decided that the obligations related to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) may be determined not only by groups of nations within continents or large geographical regions, but also by small groups of nations or individual countries.

In early 1990s, after the end of the socialist system, Mongolia had to ensure that the threat they faced during the Sino-Soviet split would not reiterate. Several bilateral consultations with the permanent members of the Security Council were conducted. Mongolia then issued a draft resolution at the United Nations General Assembly. Soon after, in September 1992, Mongolia was declared a NWFZ and this status was internationally recognized. P5 countries, however, believed that the creation of a “single-state” zone would discourage the traditional NWFZ establishments and thereby they were uneager to accept the concept of a “single state”. Instead, they chose to support it as a vaguely defined “status” and agreed to tackle Mongolia’s security concerns in a relatively broader aspect. In order to legalize this status globally, they suggested that Mongolia should sign a treaty with either P5 countries or with its neighbors.

Not totally discouraged by the joint statement of the P5 countries, Mongolia welcomed the statement as a step towards its institutionalizing process. Consequent talks between P5 and Mongolia resulted in parallel declarations on September 17, 2012. They did not only repeat their intent of cooperating with Mongolia, but they also affirmed that they will respect Mongolia’s free status and will not contribute to any act that could violate it, as long as Mongolia continues to maintain this status.

### The possibility of forming Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone

The undertaking to establish a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, which involves Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Peoples Republic of China, Japan, Taiwan and Russian Federation, may have a significance that will broaden the recognition of the current security arrangement in the region and Mongolia in particular. When a new perspective is communicated persuasively, this zone may have a great appeal to the public.

To become a party to a NWFZ is not necessarily the same as abandoning a security policy dependent on nuclear weapons or a nuclear-weapon-free status like Mongolia possesses. Thus, the possibility of nuclear attacks against Mongolia would be

eliminated by legally binding security assurances, which is a result of a regional NWFZ but not Mongolia's "status".

### Anti-Nuclear-Weapon Education within NEA-NWFZ

If the North-East-Asia NEA-NWFZ were to be formed, it would be the first NWFZ, which would actually be home to a large number of victims who faced nuclear attacks in the past. Hence, it is suggested that state parties of NEA-NWFZ educate citizens from all over the world about the consequences of physical and social suffering of their own citizens, so that it will be a distinctive element of the NEA-NWFZ, and it will contribute to the international nuclear disarmament greatly.

### Prohibition of armed attack on nuclear power plants

The NEA-NWFZ is also to acknowledge the reality of many on-going nuclear power stations. Therefore, any armed attack on nuclear power plants should be prohibited, heedless of the arguments in favor or against nuclear power.

The political and social path to realize the proposed NEA-NWFZ formation is surely affected by a number of variables. Various multilateral processes in the region, most importantly Mongolia's six party talks, should be observed.



*Northeast Asia Region*

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

### Russian Federation

The Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation was signed between Mongolia and the Russian Federation in 1993. With this treaty, both sides agreed not to allow their lands to be used by any other third state against the sovereignty and security of the other. Russia agreed to respect Mongolia's policy of not allowing nuclear weapons, foreign troops or other mass destruction tools to be transported through the Mongolian borders.

### People's Republic of China

China has unconditionally pledged to provide security assurances to Mongolia. Being close neighbors, China and Mongolia have developed their bilateral relationship on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence. The five principles are as follows: mutual non-aggression, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. They have been adopted in many other international documents, and have become widely accepted as standards of international relations, particularly in the North-East Asia area.

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
September 1992	Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status of Mongolia declared
January 1993	Russian Federation, through a bilateral friendship treaty concluded with Mongolia
April 1997	Mongolia tabled a working paper at the UNDC
December 1998	The General Assembly adopted the resolution entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status"
February 2000	Law on Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status of Mongolia entered into force
November 2000	The General Assembly adopted the resolution entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status."
September 2001	Representatives of the UN, Mongolia, and P5 met in Sapporo,

	Japan on the topic of multilateral disarmament.
October 2002	Mongolia expressed support for existing and establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free-zones.
April 2005	Tlatelolco Treaty, of which Mongolia was a participant, was signed.
September 2007	Mongolia suggested a trilateral treaty to China and Russia
July 2008	Secretary General of the UN issued a report on Mongolia's status
March 2009	Mongolia, Russia and China held their first meeting to discuss Mongolia's trilateral treaty
September 2009	A second meeting for the trilateral treaty was held
June 2011	Barack Obama reaffirmed partnership
April 2012	First Preparatory meeting for the Third Conference of States Parties and Signatories that established nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia was held in Vienna, Austria
April 2013	Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference held

## Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Events

### Tlatelolco Treaty

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, February 1967

### Resolution 3472 (XXX)

Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects, United Nations, December 1975

### Rarotonga Treaty

South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, August 1985

### NPT/CONF.1995/32

Resolution on the Middle East, The Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1995

### Bangkok Treaty

Treaty on the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, December 1995

Pelindaba Treaty

African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, April 1996

A/54/42 Annex I

Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, Report of the Disarmament Commission, 1999

GA Resolution/Decision: 53/77 D

Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status, introduced by Mongolia.

UN Treaty/Resolution/Event 2

General and complete disarmament: Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

Resolution 3261 F of the UN General Assembly

Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects.

2010 NPT Review Conference

Conclusions and recommendations for follow-up actions.

## **Previous Attempts to solve the Issue**

Mongolia drafted legislation according to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The acts prohibited by the legislation concerned primarily the acts committed by individuals and legal persons. The law also prohibited the stationing or transporting of nuclear weapons through its territory as well as dumping or disposal of nuclear weapons.

## **Possible Solutions**

At this point, the P5 states are still not ready to provide a legal binding assurance and they still avoid a political commitment to Mongolia's requests. On the other hand, as Mongolia has formed and maintained smooth and amicable relations with

its major neighbors China and Russian Federation and since they do not have any political, territorial or border dispute against each other, Mongolia prefers not to insist heavily to implement such a commitment at this stage. Yet, there is still the necessity for Mongolia to have a legally binding assurance: a treaty both for today and the future in order to establish safety measures common to the rest of NWFZ.

In order to turn its own free status into a free-weapon-zone, Mongolia should support the establishment of NWFZs in the other regions of Northeast Asia and Middle East. Full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East (NPT/CONF.1995/32) can open prospects for moving towards such zones not only in Middle East, but also in various parts of the globe. Regular conferences or summits would yield vital and practical results only if all States of the Middle East region participate in it. Similarly, a comprehensive and thorough approach to the NWFZs in Northeast Asia would be to address and resolve the issue of the Korean peninsula regarding nuclear energy through diplomacy realistically.

Mongolia's law prohibits the disposing or dumping of any nuclear waste or nuclear-weapons-grade radioactive material within its borders. Therefore, Mongolia also needs economic, ecological and security-related assistance to effectively and viably address possible challenges that could emerge in the future. Mongolia should set its eye on the entire international community to enhance confidence and stability in the region whilst promoting non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and recalling the abuse of nuclear energy.

Mongolia's recent attempts and results showed that the diverse issues and conflicts involved in the spirit of achieving practical results must be highlighted through better and greater mutual understanding. The basic concepts and objectives should be taken into consideration by sharing experience and information with one another.

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