

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR J. ENKHSAIKHAN OF MONGOLIA
AT THE OSCE PERMANENT CONTACT GROUP ON THE ISSUE OF CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES

Vienna

1 July 2011

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia is honored to have been asked to succeed Lithuania and chair the Community of Democracies in 2011-2013. Today Mongolia is taking over the Chairmanship of the CoD. It is fully committed to working to consolidate democratic values and strengthen democratic institutions, as stipulated in the CoD's mission statement.

In preparation for the chairmanship, it established a National Council headed by the Prime Minister. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) is his deputy. Day to day activities would be followed by the State Secretary of MFAT. A Parliamentary group for CD has also been established. The liaison for CD would be a working group established at MFAT which includes civil society representatives (NGOs), experts on democracy and governance, human rights and media representatives. We have a good pool of experts on democracy promotion since Mongolia chaired in 2003-2006 the V International conference of new or restored democracies.

When chairing the CD, Mongolia will be focusing specifically, though not solely, on the following issues:

- Democracy education (by establishing a WG on Education for Democracy);
- Strengthening CoD regional cooperation;
- Working with and supporting civil society; and
- Interacting with other democracies and sharing experiences.

These topics have been welcomed by the Convening group. Since the importance of these topics are themselves separate topics for discussion, I shall not do that at present. If or when the Lithuanian chairmanship of OSCE or the Secretariat deems useful, my Mission would be more than happy to discuss these issues as well as how Mongolia could work with the OSCE.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia has recently expressed its interest to become even more widely involved in OSCE issues, perhaps event to the extent of becoming its participant at some stage. It sees its

cooperation with the OSCE as an important part of its foreign policy aimed at promoting relations with the third countries beyond its two traditional geographical neighbors.

When developing the Democratic Governance Indicator (DGIs) in 2006, Mongolian scholars and experts made use of the International IDEA methodology and tailored it to reflect the country's specifics, without which it would not be practically useful nor accepted by the society in general. The fundamental principles of democratic governance, it was agreed, were *popular control* and *political equality*. It was decided to have two sets of indicators: 114 core (relevant in all democracies) and 17 satellite (reflecting Mongolia's specifics). Since 2006 three reports on the state of democracy in Mongolia have been drawn up based on the above indicators and presented to the Government and the wider public in general, which have been widely discussed within the Government and the society in general.

The civil society has played and is still playing an important "democracy watch" functions in Mongolia. That is why when taking over the Chairmanship of the Community of Democracies, special emphasis would be laid on supporting and promoting civil society. Our experience vividly demonstrates that NGOs can play an essential role in promoting human rights and democratic governance. As of the end of 2010 Mongolia, with a population of 2.7 mln, had over 8.300 registered NGOs that are considered as an important democracy support and assessment tools.

As it was pointed out in Ulaanbaatar, if the OSCE participating or partner states or ODHIR develops an interest, Mongolia would be prepared to organize a round-table discussions to share its experience in developing and promoting the DGIs, and supporting and involving the civil society.