



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Secretary General
Section for External Co-operation



2007 OSCE-Mongolia Conference on
Strengthening the Co-operative
Security between the OSCE and the
Asian Partners for Co-operation
Ulaanbaatar on 12 and 13 June 2007



Consolidated Summary

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1 General information

1.1 Venue

The Conference was held from 12 to 13 June 2007 in the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

1.2 Participation^{*)}

- 1.2.1 Twenty-one OSCE participating States, including Germany/EU and the European Commission took part in the Conference.
- 1.2.2 All Partners for Co-operation in Asia (Afghanistan, Japan, Korea, Mongolia and Thailand) and one Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation (Israel) were represented.
- 1.2.3 The OSCE Secretariat, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek were represented.
- 1.2.4 Six member States of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) participated as observers.
- 1.2.5 Six international organizations were represented.
- 1.2.6 Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices.

1.3 Timetable and organizational modalities

- 1.3.1 The Conference began at 9:30 a.m. on 12 June 2007 and ended at 5 p.m. on 13 June 2007.
- 1.3.2 The Conference was conducted in three sessions, an opening and a concluding session.
- 1.3.3 The opening statements were delivered by H.E. Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, H.E. Ambassador José Ángel López Jorin, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Spanish Chairmanship, and H.E. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE.
- 1.3.4 Each session had a moderator and a rapporteur.
- 1.3.5 The concluding session had two co-chairs.
- 1.3.6 The working language was English.
- 1.3.7 Arrangements were made for press coverage.
- 1.3.8 Other rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.
- 1.3.9 The seating arrangement is shown in the Annex.

^{*)} See chapter 4 - List of Participants

1.4 Agenda

Tuesday, 12 June 2007

8.30 a.m. Transfer from the hotels to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

9.00 a.m. Registration

9.30 a.m. Opening session

Chair: Ms. Ochir Enkhsetseg,
Director of Multilateral Co-operation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

9.30–10.15 a.m. Opening addresses

- H.E. Mr. Enkhbold Nyamaa,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
- H.E. Ambassador José Ángel López Jorin,
Head of the OSCE Task Force, Spanish Chairmanship
- H.E. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut,
Secretary General of the OSCE

10.00–10.15 a.m. Press conference

10.15–10.30 a.m. Coffee break

10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. Session 1: Ways and means to strengthen the dialogue and co-operation between the Asian Partners for Co-operation and OSCE participating States

This session focused on:

- Promoting voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments, including as a means to further interaction with the OSCE
- The need to move from recommendation to implementation
- Current issues related to the OSCE Asian partnership

Moderator: Mr. Keiichi Katami, Deputy Director-General,
European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Japan

Rapporteur: Ms. Julie Raschka, United States of America

Speakers

1. Mr. Kwang Il Noh, Director-General of Policy Planning Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Korea
2. H.E. Ambassador Axel Berg, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE
3. Mr. Kulkumut Singhara Na Ayudhaya, Director-General, Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

12.30–2 p.m.

Luncheon reception hosted by the H.E. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE

Venue: Reception Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

2 p.m.

Session 2: Co-operative security in the economic and environmental dimension

This session focused on:

- The Almaty Programme of Action Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) as a tool to foster regional security and stability
- The role of the OSCE and its Asian Partners in transport development as a tool for enhancing regional economic co-operation and stability
- The challenges of land degradation and desertification in preserving environmental security and sustainable development

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugghe,
Chairman of the Contact Group with the Asian
Partners for Co-operation

Rapporteur: Ms. Claudia Spahl, Germany

Speakers

1. Mr. Purevjav Gansukh, Deputy Director of Multilateral Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
2. H.E. Ambassador Yasuyoshi Ichihashi, Ambassador of Japan to Mongolia
3. Mr. Marc Baltes, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

3.30–3.45 p.m.

Coffee break

3.45–5 p.m.

Discussion (continued)

5 p.m.

Transfer to the Hotel Mongolia from the hotels

2.30 p.m.

Concluding session

Co-chairs: H.E. Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugghe,
Chairman of the Contact Group with the Asian
Partners for Co-operation
Ms. Ochir Enkhsetseg, Director of Multilateral Co-
operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

- Rapporteurs' reports of sessions 1 to 3
- Co-Chairs' summary
- Co-Chairs' concluding remarks

5 p.m.

Closing of the Conference

5.10 p.m.

Transfer to the hotels from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Mongolia

Thursday, 14 June 2007

6.30 a.m.

Transfer to the airport from the hotels for participants flying to
Berlin on flight OM 135. Other participants were contacted
individually.

