

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT BY DR. BALDAN ENKHMANDAKH,
VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF MONGOLIA
AT THE 16TH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
Helsinki, 5 December 2008

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to address this Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Allow me at the outset to express my delegation's appreciation to the Government of Finland, and in particular H.E. Mr. Alexander Stubb, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland for inviting the partners to this important meeting.

Mongolia on regional security

Five years have passed since Mongolia became Partner for cooperation of the OSCE. Along with other Asian partners, Mongolia strives to make its modest contribution to this Organization related processes, by abiding, where possible and on a voluntary basis, by OSCE standards and values, and participating in its multidimensional activities.

Europe's experience in developing a comprehensive security and cooperation mechanism is one of its most important contributions to international peace and security. Its rich experience needs to be carefully studied by regions that do not yet have developed security framework or architecture. Mongolian Institute for Strategic Studies is planning, together with interested think-tanks, to host a conference on the lessons learned from the CSCE to the OSCE process and their possible relevance for other regions.

My country in 1992 has declared its territory a single-State nuclear-weapon-free zone, and ever since has been working with its neighbors and the United Nations to materialize that noble goal. It enjoys the over-all support of the international community and has presented a draft trilateral treaty on the status to its immediate neighbors for their careful consideration. Institutionalization of Mongolia's status would mean that its territory would not be used by any state or groups of states to the detriment of others. That would be our practical contribution to mutual trust, regional security and stability.

Non-military dimensions of security

Security has many dimensions. These days the importance of economic, social and environmental dimensions of security is increasing. From that point of view, Mongolia is strongly committed to achieving the MDG goals and objectives. The second

progress report on national MDGs, released December 2007, shows that about 60 percent of its 24 Mongolia-specific MDG targets could be achieved by 2015.

Mongolia is open for cooperation with its OSCE partners, individually or as a group, in addressing the many challenging economic, social and environmental issue it is facing or would be facing in the years to come in the course of further globalization and climate change.

Russia-Georgia conflict

OSCE has rich experience and the needed mechanisms to address the challenges to regional and national security. Mongolia expresses its confidence that OSCE would be instrumental in a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Georgia and Russia. The Mongolian Government calls upon both sides to continue the diplomatic dialogue and to abide by their obligations under international law, including protection of civilians, and to facilitate full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to assist those in need.

Border Management and Security

Regarding the issue of border management and security, an area where Mongolia has been working closely with OSCE, my delegation would like to commend the Organization for its creativity and expertise in initiating cooperation and preventive measures in this important area of national and regional security. At a time of increased concerns over transnational crimes, including human trafficking, illicit trafficking of drugs and of nuclear or radioactive materials through borders, Mongolia attaches great importance to more effective and efficient management its border control and security.

Transnational organized crime

This year Mongolia acceded to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the so-called Palermo Convention) and ratified its three additional Protocols, and thus, as a responsible member of the international community, has fully committed to taking concrete measures against transnational organized crime, including criminalizing such offences, participation in organized criminal group activities, money laundering, illicit trafficking of drugs, guns and obstruction of justice.

OSCE-Asian Conference: Afghanistan

Mongolia actively participated in the Conference on strengthening co-operation between the OSCE and its Asian partners for cooperation held last month in Kabul, Afghanistan.

At that Conference Mongolia offered to share its experience in developing national democratic governance indicators that would allow the people to monitor progress in democratic and social development and performance of their government. It has also expressed its readiness to take steps in practically addressing the transit transportation challenges that OSCE Asian members and its cooperation partners as land-locked countries.

In a more wider context, we believe that Afghanistan's stability and development might be tied to a possible neutrality policy that has been time and again discussed by the Afghans themselves and by some influential international players throughout the XX century. Experience of some OSCE member states could be valuable.

OSCE-Asian Conference: Japan

Mongolia warmly welcomes Japan's important contribution to the OSCE process. We are ready to contribute our ideas regarding the agenda and modalities of this important undertaking and will extend its full cooperation to the success of the next OSCE-Asian Conference.

I wish every success to the Council Meeting.