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**PERMANENT MISSION OF
MONGOLIA TO THE OSCE**

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Statement in response to the Address by the Chairperson-in-Office,
President of the Swiss Confederation and
Head of Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland,
H.E. Mr. Didier Burkhalter

as delivered by Ambassador Gunaajav Batjargal to the
980th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

16 January 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia would like to join other delegations in congratulating Switzerland on the assumption of the OSCE Chairmanship and extend warm welcome to His Excellency Didier Burkhalter, the new Chairperson-in-Office to the Permanent Council on the occasion of this august meeting.

Excellency,

The Mongolian delegation expresses its sincere gratitude to Your Excellency for presenting the priorities of the Swiss Chairmanship for 2014. We look forward to working closely with your able team here in Vienna and stand ready to support your every effort towards "Creating a Security Community for the Benefit of Everyone".

Mongolia welcomes the consecutive Chairmanships' joint work plan for 2014-2015 and the priorities presented by Your Excellency which are outlined in three coherent objectives: fostering security and stability, improving people's lives and strengthening the OSCE's capacity to act.

We also welcome your work set off already to increase the engagement and inclusiveness of civil society organisations, think tanks and in particular of young people in the OSCE. Taking this opportunity we congratulate the Swiss Chairmanship with the successful start of the "Youth for Security and Cooperation in Europe" project here in Vienna.

Excellency,

Mongolia and Switzerland established diplomatic relations five decades ago in 1964. Today we enjoy excellent bilateral relationship. Switzerland is an important development partner for Mongolia. Over the past decade our cooperation has been enriched with successful implementation of bilateral projects of high relevance to

Mongolia in many areas including rural development, artisanal mining, vocational education and good governance.

In recent years Mongolia has achieved considerable progress in establishing and strengthening the institutional framework for political democracy. Switzerland has provided and is continuing to provide its valuable support in this important aspect. Successful decentralisation reforms are vital for the future development of Mongolia. Switzerland's experience in direct democracy has been very useful tool to introduce direct democracy and promote a representative and effective civil society in Mongolia.

Mongolia always cherishes Switzerland's disaster relief assistance. We, therefore, sincerely applaud the Chairperson-in-Office's aim to strengthen disaster resilience through knowledge transfer, regional cooperation, and welcome the offer of support in building capacity for disaster risk prevention, reduction and management.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia fully supports the Helsinki+40 process and welcomes the Chair's intention to strengthen the OSCE's competence to act by building up its capacities.

On my personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairmanship-in-Office for entrusting me a role to be a coordinator for one of eight clusters, namely, "To increase interaction with the partners for cooperation and with international and regional organisations working in similar fields" in the framework of the Helsinki+40 Roadmap. It is both a privilege and a challenge. I am committed to make my modest contribution.

Mongolia would also like to express its special appreciation to the outgoing Ukrainian Chairmanship for its dedicated work throughout the last year in strengthening the OSCE and look forward to work closely with Ukraine, in her new capacity as the Chair for Asian Partners for Cooperation.

Excellency,

In conclusion, I would like to wish Your Excellency, the President of the Swiss Federation and Chairperson-in-Office, every success in your noble deeds and also extend our best wishes to the Swiss team here in Vienna, led by our distinguished colleague Ambassador Thomas Greminger.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.