2 Summary of the opening ceremony

Report by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

The opening session was chaired by Ms. Ochir Enkhsetseg, Director, Department of Multilateral Co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. H.E. Mr. Nyamaa Enkhbold, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, H.E. Ambassador José Angel Lopez Jorin, Head of the OSCE Task Force of the Spanish Chairmanship, and H.E. Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE delivered opening remarks.

In his address, Foreign Minister Enkhbold welcomed the participants to Mongolia and expressed his hope that the Conference would serve to strengthen co-operative security between the OSCE and its Asian Partners for Co-operation (APCs). He then proceeded to describe the efforts Mongolia had made since 1990 to build a self-governing democratic society in close association with the international community. Minister Enkhbold stated that significant progress had been achieved in the reform of Mongolia's political and economic system but recognized that much still remained to be done in certain areas, most notably in connection with improving the standard of living of the population and reducing the vulnerability of the economy to external factors. He outlined measures that the Mongolian government was currently taking to tackle these problems and expressed gratitude for the strong support of the international community, especially the bilateral and multilateral partners represented at the Conference.

Turning to the theme of the Conference, Minister Enkhbold specifically addressed the issue of multilateral security co-operation and identified OSCE security activities in all three dimensions as positive examples for Northeast Asia to follow when seeking to establish an institutional framework for multilateral security co-operation. He welcomed the emphasis placed by the Conference on the economic and environmental dimension, specifying matters related to transportation and high transit costs as impediments to the economic development of landlocked developing countries such as Mongolia and Afghanistan. Mongolia's high degree of vulnerability to natural disasters, desertification and land degradation was also named as an obstacle to economic growth. Minister Enkhbold welcomed the OSCE's expertise in these areas and looked forward to discussing them during the second session of the Conference. Finally, Minister Enkhbold referred to Mongolia's efforts to consolidate democracy as Chair of the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and welcomed the proposed establishment of an OSCE Partnership Fund. For their efforts and support in organizing this conference, he thanked the OSCE, the Secretary-General, the Spanish Chairmanship and the Chairmanship of the Asian Partner Contact Group.

Speaking on behalf of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Ambassador José Angel Lopez Jorin acknowledged that present circumstances and challenges were not easy either for the OSCE participating States or indeed for the OSCE itself, the reason being that difficult and uncertain political factors existed in the relations between certain OSCE participating States and in the respective domestic scenes of certain key members. He expressed the belief that the OSCE mattered most when serving as a forum for enhanced dialogue and when acting in response to common needs. He reminded those present of the particular importance attached by the Spanish Chairmanship to relations with Partner States and gave examples of innovations introduced by Spain with the aim of improving the integration of the APCs in the formal aspects of the OSCE's work. However, he recognized that much substantive work

remained to be done; in this regard, he stressed the importance of reaching a decision on establishing a Partnership Fund.

Ambassador Lopez Jorrin reiterated the strong belief of the Spanish Chairmanship that global security would increasingly be at risk from man-made environmental threats and referred to the recent 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. He enumerated the measures that the OSCE was currently taking in these fields, such as technology transfer and transboundary co-operation on water, and invited continued input from the Asian Partners on the OSCE environmental security strategy. While reminding those present that the Spanish Chairmanship had made a point of recognizing that the OSCE did not exist in isolation within its immediate surroundings, Ambassador Lopez Jorrin also expressed the hope that discussions would lead to concrete recommendations for future co-operation with the Asian Partners.

The OSCE Secretary General addressed the continued relevance of the organization's comprehensive and co-operative approach to security and welcomed the strong emphasis placed by the conference agenda on environmental issues such as land degradation and water management. He outlined a number of OSCE initiatives in which the Asian Partners were strongly encouraged to participate. Furthermore, he emphasized the special chemistry between the Asian Partners and raised the question of how the OSCE might take advantage of this and translate it into practical forms of co-operation on numerous issues.

Finally, the Secretary General addressed the issue of regional security with specific reference to several recent conferences and discussions, including the Bucharest conference and the CFE Treaty negotiations in Vienna. He placed particular emphasis on Central Asia, highlighting issues such as extremism, trafficking, developing good governance, and the ways in which the OSCE was seeking to assist participating States in the region. He cited examples of policing and border security and management, stressing that any such initiatives should involve the Asian Partners, especially Afghanistan given its geographic proximity.

The Secretary General concluded by expressing the hope that the Conference would create momentum for a decision on the establishment of a Partnership Fund and thanked the government of Mongolia for its efforts as conference host.

