

Foreword

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Mongolia's initiative to turn its territory into a single-State nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ). On 25 September 1992 H. E. Mr. P. Ochirbat, President of Mongolia, declared at the United Nations General Assembly that in order to contribute to disarmament and trust in the region and the world over, Mongolia was declaring its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone and that it would work to have that status internationally guaranteed.

This initiative is innovative and unprecedented in international relations since it is aimed at turning one single State into a full-fledged NWFZ with all the rights and obligations arising for that zonal State as well as for neighboring and nuclear-weapon States. So far only regional NWFZs have been established, leaving open in theory of international relations and in practice the cases when for geographical or geopolitical reasons States cannot be part of the emerging network of regional zones.

In the past 15 years Mongolia has achieved a lot both in raising awareness of non-traditional cases and ensuring general acceptance in theory and practice of establishing single-State zones. However, there is still much to be done by Mongolia to institutionalize the status, especially negotiating a trilateral treaty with two immediate neighbors on providing security assurances in connection with its NWFZ status.

The Mongolian Journal of International Affairs has prepared this compilation of contributions of scholars and experts in the area of non-proliferation and NWFZs as well as of the basic documents that shed light on Mongolia's initiative and the national and international efforts to institutionalize its single-State NWFZ status.

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