

**Briefing by Amb. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia on the conference on
relevance of CSCE experience in North-East and Central Asia**

Vienna

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Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to brief on the outcome of the conference held in April in Mongolia entitled “Present and Future Security Environment in North-East and Central Asia: Ulaanbaatar – New Helsinki ?”. It was held on 20-22 April in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The idea of organizing a conference on the security environment in Northeast-Asia and Central Asia came during a meeting of representatives of the Institute for Strategic Studies of Mongolia (ISSM) and of the George Marshall Center for European Security Studies (GMC) in late 2007.

From the outset the governments of Mongolia and Germany supported the holding of this conference. The German government provided generous financial support and assistance, for which we would like to express our gratitude.

It was attended by around 100 participants of 20 countries, 3 IGOs and 7 NGOs.

The agenda of the conference consisted of the following four issues:

- challenges for CBMs (i.e. review of the current political atmosphere and security environment);
- European examples of neutrality/security and CBMs (and if they could be useful for these regions);
- security and security cooperation through dialogue (i.e. applicability of some Helsinki experience); and
- Mongolia’s role in regional security (as a case study on possible role of small and neutral country).

The participants agreed that there was a need to promote further confidence-building, especially in Northeast Asia where the DPRK’s nuclear-weapon program was causing tension and apprehensions (that was prior to North Korea’s the second nuclear test). Also many pointed to the Taiwan issue and some other unregulated territorial issues as challenges and potential hotspots.

The European participants saw Central Asian security as directly affecting their strategic interests (neighboring Afghanistan, war in Iraq, tensions over the nature of Iran’s nuclear program, etc) and agreed that promoting security and stability in the region was a strategic goal.

On the other hand, it was underlined that Europe sees Northeast Asia more in terms of its economic interests and opportunities, rather than as a direct security challenge. Hence, in the case of Northeast Asia, Europe did not have agreed security policy except for supporting the Six party talks on the North Korean nuclear arms program and peaceful conflict resolution in the region.

The session on European experience proved to be quite interesting, with Dr. Markku Reimaa of Finland explaining his country's policy and the role Finland played during détente as well as how the CSCE process started and evolved, and what role the group of 9 N+N (neutral and non-aligned) played. He also shared the experience gained during the early period and the lessons learned during the negotiations. Mr. Fabrizio Scarpa of OSCE Secretariat talked about the CSCE process and the OSCE today. Representative of Geneva based Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) talked about the concept and policies of neutral countries of Europe, what was the continuity and change in neutrality policies. Prof. Ikegami of the Stockholm University talked about the importance of US-China relations for regional security, the need for effective CSBMs and the obstacles to the Asian version of OSCE.

The third session focused on the importance of security cooperation through diplomacy and dialogue. Prof. Takesada of National Institute for Defense Studies of Japan talked about constraints and conditions for security dialogue and underlined DPRK's nuclear weapons and missile programs as the most serious impediment to confidence-building. Therefore he saw halting this program and expanding the Six party talks by including EU, Australia and Mongolia as a promising way to promote broader security.

Fourth session was dedicated to Mongolia as a case study of a small and neutral country that is trying to play an active role in regional affairs. The potential and limitations of such a role was also discussed. It was recognized that Mongolia's balanced relationship viz-a-viz Russia and China and nuclear-weapon-free policy created favorable conditions for it to play a more active international role such as hosting international mediation meetings, making constructive proposals or serving as a venue for some security dialogue meetings in general.

From the outset the conference did not set an ambitious goal of making specific recommendations either to scholars, security experts or governments. However, being the first such conference of government and academic experts on the relevance of CSCE experience for other regions, it provided an excellent opportunity to exchange views and share experience on the complex issues of national and regional security.

All agreed to the usefulness of the conference and there were proposals to hold similar meetings to address concrete issues or one specific geographic region. Perhaps the next Chairman of OSCE, being a Central Asian country member of OSCE, would find it useful to have some follow-up meetings highlighting different aspects of this multidimensional security issue. CICA experience could be useful in this regard.