3 Rapporteurs' reports

3.1 Session 1: Ways and means to strengthen the dialogue and co-operation between Asian Partners for Co-operation and OSCE participating States

Report by Ms. Julie Raschka, Permanent Mission of the United States to the OSCE

Session 1 was moderated by Mr. Keiichi Katakami, Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The first keynote speaker was Mr. Kwang-il Noh, Director-General of the Policy Planning Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea. Mr. Noh focused on the security situation in Northeast Asia. He noted that despite repeated calls for the establishment of a multilateral security mechanism in the region little progress had been made. Although the situation in Asia was different from that in Europe, the CSCE/OSCE experience could nonetheless serve as a relevant frame of reference. In particular, the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security and its experience of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) could be usefully applied in Northeast Asia. Mr. Noh suggested that one way to strengthen relations between the Asian Partners for Co-operation (APCs) and OSCE participating States was to provide the APCs with additional opportunities to participate in OSCE activities. He recommended that future Chairmanships continue to extend to the APCs a standing invitation to attend all meetings of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation. Mr. Noh also advocated continued outreach to the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The OSCE and the ARF should share experience and explore ways of learning from each other, to achieve their respective goals more fully.

The second keynote speaker, Ambassador Axel Berg, Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE, noted that the level and intensity of co-operation had increased considerably since the beginning of the Asian partnership in the early 1990s. Ambassador Berg recalled that the "OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century", adopted at the Maastricht Ministerial Council in 2003, called upon OSCE participating States and Partners to identify areas of common interest and possibilities for further co-operation. Ambassador Berg identified Central Asia as such a region. He provided participants with an overview of the EU Strategy for Central Asia and its aim of using regional and bilateral co-operation to promote security, stability and prosperity in the region. Fields of close co-operation and co-ordination between the EU Strategy and the OSCE included border management, the rule of law, and education. Ambassador Berg suggested that there were opportunities for co-operation in education and training, and for broadening co-operation with regional organizations in Asia. As regards education and training, seminars and results-oriented projects could be held in the fields of the rule of law, police assistance, border management, migration, and youth. These could involve, among other things, upgrading the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and supporting the "Central – 3 – Asian Youth Network". Ambassador Berg suggested broadening co-operation between the OSCE and Asian regional organizations such as the ARF or the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). Many aspects of the OSCE's experience, including its

comprehensive approach to security and wide range of confidence- and security-building tools across three dimensions, might be relevant to the challenges Asia was currently facing.

H.E. Kulkumut Singhara na Ayudhuya, Director General of the Department of European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, was the third keynote speaker. Mr. Singhara emphasized the similarity of the threats facing Europe and Asia but cautioned participants that there was no “one size fits all” approach to developing security co-operation programmes. He highlighted two key themes which could enhance the partnership between the OSCE and the Asian Partners. Firstly, co-operation on preventive diplomacy and confidence building measures (CBMs) should be one focus of interregional capacity-building. While Asia did not want to simply replicate the OSCE’s activities, it could learn from the OSCE’s experience in this area. Secondly, the OSCE and the Asian Partners could promote mutual understanding between cultures as a means of conflict prevention. The solution to the tensions experienced in Asian and European societies was good governance and the protection of political and cultural diversity.

In the ensuing discussion, participants agreed on the usefulness of the OSCE-Asian Partner conferences for increasing mutual understanding and generating new ideas on how the partnership can be exploited to greater advantage.

Several participants highlighted the importance, as a basis for further co-operation, of the voluntary implementation by the Asian Partners for Co-operation of OSCE norms, commitments and values in all three dimensions. Joint activities should be undertaken to facilitate implementation, particularly in the areas of border management, policing, rule of law, and education.

Central Asia was identified as a region of common interest in which OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners should give further consideration to joint activities.

Participants emphasized the relevance of the OSCE’s experience to the Asian region, particularly in connection with CSBMs and preventive diplomacy. They recommended that the OSCE increase its contacts with Asian regional organizations such as the ARF, the Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) and the Conference on Interaction and the CICA. Experts from the various organizations should be enabled to engage in regular exchanges of information on best practices.

3.2 Session 2: Co-operative security in the economic and environmental dimension

Report by Ms. Claudia Spahl, OSCE Division of the Federal Foreign Office, Germany

The moderator, H.E. Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugghe of Belgium, Chairman of the Asian Contact Group, opened the session by presenting two main topics: transport development and trade facilitation, and action against land degradation and desertification. He expressed the hope that the Conference would foster an exchange of experience and promote the joint identification of best practices for addressing these challenges.

