

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR J. ENKHTSAIKHAN OF MONGOLIA
AT THE OSCE PERMANENT CONTACT GROUP ON THE OUTCOME OF
OSCE-MONGOLIA CONFERENCE

Vienna

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The OSCE-Mongolia conference was an important event for its participants. We had a successful meeting attended by 18 OSCE Participating States, 6 Partner States and 21 international and national organizations. The conference witnessed intensive engagement and exchange of views on how to strengthening synergies in responding to transnational threats, intensifying international economic co-operation, in particular on transport and energy security, and enhancing the role of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in promoting comprehensive security. Many fresh ideas and policy recommendations on strengthening the co-operative security through joint efforts by OSCE and its Asian Partners for Co-operation have been aired. I believe that all encouraged a constructive spirit and open, frank discussions.

Though the Secretariat is presenting a detailed report on the proceedings of the conference, allow me to highlight briefly some of its moments:

The first session was devoted to strengthening of synergies in responding to TNTs. Emphasis was laid on addressing the challenges where OSCE and its Asian partners could add value, It was underlined that OSCE's comparative advantage was in its comprehensive and multidimensional mandate, broad regional expertise and ability to develop flexible responses, while the partnership provided a valuable framework for identifying emerging threats,

An important area of partnership co-operation was providing support to Afghanistan through targeted capacity-building efforts on border management, law enforcement and elections, and the inclusion of Afghan representatives in a wide range of OSCE activities through the Partnership Fund. Two practical initiatives in this area were Mongolia's proposal to train Afghan diplomats in the fall of 2011 and a follow-up workshop on combating illicit crop cultivation to be hosted by Thailand.

Regarding multilateral security co-operation and military transparency, it was felt that there were no 'one size fits all' solutions to such complex issues. Nevertheless it was understood that the OSCE could provide useful models and lessons that could be drawn upon in East Asia, such as the Vienna Document and the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-military Aspects of Security. Since the DPRK's nuclear weapon program was seen as a threat to security, meeting on security cooperation in Northeast Asia and the OSCE would be held in Vienna on 1-2 November

2011. It was also stressed that not only traditional security issues deserved due attention, but also the need for broader cooperation in disaster relief.

The topic of the second session was addressing the security aspects of economic and environmental challenges, in particular issues related to transport and energy security. It was recognized that the OSCE provided an added value as a unique platform for political dialogue and promotion of regional co-operation that had a first-hand local knowledge and experience through its unique network of field operations and its diverse, yet inclusive membership.

The third session of the conference focused on the issues of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in promoting comprehensive security. During this session speakers representing ODIHR, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and others focused on the experience of democratization, the challenges lying ahead for countries in transition, including some Partner states, and the possible role of OSCE in this regard. It was recognized that democracy was not only a goal, but also a process articulating the will of peoples. It was pointed out that though successes and errors would occur, the latter should not discourage a country in transition from its goal. Free and fair elections, development of political parties, open and accountable government, zero tolerance of corruption, civil society were some of the key indicators of democratic process. It was stressed that inclusiveness and increased role of civil society were crucial for countries in transition.

Another topic for discussion was freedom of the media. The Chairmanship invited States to actively participate in the Conference on safety of journalists which was scheduled to take place in Vilnius on 6-7 June.

The issue of the Community of Democracies (CoD) was touched upon by some delegations, including by the Lithuanian chairmanship and by the host country. Lithuania, chairing the CoD till 1 July, 2011, invited the participating States and Asian Partners to take part in the Ministerial meeting of CoD in Vilnius on 30 June-1 July. Mongolia, incoming chairman of the CoD, pointed out that democracy education would be one of its priorities during its chairmanship.

The side event on Afghanistan capacity building had been particularly stimulating and practical, providing useful inputs to Mongolia for formulating its proposed training for Afghan diplomats in the fall of 2011. Valuable ideas and recommendations for ensuring the best outcome from the training program for Afghan diplomats were expressed. It was agreed that the training program to be held in the fall would be a practical, if modest, contribution to the Afghan capacity building. Therefore, I wish to reiterate our gratitude to those who actively participated in the side event including the Afghan delegation. We will make sure that the precious inputs will be taken into account when organizing the event.

In general I believe that the conference provided an opportunity for active communication and exchange of information between Asian Partners for Co-operation. It was useful for strengthening the interactions among not only the Partners, but also with the Participating States.

Finally, I would like to thank the co-organizer of the conference the OSCE secretariat, its Secretariat, Paul Fritch, Rita Marascalchi and Aldona Szymanski for their contribution and dedication. Our thanks also go to those who made their financial contributions thus making holding of this event possible. Our special thanks also go to the Lithuanian Ambassador Renatas Norkus, honorable Deputy Foreign Minister Ignatavičius who co-chaired the conference and also Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov who made a personal contribution to its proceedings.

Mr. Chairman,

While I have the floor I would like to briefly touch upon one issue that had been discussed at the Ambassadorial retreat in Baden a few days ago. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amb. Norkus, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, for inviting me to take part in the informal discussions and share my views regarding possible deliverables for the Vilnius Ministerial Conference to be held at the end of this year.

As I have pointed out at that meeting, Mongolia is interested in working ever closer with the OSCE, as evidenced by the content of the recent statement of our Foreign Minister at the special session of the Permanent Council.

As I have already pointed out in Baden, Mongolia welcomes the Chairmanship's proposal to adopt at the Vilnius ministerial meeting a ministerial decision or declaration on partnership for cooperation. This would be a logical continuation of the development and expansion of OSCE's relations with its partners for cooperation. The Maastricht (2003) and Madrid (2007) decisions regarding expansion of cooperation with the partners, the establishment of the Partnership Fund, the annual conferences with the partners have enriched this mutually beneficial form of cooperation with the states of the adjacent areas to OSCE. The special session on the OSCE-Partners for Cooperation held two days ago has confirmed common interest in enhancing further dialogue and cooperation. There was a feeling that future cooperation ought to follow the needs and requests of Partners and be geared to comparative strengths that the OSCE could offer. Also sharing of experience is considered to be an important form of cooperation.

I believe that the discussion paper prepared by the Chairmanship for discussion that puts forward 6 ideas that could be reflected in the future document is a good basis for further discussion and possible adoption. Like other partners, Mongolia would be more than happy to participate in the meetings of the preparatory committees that would discuss the content of future cooperation and the content of the possible declaration or decision regarding cooperation with the partners. If need be, we can present our vision or suggestions regarding such cooperation in a form of a working paper.

Thank you.