

Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan at the Contact Group of Asian Partners for Co-operation

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Mongolia-OSCE Conference

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Kazakh Asian chairmanship for working hard to have the Permanent Council take a formal decision to hold the 2011 OSCE-Mongolia Conference on enhancing the Organization's cooperation with the Asian Partners in addressing the common challenges through a comprehensive approach to security. Yesterday the Permanent Council took the decision on the agenda, timetable and organizational modalities of the conference that would be held on 23-24 May in Ulaanbaatar. This delegation met informally with some interested delegations, including that of Afghanistan, and it was agreed that on the first day, right after the afternoon session, a side event could be held to focus on the issue of capacity building in Afghanistan, focusing this time more on strengthening the diplomatic service. As you all may know, Mongolia has proposed to hold a training course for Afghan diplomats next fall mindful of the fact that Mongolia, like Afghanistan, is a developing land-locked country, situated on the crossroads of great power interests.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all the participating states of OSCE as well as its partners to take an active part in the conference. You are all most welcome to Mongolia. Time for preparation is limited, and therefore I would ask you all to look at the program and indicate to the Secretariat your interest in making contributions to the success of the conference in the form of its active participants: speakers, moderators and rapporteurs.

Broadening cooperation with the European Union

Mongolia is promoting closer relations with many OSCE participant states, especially with EU member states. Less than two years ago the Mongolian government has taken a decision to introduce EU common principles, criteria and standards in all the fields, including education, healthcare, human rights, industrial and agricultural production, mining, environmental protection, etc. A special working group on introducing European Union standards and norms has been established headed by the First Deputy Prime Minister, which has paid a working visit to the Czech Republic to learn from the latter's practice of introducing the standards when it applied for the EU. Last week the cabinet decided to send an official request to work closer with the European Committee for Standardization and European Committee for Electro-technical Standardization (CENELEC). It is expected that a draft resolution regarding introduction of EU standards in Mongolia would soon be submitted to the Parliament for its consideration and approval. When the resolution is approved, not only government, but also all relevant State organizations would be responsible to introduce the standards and norms, while the required budget allocations would be included in the State Budget in coming years. We realize that introduction of European standards will not be easy, that much work and efforts would be required, starting from training people and translating into Mongolian over 5,500 standards effective in the EU.

To further broaden its relations with the European Union, Mongolia negotiated and has initiated a partnership and cooperation agreement with the European Union which would be signed in the near future. This would create a wider legal environment for further developing its relations and cooperation with the European Union as a whole and its members in particular, to bring the relations to a qualitatively new level. Talks are now underway to remove Mongolia from a list of countries with non-marked economies. In its turn the European Union has appointed its Ambassador to Mongolia to promote the relations (Markus Ederer, who is presently head of the European Commission's representations in Beijing) who together with Mongolian Ambassador to EU countries would be important agents for bringing Mongolia closer to its third neighbor – Europe.

Preparing to chair the Community of Democracies

Mongolia is honored to have been asked to chair the Community of Democracies in 2011-2013. Thus on 1 July it will take over the chairmanship from Lithuania, the current chair. In preparation to for this important task a Mongolian delegation headed by the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs is paying a working visit to Poland and Lithuania. The delegation held meetings with the Warsaw-based Permanent Secretariat of the CD, got acquainted with the experiences of Lithuania and held bilateral consultative meetings with foreign ministry officials of both countries.

In preparation for the chairmanship, Mongolia has established a national council responsible for organizing measures to be implemented during in 2011-2013. A number of working groups have also been setup in the parliament and the foreign ministry that include representatives from public organizations, experts and professionals. The gist of our efforts would be to focus primarily on democracy education and supporting the non-governmental organizations, areas that Mongolia is relatively familiar with from its past 20 year experience. My delegation will have more concrete information on this issue when the Contact Group of Asian Partners for Co-operation meets on 1 July.