The first speaker, Mr. Purevjav Gansukh, Deputy Director of Multilateral Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, stressed the particular importance of the Almaty Declaration and Programme of Action for addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and demanded that more be done for its effective and timely implementation. Mongolia was trying to promote the special interests of LLDCs at multilateral level (e.g., within the UN and the WTO) and would organize the next Conference of Trade Ministers of LLDCs on trade and trade facilitation. Mr. Gansukh mentioned a proposal by the Mongolian President to establish an international think-tank on LLDC questions, for which the OSCE could play the role of a facilitator. Concerning transport, he considered that LLDCs should strive to harmonize border and customs procedures with their neighbours and to improve infrastructure. Many players should co-operate in this process, including governmental institutions, multilateral organizations, and bodies from the private sector. He considered the OSCE Transport Conference on developing transit transport in Asia and between Asia and Europe in Dushanbe in October 2007 to be an important event. Regarding environmental problems, Mr. Gansukh gave details on the environmental vulnerability of Mongolia due to desertification and land degradation, and the need for external support. Steps had been taken at national level or in co-operation with international donors such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to tackle these challenges. Mongolia would count on the OSCE to promote co-operation in order to fight environmental risks and would support the foundation of a drought management centre for Central Asia by the OSCE and UNCCD. He urged the participants to speed up procedures for the establishment of a Partnership Fund and to extend co-operation between the OSCE and the ARF.

The second speaker, H.E. Ambassador Yasuyoshi Ichihashi, Ambassador of Japan to Mongolia, pointed out that Mongolia, Japan and the OSCE shared fundamental values concerning democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Mongolia had successfully established a democratic system and a market economy. However, the fact that it was a landlocked country meant that it was still facing certain challenges. Japan was further supporting Mongolia's reform efforts as part of its contribution to maintaining peace and stability in Northeast Asia and had established a comprehensive partnership with Mongolia in 1996. This included the foundation in February 2007 of public-private committees both on trade and investment promotion and also on the development of mineral resources. Ambassador Ichihashi stressed that co-operation between LLDCs and surrounding transit countries and donors served the interests of all sides. He gave details of the Japanese

bilateral support programme for Mongolia, which focuses on infrastructure development, improvement of economic efficiency, sustainable management of environmental resources, and rural development. In the transport sector Japan was helping Mongolia to expand its rail transport capacity and to improve its road network. Ambassador Ishihashi welcomed the invitation of Mongolian officials to the OSCE Transport Conference in Dushanbe in October 2007.

The third speaker, Mr. Marc Baltes, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, referred to the Brussels Ministerial Council decision on transport and to the special contribution it made to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action by fostering regional political dialogue and by supporting the work of relevant UN structures. He gave details on the OSCE Transport Conference planned for October 2007 in Dushanbe. The conference was to focus on: transport corridors and infrastructure development; trade, transit and transport facilitation measures; and the financing of appropriate measures. Its aim was to enhance political dialogue on transportation in and through Central Asia. The conference would be open to the Asian Partners. Mr. Baltes then turned to the security threat posed by global environmental risks such as land degradation, desertification, and deforestation. All these problems were found in Mongolia. For example, according to the UNCCD, 90 per cent of Mongolian territory was regarded as vulnerable to desertification, and the same problems existed in other parts of Inner Asia. The OSCE had contributed to a variety of projects, for instance establishing the Drought Management Centre for Central Asia in co-operation with the UNCCD. Training activities under this project were also open to the APCs. Another project launched by the Spanish Chairmanship concerned a conference on technology transfer on transboundary water co-operation in which Spain and Portugal would share their experience in joint river basin management with the APCs.

The UN Resident Co-ordinator in Mongolia, Ms. Prathiba Mehta, delivered a message from the UN Undersecretary-General and High Representative for the LDC, LLDC and Small Island Developing States. The HR welcomed the inclusion of the Almaty Programme of Action in the conference agenda and emphasized the need to adapt transport systems in Central Asia to the new political and economic reality in the region. He assured the LLDCs of the continued support of the UN, which was just preparing the mid-term review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

The following discussion was opened by Mr. Sergey Ryabkov, Head of Division at the Department of European Co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, who stated that Russia was especially interested in transport dialogue and had originally proposed this topic for the Economic and Environmental Forum. Efficient transport systems needed integrated networks of infrastructure and services. In this context Russia could contribute the shortest railway connection between Europe and Asia. It had a carrying capacity of 300,000 tons per year, but this was only used to 50 per cent. He mentioned the fact that that Russia, Mongolia and China had collaborated on the creation of a connection between North and South Asia.

