

Statement of Amb. Enkhsaikhan at the Asian contact group meeting

Vienna, Austria

18 March 2011

1. Condolence

I would like to extend our most sincere sympathies and profound condolences to the people of Japan, especially to the families of victims of the earthquake followed by a devastating tsunami which hit Japan a week ago today that have taken lives of thousands of people and caused vast damage to the country's economy and environment. Like others, the Mongolian people and its Government are following closely the heroic efforts of Japanese engineers and others to cool the nuclear fuel in the reactors at the Fukushima Daichi nuclear power plant and its spent fuel pools, to restore the vitally needed electric power as well as the efforts to contain the spread of harmful radiation. We express our confidence that the Japanese people together with international support and assistance would be able to overcome these difficulties. The world is with the Japanese people.

As for Mongolia, its people is with the people of Japan at this difficult time. It was one of the first to have offered its assistance, including by sending its emergency rescue team as well as warm blankets to the people of the disaster stricken areas. This is also being followed by other forms of assistance.

Like other Ambassadors to the IAEA, I am trying to follow the disturbing events unfolding at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants with the hope that they would not lead to further tragedy. As member of the Agency's Board of Governors, I am looking forward to the return of Director-General Amano from his working visit to Japan and his report on the situation and ideas and proposals on how the Agency and its membership can help.

2. Discussion on current issues

I thank Amb. Norkus, representative of OSCE Lithuanian Chairmanship for updating on the current issues on the recent activities of the Chairperson-in-office and the future plans. We will be looking forward to the background paper that he mentioned in his introductory statement. I would like to briefly up-date on the progress on the OSCE-Mongolia 2011 conference to be held in Ulaanbaatar, 23 and 24 May. As you aware, the overarching theme of the conference is "Enhancing OSCE co-operation with the Asian Partners in addressing common challenges through a comprehensive approach to security".

The conference agenda envisages holding of three sessions focusing on the three major areas of OSCE activity, which will touch upon all the issues of concern and interest of OSCE participating states and its partners. The first session is to be devoted to the area

of security promotion as well as bringing closer the OSCE membership with its Asian partners while second session is intended to focus on how to promote the Almaty Program of Action (APA) addressing the special needs of land-locked developing countries like mine. With respect to the third dimension, the role of human rights and democratic governance/rule of law shall be discussed. We had two meetings here in the Hofburg to discuss the draft agenda and I hope that participating states soon will reach consensus on the proposed topics that we, as a host country, could prepare for this special event.