

Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia at OSCE meeting with Asian Partners

25 November 2011

Hofburg, OSCE

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank you for calling this meeting to consider, besides current issues, a number of important topics, including conventional weapons proliferation in the Asia-Pacific region, the relations between OSCE and the CTBTO and the work done by the Kazakh chairmanship of the Forum for Security Cooperation.

I would like at the outset thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership and support of OSCE-Asian Partners activities and meetings. The year has been rich in programs and practical outcome.

Australian Amb. Michael Pott's presentation on "Proliferation – Asia-Pacific role" I find very informative. I agree with him that though much is being said and discussed about nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, the threat of the proliferation of conventional weapons and their use is real, since they are the ones that are killing, injuring and maiming hundreds of thousands of people annually. As for my country, it fully supports all practical measures of conventional arms reduction and elimination, be it landmines or small arms or light weapons. It also supports conclusion of arms trade treaty, negotiations of which will start next year.

Australia is also known for its active role in promoting non-proliferation. Perhaps next year Amb. Potts could talk to us about Australia's role in that area of disarmament.

I would like to thank Mr. Jean du Preez, Chief of External Relations, Protocol and International Cooperation of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission for his briefing on the Commission's activities and cooperation with OSCE. As the presentation vividly demonstrates the Preparatory Commission is working hard to make all the necessary political, legal and technical preparations for earliest possible entry into force of the Treaty as well as full implementation of all its provisions since its first day.

The fact that as of today 182 countries have signed the treaty and 155 countries have ratified it bring the treaty close to universality. As the parliamentary delegation of Indonesia has pointed out in Vienna two days ago, its parliament is edging closer to ratifying it, most probably before the year is over. It is good news since Indonesia is one of the 9 countries whose ratification is necessary for the Treaty's entry into force. We hope that the remaining outstanding annex 2 states will follow suit and soon ratify the treaty thus trigger its entry into force mechanism.

As a country dedicated to promoting the goals of non-proliferation, last year Mongolia organized, together with the CTBTO PTS a regional conference to raise awareness of the importance of early entry into force of the Treaty among Asian countries. It is prepared to do so if useful and necessary.

Mongolia, like many other countries, is interested seeking ways of making broader use of the scientific and technical achievements in earth sciences and advanced technology related to CTBTO activities. Thus the established global CTBT infrastructure and all the data need to be used for risk assessment of the climate change and natural disasters. The three scientific fora organized with the participation of the CTBT Preparatory Commission and the PTS demonstrated the unlimited possibilities to learn about the Earth and how to work for better use and management of the resources and forces of nature.

In December Mongolia will be holding political consultations with the Executive Secretary to exchange views on current and immediate future activities of the CBTO, the Prepcom and the PTS. A before, Mongolia would be ready to host international workshops to raise the awareness of the importance of the early entry into force of the Treaty, to provide legal and technical information, etc. It is also looking forward to exchanging views on the civilian applications of the CTBTO-related technologies.