

Brief remarks by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan at
OSCE-Community of Democracies co-operation workshop

Vienna

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I fully support this workshop aimed at promoting OSCE-Community of Democracies cooperation that would include discussion of conceptual and operational aspects of such cooperation.

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

In preparation for the chairmanship, it established a national council to be headed by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) being 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 issue since Mongolia chaired in 2003-2006 the V International conference of new or restored democracies (worked on DGIs, CINs and NPoA to consolidate democracy).

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

- Democracy education (by establishing for example a working group 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 to topics to discuss, I shall not to that at present. If or when the Lithuanian chairmanship of OSCE or the Secretariat deems useful, my Embassy/Mission would be more than happy to discuss these issues as well as how Mongolia could work with the OSCE. We have already made our offer to work with OSCE during the Ulaanbaatar conference held two weeks ago.

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

the OSCE as important part of its foreign policy aimed at promoting relations with the third countries well beyond its two traditional neighbors. On its part, it also tries to promote the goals of this largest regional organization. Thus it has decided to provide training for mid-level diplomats in the fall of this year.

Mongolia sees an important opportunity to work with OSCE and CoD. Today's meeting would provide some food for thought on how better and more effectively promote the goals of these two organizations keeping also in mind Mongolia's own interests.