

Honorable Mr. Chairman,
Honorable members of the US Congress,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to participate in today's briefing entitled "Mongolia and the OSCE" and convened by the US /Helsinki/ Commission.

Eight years have passed since Mongolia became Partner for Co-operation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – the world's largest regional security organization. This Partner status has provided Mongolia with an opportunity to work closer with the European and Central Asian States on the basis of OSCE agreed principles and norms. Mongolia strives to make contribution to the OSCE-related processes by abiding by its standards and values, and participating to the extent possible in its multidimensional activities.

Today, Mongolia fully shares the values of the OSCE, as contained in its founding documents, and has increasing ability to make further positive contributions to collectively address a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, democratization, human rights, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities.

As you know, over the past twenty years Mongolia has fundamentally transformed its former political, social and economic systems and laid down all the necessary pillars for new democratic governance that promotes and protects a market economy, free elections, freedom of the press, and civil society. Today my country is recognized as an example of democratic nation, which in a span of two decades, has changed itself from one of the most closed societies into a vibrant, pluralistic democracy. Mongolia stands on the path of an accelerated economic growth which will allow it to be deeply integrated into the world economy.

In pursuing our democracy-building efforts, we are learning from both our own and international experiences. We are aware that the lessons of democratic transition in Mongolia can also serve as a positive example for others in our vast Eurasian region.

Mongolia is proud of being an active member of the Community of Democracies. From July this year, Mongolia has assumed the honourable and responsible duties to chair the Community of Democracies which is the only international intergovernmental organization aimed at promoting and strengthening democratic norms and values around the world. During its Presidency over the next two years, Mongolia will give priority to the promotion of democracy education and good governance, building partnerships with civil society and the consolidation of regional cooperation. And I am pleased to note that OSCE and its Partners have in general been supportive of the Community of Democracies. In this regard I have no doubt that Mongolia, as the chair, will have full understanding, support and collaboration from the US Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia's foreign policy has always been peaceloving, multipillar or multidimensional, its actions- proactive and constructive. Given the specifics of our geographical position, we attach priority to relations with our two immediate neighbors:

Russia and China. We have no border or unresolved political problems with anyone of them. We are working to turn the policy of good-neighborliness to that of strategic partnership, to work with them not only bilaterally but also more within multilateral context. Bordering with Russia is an important link and access to OSCE. In order to enrich further its cooperation with the countries of Eurasia, Mongolia needs to go beyond bilateralism and work actively with regional institutions, promoting, as we call, its "third neighbors" policy, an important component of its foreign policy. Hence, Mongolia has negotiated and initialed with the EU a Partnership cooperation agreement which is expected to be signed in the near future. This would create a broad legal environment for further developing its cooperation with the EU and its members as a whole and for bringing the relations to a qualitatively new level. Likewise, two years ago the Mongolian Government has taken a decision to introduce EU common principles, criteria and standards in all fields, including education, healthcare, industrial and agricultural production, mining, environmental protection, etc.

As a North East Asian country, Mongolia stands for a multilateral mechanism of dialogue on security in this region. It considers that the Korean peninsula must be nuclear free and the reunification of the two Koreas can be achieved only by means of negotiations. Mongolia continues its efforts to strengthen further its own nuclear free status.

The Mongolian government believes that the vast area stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok is where Mongolia can find answers not only to the Eurasian dimension of its foreign policy. We could and wish to develop with all OSCE member states an increasingly effective interactions in responding to those tremendous challenges and threats the international community faces today as a whole. To take only one exemple. Mongolia remains committed to international efforts to combat terrorism, to prevent crises and to strengthen peace and security through cooperation. Since 2003 over 5000 Mongolian peace-keeper were deployed to Iraq, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Chad and Sudan to undertake peacekeeping missions. We have also deployed troupes and a Mobile Training Team to Afghanistan to support the training of the Afghan National Army.

Mr. Chairman,

The United States has been a reliable partner of Mongolia. We are profoundly grateful to the US for having been our best friend and generous supporter in our democratic journey since its very beginning. Our ties are based on shared values and principles of democracy. And we could build up a deep mutual understanding and a productive interactive dialogue at all levels, including the highest one. The meeting between President Ts.Elbegdorj and President B.Obama last June in Washington DC., and the visit to UB by Vice president J.Biden last August clearly demonstrated the ever deepening friendship and partnership between Mongolia and the USA.

This year Mongolia is marking the 2220th anniversary of its statehood, centenaries of regaining its independence and establishment of modern diplomatic service. We are celebrating also this year the 50th Anniversary of Mongolia's joining the UN. And it's my earnest hope that this year would be also remembered as Mongolia being able to expand further its cooperation with the OSCE to the next level - that of a Participating State.

Thank you for your attention.