

Brief statement read out on behalf of Amb, J. Enkhsaikhan at the meeting of the Permanent Council regarding Mongolia's application for OSCE participant State status

3 November 2011

Hofburg, Vienna

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to make some brief preliminary remarks as a follow-up to your information regarding Mongolia's application for OSCE participant status. I am sure that the contents of the letter will be discussed in due course at some subsequent meetings dedicated to the issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia's application for OSCE participant State status is not a completely new nor an unexpected issue. As those who have participated in the Mongolia-OSCE conference held in May of this year may know, at the conference the Foreign Minister of Mongolia had expressed the country's interest in developing its relations with the Organization well beyond the present partner status. Subsequently, he reiterated that interest when he addressed this Council in June.

Since then my delegation, here in Vienna, and our representatives at European capitals, at the current session of the United Nations General Assembly and some other international fora have been conducting informal consultations on the issue, especially on the probable response of OSCE participating states to our possible request. The four months of informal consultations and meetings were productive. They have shown a general positive response to an application. There seems to be a general agreement that Mongolia's policies were in line with the OSCE's values and principles, its commitments and responsibilities, and that it would not bring unresolved political or other issues to the Organization, and that, on the contrary, it could contribute to OSCE activities by sharing its experience in some areas of the Organization's activities. At the same time some expressed some caution against setting a precedent for the future.

Bearing all the above in mind, the Mongolian side has drafted a letter of application that would, in its view, somehow address this concern. It took us yet another month of informal consultations to finalize on the content of the letter of application that would address the concern mentioned above. The Minister's letter not only expressed Mongolia's wish to become an OSCE participating State, its resolve to accept the commitments, but also spelt out the reasons for such an application and why it believed that it was ready to accept the commitments and responsibilities contained in OSCE documents. The letter has also expressed the government's readiness to receive, if necessary, an OSCE mission in connection with the application.

Knowing well that there would be other occasions to explain the reasons for the application and how Mongolia could contribute to OSCE's expanded vision and goals, I would like at this stage to ask the Permanent Council members to consider this issue with the importance that Mongolia attaches and the seriousness that it deserves. I would be ready to provide other necessary information in connection with this issue.

My delegation expresses the hope that OSCE participating States would look at this issue on its own merits, based on Mongolia's clearly expressed wish, the content of the Minister's letter and that it would not be artificially linked to other issues nor held hostage to any other future possible interest or application, if such a case arises in a distant future. Acceptance or admission of geographically non-European states in the CSCE, and later in the OSCE, were largely political decisions. In order not to set a precedent in that regard, we would hope that this issue would also be seen more on its own merits, as a political issue rather than a narrow procedural or a technical one. As they say, if there is a will, there will always be a way.