Several participating States shared their experience on trade facilitation and environmental protection. One delegation referred to the intensive work with communities and local authorities in order to protect the environment in vulnerable mountain areas. The representative informed the participants that this year the OSCE Office in Yerevan would organize a visit to study best practices and that participants from the APCs were welcome.

Another participating State mentioned the positive experience from South East Europe concerning co-operation between landlocked and transit countries in the management of border crossings. Another participating State pointed out that smaller island States could also face transport costs reaching the same percentage of their GDP as landlocked countries. For this reason, exporting processed goods with high added value was economically crucial. Furthermore he supported the Mongolian proposal for the OSCE to establish a survey of international trade-related agreements. One participating State received support for its offer to share its experience in rehabilitating soil contaminated by military or industrial use in the framework of a virtual market place.

Ambassador Härkönen of Finland pointed out that the OSCE's task, since it was not a trade organization, was to help to remove mainly political obstacles to trade facilitation between LLDCs and transit countries. By proposing water transport as the theme of the Economic and Environmental Forum in 2008, Finland wished to support co-operation in this special transport sector. Another participating State emphasized the need to include all kinds of waterways, and not only maritime ones, as these were already covered by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

The Head of the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Demberel, stated that in LLDCs close co-operation with the private sector was necessary to improve trade conditions. Ms. Enkhtsetseg, Head of the Multilateral Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, presented the programme of the LLDC conference in Ulaanbaatar in August 2007 which was to consist of a meeting of trade ministers and a meeting to prepare, together with transit countries and donors, the mid-term review of the Almaty Programme of Action.

Another participating State considered that more should be done to improve infrastructure integration within the framework of an official Eurasian network, which should also encompass the Mediterranean corridors. He proposed improving infrastructure links between the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea. Another participating State requested that co-operation between LLDCs and OSCE should be demand-driven.

Mr. Kwang Il Noh, Director General of Policy Planning Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Korea, said that sand and dust storms were increasingly becoming a problem for Korea and that his country was co-operating with China and Mongolia in the fight against desertification. He also mentioned that North and South Korea had agreed to co-operate in water level management in their border area.

Mr. DJ Schneeweiss, Deputy Head of the Embassy of Israel in Beijing, suggested having desertification as a topic for a joint meeting of the Asian and the Mediterranean contact groups.

The moderator concluded the session by pointing out that a wider view was necessary on the problems of LLDCs, which should include infrastructural, trade, transport and transit aspects. The Almaty Programme of Action had been adopted at global level but regional approaches were also needed. The OSCE Transport Conference in Dushanbe and the LLDC meeting in August in Ulaanbaatar would serve this purpose. Concerning land degradation and desertification, he particularly welcomed the OSCE/UNCCD initiative of establishing a drought management centre for Central Asia and the Spanish initiative of organizing a conference on transboundary river basin management.

3.3 Session 3: Cross-dimensional threats to security: achieving new potential of co-operation

Report by Mr. Alastair Long, United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Peter Lizak, Slovakia

Session 3 looked at a number of cross-cutting issues, notably combating terrorism, organized crime, and trafficking; strengthening border security and management, and police capacity; and democratization.

The first keynote speaker, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Kabir Farahi, Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan underlined his country's interest in the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept. He stressed the concept's potential value both to Afghanistan and the wider region in countering trafficking of narcotics, combating terrorism and organized crime, and promoting regional trade. The Moderator confirmed that Mongolia too had requested OSCE assistance on border security.

The second keynote speaker, Ambassador Finley of the United States, proposed a number of ways to further co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation:

- Establish a Partnership Fund to enable experts from the Partners to attend OSCE meetings at which to exchange information on best practices and lessons learned;
- Extend policing and border management assistance to the Partners, responding positively to the requests for assistance from Afghanistan and Mongolia;
- Enable Partners to take advantage of the OSCE's expertise in the field of democratization, the rule of law, and human rights;
- Share the OSCE's standards, commitments and values on democratization, the rule of law, and human rights in the Asian region, notably by reaching out to certain members of ASEAN and the ARF;
- Make better use of existing OSCE mechanisms so as to promote co-operation between the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation, and include a regular update by the Chair on co-operation activities and upcoming opportunities for co-operation on the agenda of the Contact Group;
- Allow Partners for Co-operation to second staff to the Secretariat and the institutions, particularly in areas of primary interest such as border security; and
- Explore ways to make the Contact Group meetings less formal.

