

ENGLISH only

Brief statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia at the 932-nd meeting of the Permanent Council regarding Mongolia's accession to OSCE

Hofburg

22 November 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take this auspicious for my delegation, in fact for Mongolia, occasion to thank the Irish Chairmanship, two previous Chairmanships of Kazakhstan and Lithuania, and each one of the participating states for supporting my country's request for membership in this important organization.

I also would like to thank the delegations that have taken the floor this morning on this issue for their congratulations and words of support.

Mongolia sees membership in this prestigious regional organization and a forum for dialogue and cooperation as a tool to promote its national and regional security in all three OSCE dimensions. This coincides with my country's comprehensive approach to its security, its "third neighbor" foreign policy and with ensuring security primarily by diplomatic and legal means.

The idea of joining of this organization has been floating for some time, especially after our partnership status with OSCE in 2004 and cooperation. However, the Astana summit declaration, that set forth a vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals, has given the needed boost to Mongolia to formally apply for membership.

The Astana declaration has underlined the inseparable link of security interests of its member states and equality of rights to security. It also recognized the right to neutrality and emphasized that no state can consider any part of the OSCE as its sphere of influence. These are powerful commitments that my country fully supports.

Mongolia will have ample opportunity to share its thoughts on the issues of common interest. It has no territorial, nor unresolved border problems with anyone of its two neighbors. In fact it is currently working with each one of them to develop comprehensive partnerships on issues of mutual interest. Therefore, in that

sense, Mongolia shall not be a liability to the organization. On the other hand, its constructive foreign policy, its past experience in peaceful democratic transformations, in promoting simultaneously political and economic reforms as well as its geopolitical location in Central Asia and affiliation with the Northeast Asian region can be an asset to the organization, to practically promoting the vision of a comprehensive Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community through greater understanding and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

It might take a few months for Mongolia to clearly formulate its policy and priorities within the Organization, which it intends to do in close consultation with the interested participating states, the Troika chairmanship, the Organization's institutions, including its Secretariat. We express the hope that our sincere desire to work productively within the Organization will be supported and reciprocated.

On a personal note, I feel honored and privileged to be the first Permanent Representative of Mongolia in the OSCE.

Once again I would like to express my Government's appreciation for welcoming Mongolia as a participating state of this Organization.

Thank you.