

**Brief statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia
at the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC)**

Vienna

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Mme Chairperson,

It is an honor for me to address this Conference as representative of a Partner State of OSCE.

The ASRC is an important forum for dialogue and consultation of OSCE that is intended to review the security environment in the OSCE area as well as to discuss new ideas and initiatives on how to improve security in the vast Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian space. The proceedings of today's meeting is a clear testimony to this. These proceedings demonstrate that though much has been achieved, still much needs to be done for conflict prevention and resolution.

Europe's experience in developing a comprehensive security cooperation mechanism of the last quarter of the XX century is one of the most important contributions to international peace and security. Thanks to the evolving mechanism and to the agreed confidence-building measures, the vast OSCE area has become an area of stability and security cooperation. The pockets of unresolved issues, to which references were made this morning, underline the need for more effective cooperative measures to address them. Mongolia, together with other Asian partners, is closely following these processes on the vast OSCE area so as to see the degree of relevance of the latter's lessons and experience for the Asian region. To that end last April Mongolia and its Asian partners, together with Germany and some other OSCE countries, organized an international conference entitled "Present and Future Security Environment in North-East and Central Asia: Ulaanbaatar – New Helsinki?".

The above conference as well as the Tokyo conference of OSCE and Asian Partners have vividly demonstrated that the OSCE/CSCE processes contain a wealth of experience that could be useful for promoting effective regional security cooperation.

Mme. Chairperson,

Mongolia borders on Russia which is one of the largest OSCE members. Since the Asian continent, including its North-East Asian region, still lacks proper security structure, Mongolia pursues greater confidence and mutually beneficial cooperation with its immediate neighbors – Russia and China. It is also working with the countries of Central Asia to promote the CICA process and with Northeast Asian countries to promote regional security cooperation. Hence it supports the Six Party talks to denuclearize the Korean peninsula. In the future these talks and the experience gained through the talks could be useful in establishing a regional security mechanism in North-East Asia.

Located between two nuclear-weapon States, in 1992 Mongolia declared its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone and has since been working to institutionalize it at the international level. To that end Mongolia is working with its two immediate neighbors to conclude a trilateral treaty that would institutionalize its status. In practical terms it would mean that Mongolia would not allow its territory to be used for placing nuclear weapons or any part of such a system on its territory nor allow any other hostile acts against neighboring and third countries. In that sense Mongolia is pursuing a policy of active neutrality.

Mme. Chairperson,

Many speakers have been making reference to the situation in Afghanistan and how it could affect directly or indirectly the security of OSCE countries and the near-by regions. Mongolia is a firm believer in indivisibility of security. Since October 2003 Mongolia has been working with the Afghan government to train mobile artillery forces as well as to help repair artillery weapons systems of the Afghan National Army. Recently the National Security Council of Mongolia has taken a decision to extend further this cooperation.

Like Mongolia, Afghanistan is a developing land-locked country neighboring on some nuclear and near-nuclear countries. This geographical reality makes conduct of foreign policy of such countries very challenging since the neighbors (especially if they are powerful) usually try to “lean heavily” on such a country. Therefore a modus vivendi needs to be established with their neighbors. We believe that Afghanistan’s stability and development could be tied to a possible neutrality policy that has time and again been raised by the Afghans themselves and by influential international players throughout the last century. Experience of some OSCE neutral counties could be valuable. The modus vivendi could also make Afghanistan a virtual nuclear-weapon-free area that could contribute to more predictability and stability in this region that borders on OSCE area.