

**Brief presentation of Amb. Enkhsaikhan to the Asian contact group
meeting on the follow-up to the 2007 OSCE-Mongolia Conference**

Vienna, Austria

3 July 2009

Mr. Chairman,

First of all I would like to thank the representative of OSCE Greek Chairmanship for up-dating on the current issues, including the results of the unofficial ministerial meeting held on the island of Corfu. It is also a pleasure to see Mr. Theodor Kotsonis at this meeting, hear his assessment of the results of the Tokyo conference and his comments regarding the importance of addressing the issue of human trafficking know as the slavery of the XXI century.

My delegation has offered to briefly up-date on the follow-up measures that Mongolia has undertaken in implementation of OSCE-Mongolia 2007 conference.

Just to refresh everyone's memory, the OSCE-Mongolia conference was held on 12-13 June 2007. The overarching theme was "Strengthening the co-operative security between OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation". The conference held opening and closing plenary meetings as well as three sessions focusing on the three major areas of OSCE activity, which touched upon all the issues of concern and interest of OSCE members and its partners.

The main documents of the conference, including its agenda, the concept paper as well as its proceedings can be found on the OSCE website. Since the results of the conference was reported to the Permanent Council in 2007 I shall not dwell on it.

Mr. Chairman,

Two years have passed since the first OSCE-Mongolia conference was held. As a follow-up to that conference, the Mongolian government taken a number of measures to implement some of the understandings reached there. Thus in the area of security promotion as well as bringing closer the OSCE membership with its Asian partners, in April of this year an international conference on the relevance of CSCE experience for Asia was organized in Mongolia. Since my delegation has briefed the contact group on its outcome, I shall not again deal on its outcome.

Since June 2007 Mongolia has continuously pursued its policy of structural prevention by promoting mutual confidence with and between its two immediate neighbors. Thus in September 2007 it presented to its immediate neighbors a draft trilateral treaty that would define its nuclear-weapon-free status. The first informal meeting to discuss the draft treaty has been held last March in Geneva. The three sides discussed the future format and scope of the possible treaty. The date and venue of the second meeting is being discussed among the parties.

Second dimension, dealing with cooperative security in the economic and environmental dimension. One of the issues discussed in Ulaanbaatar was how to promote the Almaty Program of Action (APA) addressing the special needs of land-locked developing countries (including the 5 Central Asian members of OSCE, Afghanistan, Mongolia and other countries). As you all know, land-locked developing countries face formidable obstacles to their development due to not only their lack of access to the seas, but also high transit costs, poor transport infrastructure, burdensome customs and border crossing procedures, etc. These challenges adversely affect their competitiveness in trade, which is one of the important factors of development. Thus for example Mongolia spends 7-8 % of its GDP (which is almost 3 times higher than its entire defense expenditure) on transit transportation and insurance costs. This is twice higher than the transportation costs of other developing and three times higher than that of developed countries. These handicaps of land-locked developing countries are not well known or clearly understood. That is why in 2006 Mongolia proposed to establish an international think tank to strengthen the analytical capacity to address the challenges of LLDCs, how to respond to them and in general how to promote greater integration of LLDCs into regional and global trading systems.

As a follow-up on this idea, the Government of Mongolia has made a feasibility study, drawn up a road-map and has taken the decision to set up this international think tank in Mongolia and provide first year funding for its operation. My delegation in 2007 had already expressed the hope that OSCE, which is called upon by the 2006 Vienna Expert Workshop¹ to play the role of a facilitator, could contribute to promoting and materializing this important idea. We are ready to continue consultations on this issue.

Mongolia is continuing to work to facilitate transit transportation between Europe and Asia. Measures are being taken to bring down the number of days for goods originating in Europe and arriving to Asia (Beijing being one of such destinations) from over 40 days to 10 to 14 days. In order to further minimize the bureaucratic and other obstacles, it has since mid-1990s been holding trilateral transit trade talks with Russia and China. Since the beneficiaries of such efficient transit trade could be other members of OSCE, perhaps its members or OSCE could join and facilitate the talks. Mongolia is planning to take an active part in the forthcoming conference of transport ministers of ASEM countries to be held in the fall in Vilnius.

In order to implement the APA at the national level in the program's five priority areas, Mongolia, with active participation of all stakeholders, has developed a comprehensive sector development program called "Transit Mongolia" that incorporates all APA priorities and Mongolia-specific goals. It is aimed at addressing the country's geographical handicap through pro-active, far-reaching measures aimed at modernizing the transport system. The action plan is open to multilateral and bilateral, governmental, private and international institutions for investment and cooperation.

¹ Joint OSCE/Expert Workshop on the Specific Problems of Landlocked Countries Regarding Transit and Transportation (held in Vienna in December 2006)

Another issue discussed in Ulaanbaatar was land degradation and desertification as challenges to environmental security and sustainable development. According to Mongolian experts, in the past century the country's average surface temperature has increased three times the average over-all increase.² Desertification and sand-storms are causing problems not only in Mongolia proper, but are also affecting other countries of the region.

Therefore looking at this issue in broader terms Mongolia has called for a North-East Asian summit meeting on climate change and since 2007 has hosted a series of regional meetings, including expert level and ministerial meetings in March and May of this year. It believes that comprehensive security envisages taking preventive and other active measures to address non-military yet very important aspects of security. With the current climate change, Mongolia believes that nature and environment cannot wait longer for states to address these issues "when the political climate would be proper". On the other hand, addressing environmental (and thus economic) aspects of mutual security could promote right conditions for more dialogue and cooperation in addressing hard security issues. As a result of Mongolia's efforts the states of North-East Asia have agreed in principle to hold their first ever summit in September in New York on the margins of the General Assembly session. The draft joint statement is being finalized at the expert level. We hope that the summit, its decisions and its spirit of cooperation will contribute to greater understanding and closer cooperation on issues of common concern.

With respect to the third dimension, the 2007 conference paid special attention to judicial reform, police assistance and border security and management, as well as to promoting democratization, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Mongolia has participated in the workshop on transnational organized crime (organized in Kazakhstan) and would be more than willing to more actively participate in other areas, such as police assistance and border security and management. In this respect it welcomes the launching in May in Dushanbe of the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC). It has also expressed interest in working closely with OSCE members and its partners in addressing the challenge of human trafficking.

As to democracy promotion, fuller realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, Mongolia is prepared to share its experience in drawing up national democratic governance indicators (the DGIs) which have been welcomed by the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

² Thus it is estimated that by 2007 more than 800 rivers, 2.300 streams and brooks, almost 1.200 lakes and ponds and 60 springs had dried up, the amount of annual precipitation is steadily decreasing, desertification is expanding, the number of hot days in summer are increasing, and the frequency of natural calamities and disasters are increasing. According to the definition of UN Convention on combating desertification almost 90 % of the territory of Mongolia is vulnerable to desertification.