

**Brief statement by Amb. Enkhsaikhan on Mongolia's
decision on a moratorium on the death penalty**

Vienna

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I would like to inform you, Mr. Chairman, and OSCE Permanent Council that on 13 January the President of Mongolia declared a moratorium on execution of the death penalty. This coincided with the 18th anniversary of the adoption of Mongolia's democratic Constitution. The death penalty is being replaced with a 30-year imprisonment and the inmates currently on death row will have their sentences commuted accordingly. Over the course of the last week many have countries welcomed Mongolia's bold move to abolish the death penalty, which is aimed at promoting and supporting the efforts to ensure fuller protection of human rights in the country.

In the course of last several years the international community in general has been calling on countries with capital punishment to abolish the death penalty. Mongolia has responded to these calls by the overwhelming majority of the international community, though it was not an easy decision. The moratorium in Mongolia is a first yet bold step towards full abolition of the death penalty. Mongolia expresses the hope that other countries that still have death sentences would follow suit.