Statement by H.E. Ambassador Ch.Baat, Deputy Head of Mongolian Delegation to the 63rd session of the UNGA to introduce draft resolution on “Mongolia’s International Security and Nuclear Weapon-Free Status” (A/C.1/63/L.28)

October 24, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to introduce a draft biennial resolution entitled “Mongolia’s international security and nuclear-weapon-free status, contained in document A/C.1/63/L.28, on behalf of co-sponsors Kazakhstan, Morocco and the United States of America.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the first General Assembly resolution on Mongolia’s International Security and Nuclear Weapon-Free Status. Subsequent General Assembly resolutions 55/33 S, 57/67, 59/73 and 61/87 and various activities undertaken by the Government of Mongolia in cooperation with the international community to implement them have contributed to enhancing stability and confidence-building in the region and to further promoting Mongolia’s security. Since its declaration in 1992 Mongolia’s NWFS has also become an essential element of the global non-proliferation regime. The Secretary-General concluded in his report A/63/122 that in past decade Mongolia’s nuclear-weapon-free status is consolidated and institutionalized and is gaining wider recognition.

Considerable progress has been made in consolidation of Mongolia’s NWFS since the adoption of the last UNGA resolution under the same title – resolution 61/87. Mongolia’s NWFS was supported and reflected in a number of bilateral documents such as in the Moscow Declaration of 8 December 2006 and Mongolian-Russian Joint Communiqué of 13 April 2008, as well as in multilateral documents, including the Havana Document of 14th NAM Summit of 2006 and Tehran Document of 15th NAM Ministerial Conference of 2008.

My Government continues to work to institutionalize Mongolia’s status with the view to conclude a trilateral treaty with Russia and China. Following up its initial
contacts in 2002 we have prepared the draft treaty in 2007 and presented it to the Russian and Chinese sides. I would like to thank the Russian and Chinese delegation for having open and sincere discussions on the margins of this Committee and for their willingness to move forward in near future.

Following the decision of the first NWFZ conference held in 2005 in Mexico, Mongolia has established its national focal point to deal with NWFZ-related issues and contacted with focal points of other NWFZ treaty agencies. In order to contribute to the preparations for the second conference of NWFZ, Mongolia is planning to host a focal points meeting in Ulaanbaatar on 27 and 28 April 2009.

We are also continuing to promote awareness regarding NWFS nationally and internationally. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia organized earlier this year a round-table discussion on Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and related issues. Mongolia submitted a working paper on nuclear-weapon-free zones (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.II/WP.1) to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2008. Moreover, Mongolia submitted a document entitled "Memorandum of the Government of Mongolia on promoting the country's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status"(A/63/73-S/2008/297) for circulation as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council. We believe that this document would prove useful in considering the draft resolution on Mongolia's NWFS.

Mr. Chairman,

The draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/63/L.28 before you is essentially a procedural one and includes some technical updates. It takes note the report of Secretary-General, and expresses appreciation to the SG for the efforts to implement resolution 61/87. As in the previous resolution, it endorses and supports Mongolia's good-neighborly relations with its neighbors; and invites Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia on implementation of the provisions of the resolution.

The draft resolution has been subject to careful examination by interested delegations and enjoys wide support. My delegation, therefore, hopes that the Committee will agree, as before, to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.