Participants recognized the expertise of the OSCE in border security and management and commended the Concept adopted by the Ljubljana Ministerial. One Partner for Co-operation shared its model of border management under which good co-operation had been developed with neighbouring countries at the local, regional and national levels. It was noted that this

approach was firmly in line with the Border Concept and could usefully be shared with OSCE participating States and other Partners.

Certain speakers emphasized the importance of addressing the kind of transboundary security issues which undermine human security. Strengthening law enforcement capacity was highlighted as the other essential element in this effort. The OSCE Centre in Bishkek gave two examples of events focused on tackling transboundary security concerns: a regional workshop on law enforcement and Central Asia drug routes, and a community policing experts meeting. The Partners for Co-operation were encouraged to participate in similar events in the future. One Partner for Co-operation recounted the value of contacts established with participating States' police services and of study visits. Mention was also made of the International (TADOC) Training Centre in Turkey. The former Belgian Chairmanship reminded participants of the close links forged in 2006 amongst the OSCE's various efforts to tackle organized crime, and of the importance of independent and efficient judiciaries.

Many speakers argued that democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law were essential for stable and economically viable societies. In this area it was acknowledged that the OSCE had considerable expertise to share. The ODIHR encouraged the Partners for Co-operation to attend the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the established forum for best-practice exchanges, amongst participating States and OSCE institutions. Mongolia outlined a project it had undertaken to develop new governance indicators with the full participation of civil society. Many agreed that it could be useful to share this experience and Mongolia recommended the handbook that had been published as part of the project.

It was suggested that national action plans aimed at preventing the development of terrorist cells should be shared amongst smaller and medium-sized countries lacking the capacity to counter terrorism. Whilst keynote speaker Finley argued that the most effective response lay in embracing democratic norms, it was proposed that the idea could be reviewed by a forthcoming experts' seminar in which the Partners for Co-operation would also participate, and perhaps by the Security Committee. It was agreed that the conclusions of the recent Public-Private-Partnership Conference on Combating Terrorism in Vienna were relevant, as was the framework under UNSCR 1373.

At the request of the representative of the ASEAN Secretariat for details of the mechanisms for enforcing implementation of OSCE commitments, the Secretary General and other OSCE representatives made it clear that the OSCE had no enforcement mechanisms and for the most part relied on the good will of individual participating States and peer pressure. In addition the OSCE Missions existed to assist the participating States in their efforts. The Secretary General explained that election-monitoring was perhaps the only thing close to the UN reporting mechanisms, in that election observation missions assessed many aspects of the state of democracy in a country.

In conclusion, it was widely acknowledged that further sharing of experience at national, regional and international levels between the OSCE participating States, the Partners for Co-operation and other actors was desirable on the cross-cutting issues under discussion and that the proposed Partnership Fund could be a useful tool in facilitating this.

4 Summary of the closing session

Report by Fabrizio Scarpa, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

The closing session was co-chaired by H.E. Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugghe, Chairman of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, and Ms. Ochir Enkhsetseg, Director of Multilateral Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. Concluding remarks were delivered by Ms. Ochir Enkhsetseg, Director, Department of Multilateral Co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Ochir Enkhsetseg stated that Mongolia as a host was pleased with the fruitful and lively discussions held during the Conference, in particular with the Chairman's recommendations summed up by Ambassador de Crombrugghe. She noted that the Conference was being attended by over ninety delegates from twenty-one OSCE participating States, six Partners for Co-operation, six ARF member States, two OSCE institutions, and six international organizations.

Ms. Ochir Enkhsetseg emphasized a number of particular features of the Conference:

- The conference had helped Mongolia to expand its engagement with the OSCE and the OSCE's participating States. As a host, Mongolia had been pleased to engage representatives and experts of its relevant government agencies. The conference had laid a solid foundation for continued co-operation between the OSCE and Mongolia.
- The Conference had also demonstrated that the Asian Partners not only had much to learn from the expertise of the OSCE and its participating States, but also had some experiences of their own worth sharing.
- The conference had received wide media coverage in Mongolia. It had helped to raise public awareness of OSCE activities in general and of the important issues discussed during the Conference both among the general public and also among policy-makers in Mongolia.

Ms. Ochir Enkhsetseg thanked the moderators, rapporteurs and participants for their input and practical recommendations. She concluded by expressing the hope that all the discussions and issues shared during the Conference would be followed up in Vienna and elsewhere.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador de Crombrugghe, Chairman of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, summarized the Conference by reflecting on how to strengthen the co-operative security between the OSCE and the Asian Partners. He emphasized two milestones in achieving progress on this path: firstly, the enhancement of opportunities for joint activities and result-oriented projects and secondly, the promotion of and support for the voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, standards, principles and commitments by the Asian Partners. He noted a wide support for the establishment of a Partnership Fund as a tool to realize those objectives.

Furthermore, he identified potential zones, forms, and subjects for strengthened co-operation. From the point of view of regional security, Central Asia was described as a linchpin between the OSCE and the Asian Partners. Ambassador de Crombrugghe further recalled the numerous calls that had been made for an increased interaction between the ARF and the OSCE. Finally, several potential areas of increased co-operation were highlighted, such as police capacity-building, and border security and management.

Ambassador de Crombrugghe also mentioned some very concrete issues that had been discussed, and formulated recommendations for addressing them. For instance, he reiterated the need to address landlocked countries' problems by fostering regional co-operation in transport and trade facilitation, both of which were of special interest to the host country.

OSCE-Mongolia conference on “Strengthening the Co-operative Security between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation” (12-13 June, Ulaanbaatar)

5 Chairman’s recommendations and suggestions

Session 1: ways and means to strengthen the dialogue and co-operation between the Asian Partners for Co-operation and OSCE participating States

- Both OSCE participating States (pS) and the Asian Partners for Co-operation (APCs) share common interests. The Central Asian region forms the linchpin between the two.
- In this respect, it would be useful to enhance opportunities for joint activities and result-oriented projects, and also explore new areas for co-operation, including in the fields of education and training, also drawing on the own experience of the APCs.
- The OSCE should explore ways and means to continue promoting voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles, values and commitments by the APCs and supporting their efforts in this respect.
- Some of the practical proposals made during the conference to that effect include:
 - Interested APCs could further benefit from opportunities to send experts to participate in OSCE regional workshops/seminars/training programs in all three dimensions.
 - APCs would benefit from the opportunity to second experts to the OSCE executive structures.
 - APCs should have a standing invitation to all meetings of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation.
- The OSCE experience in confidence building and preventive diplomacy should be shared, for instance through practical demonstrations. Dialogue should also continue on assessing the relevance of the OSCE experience to North East Asia, especially in the area of confidence building measures (CBMs). APCs and pS should endeavor to further coordinate their non-proliferation efforts.
- Some proposals were made regarding increased interaction between the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the OSCE, such as secretariat to secretariat relations and more systematic use of cross representation at each other's relevant events. They could be further pursued. OSCE should also contribute by sharing its experience in preventive diplomacy with the ARF. Also, the idea of a joint workshop with CICA could be further examined.

Session 2: Co-operative security in the economic and environmental dimension

- pS and APCs agreed that the geographical situation of landlocked countries presents difficulties as well as opportunities. Both landlocked and transit countries have a common interest in developing a more intense regional co-operation that would allow for dismantling of obstacles to trade and thus stimulating their economies and their participation in international markets. Best practices by a number of pS could give guidance in this regard.
- Landlocked countries need to find ways of coping with higher than average transport costs. In this respect, regional co-operation in transport and trade facilitation, including at border crossings, would be helpful. The suggestion to establish a survey of existing international trade agreements found support. Participants agreed that Mongolia needs support, in particular strengthening its transport infrastructure in order to increase capacity.
- Participants agreed that the Almaty Program of Action Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries contains the right prescriptions and needs to be implemented.
- The conference in Dushanbe in October provides a good opportunity to promote this with ownership of pS and APCs alike. It will address crucial issues, including the role of international organizations in trade and transport facilitation measures, and the role of the private sector in addressing the problems of OSCE landlocked developing countries. A suggestion was made to create a virtual marketplace of knowledge and expertise. In preparing for the Dushanbe conference, lessons could be drawn from the “Global event for landlocked developing countries on trade and trade facilitation”, to be held in Ulaanbaatar in coming August.
- Land degradation, desertification and water management, including dust and sandstorms, caused by climatic and human factors, are crucial issues. The establishment of a Drought Management Center for Central Asia, an initiative by the UN together with the OSCE, further to the request of Central Asian states, found support. It would plan a number of training activities on soil conservation strategies, on watershed rehabilitation techniques in zones affected by drought. Interested Asian Partners could participate.
- With regard to trans-boundary water co-operation, the Spanish Chairmanship has launched the idea of a conference on technology transfer, which would draw from the rich experience in trans-boundary river basin co-operation between Spain and Portugal and to which the Asian partners could be invited.

Session 3: Cross-dimensional threats to security: achieving new potential of co-operation

- The pS and the APCs expressed interest in increased co-operation with the OSCE in police assistance, fight against trafficking in all its forms, and border security and management, including within the framework of the OSCE border security and management concept. It was suggested that OSCE projects on border security and management in Central Asia could also be opened to the participation of experts from APCs.
- A suggestion was made to increase co-operation in the tracking and dissuasion of the development of terrorist cells in countries with vulnerable political systems. The

structural answer seems to reside in responsive democracy. However, in the short term, there is scope for refining cross-examination of national action plans with a view to providing assistance. The wider framework of UNSCR 1373 and relevant OSCE documents should be respected. The concept of public-private partnership developed in the latest OSCE “Political conference on public-private partnership in countering terrorism” also appears relevant.

- An innovative way of increasing voluntary implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments by the APCs that are also new or restored democracies has been proposed. This could be through support to country-specific national plans of action to consolidate democracy, including a more widespread use of democratic governance indicators.
- Further enhancements in the exchange of information on best practices and lessons learned with the APCs could be established, and in particular, opportunities to involve experts from the APCs in OSCE workshops and assistance programmes related to border security and management. A program for “experts in residence” for APCs could be established.

General proposals

- Strong support was voiced for the establishment of a Partnership Fund, which would help implement the recommendations formulated in this document.
- A suggestion was made for a regular update of the state of co-operation between the OSCE and the Partners for Co-operation. The joint meeting of the Contact Groups on 26 July could constitute the start of such a “quick win” process, also involving the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

Conference 2008

Afghanistan confirmed its intention to organize an OSCE-Afghanistan conference in Kabul in the first half of 2008.

6 List of participants

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7 Seating arrangement

International Organizations				
UNDP	UNHCR	ICRC	CICA	ASEAN Sec.

Partner States						
Israel	Thailand	Mongolia	Republic of Korea	Japan	Afghanistan	
OSCE Institutions	OSCE Cent Bishkek OSCE Secretariat OSCE SG ODIHR			Vietnam Malaysia Lao PDR DPR of Korea India PR of China	ARF Member States	
	OSCE Participating States Greece Ireland Kazakhstan Netherlands Poland Romania Russian Federation Slovakia Switzerland Czech Republic Turkey			United Kingdom France Finland Spain Canada Bulgaria Belgium Austria USA EU Germany/EU		
Rep of CIO		MFA	Chair	OSCE SG	Opening Session	
Keynote Speakers		OSCE Secretariat	Moderator	Rapporteur	Keynote Speakers	Sessions 1 - 3
		Rapporteurs	Co-Chair Belgium	Co-Chair Mongolia	Rapporteurs	Concluding Session

8 Documents distributed during the Conference

No.	Document	Author
001	Agenda and contact details of organizers	OSCE
002	Preliminary list of participants with a correction sheet	OSCE
003	Opening remarks	Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
004	Opening remarks	Head of the OSCE Task Force, Spanish Chairmanship
005	Opening remarks	OSCE Secretary General
006	Concept note – Global Event for LLDC on Trade Facilitation	UNOHRLLS, UNCTAD, UNECA, ENESCAP, UNECE, UNDP,
007	Message of UN Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States	UN
008	Pick-ups from the hotels for departure to the airport	Mongolia
009	Tentative draft agenda – Conference on prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015	OSCE and UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
010	Introductory Note – Conference on prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015	OSCE/OCEEA
011	Seating arrangement	OSCE
012	Statement	Mr. Vasif Abutalibov, CICA
013	Co-operative approach for the implementation for the CICA CBMs	CICA
014	Information on CICA	CICA
015	Guidelines for CICA's External Relations	CICA
016	The 4 th Jeju Peace Forum Programme – Peace and Prosperity in Northeast Asia: Exploring the European Experience	Republic of Korea
017	Statement	Ambassador Ichihashi, Japan
018	Cooperative security in the economic and environmental dimension	Mr. Puravjav Gansukh, Mongolia
019	Keynote speech	Ambassador Berg, Germany
020	Statement	Mr. Kulkumut Singhara na Ayudhaya, Thailand
021	Statement in Russian language	Kazakhstan
022	Statement	OSCE/OCEEA

No.	Document	Author
023	Statement	Mr. Mohammad Kabir Farahi, Afghanistan
024	Statement	Mr. Sergey Rybakov, Russian Federation
025	Statement	Mr. Noh Kwang-il, Republic of Korea
026	Individual action plan of small and medium developing countries on making their territories immune from terrorism	Mr. Tsogtbaatar, Mongolia
027	Statement	Ambassador Julie Finley, USA
028	Chairman's recommendations and suggestions	Belgium