



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Secretary General
Section for External Co-operation



**2011 OSCE-Mongolia
Conference on
Strengthening the Co-
operative Security between
OSCE and the Asian
Partners of Cooperation
Ulaanbaatar,
23 and 24 May 2011**



Consolidated Summary

Table of contents

1	General information	3
1.1	Venue	3
1.2	Participation	3
1.3	Timetable and organizational modalities	3
1.4	Agenda	4
2	Summary of the opening ceremony	7
3	Reports by session rapporteurs	10
3.1	Session 1: Strengthening synergies in responding to transnational threats.....	10
3.2	Session 2: Intensifying international economic co-operation, in particular on transport and energy security	13
3.3	Session 3: The role of human rights, fundamental freedoms and rule of law in promoting comprehensive security	15
4	Summary of the closing session.....	17
5	Annex.....	19
5.1	List of participants.....	19
5.2	Seating arrangement.....	24

1 General information

1.1 Venue

The Conference was held on 23 and 24 May 2011, at the **Conference Hall of the Government House**, 210646, Ulaanbaatar 210648, Sukhbaatar square 6, Mongolia.

1.2 Participation^{*)}

1.2.1 Nineteen OSCE participating States, including Hungary/EU, took part in the Conference.

1.2.2 All the Asian Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Korea, Mongolia and Thailand) and none of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation were represented.

1.2.3 The OSCE Secretariat, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek were represented.

1.2.4 The following international organizations were represented: International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, and Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

1.3 Timetable and organizational modalities

1.3.1 The Conference began at 9.15 a.m. (opening ceremony) on 23 May 2011 and ended at 1.30 p.m. on 24 June 2011.

1.3.2 The Conference was conducted in three sessions.

1.3.3 The opening session was chaired by Mr. Gombojav Zandanshatar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mongolia

1.3.4 Each session had a moderator and a rapporteur.

1.3.5 The working language was English.

1.3.6 Arrangements were made for press coverage.

1.3.7 Other rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

1.3.8 The seating arrangement is shown in the annex.

1.3.9 On the margins of the Conference, on 23 May 2011, a side event was held on Afghan Diplomatic service.

^{*)} See Annex, list of participants.

1.4 Agenda

Monday, 23 May 2011

8.30–9.15 a.m. Registration of participants

9.15–10 a.m. **Opening session**

Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Gombojav Zandanshatar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mongolia

- H.E. Mr. Evaldas Ignatavicius, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania,
- H.E. Amb. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE
- Mr. Paul Fritch, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General

10–10.30 a.m. Coffee break

10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. **Session 1: Strengthening synergies in responding to transnational threats**

Moderator: H.E. Amb. Eoin O’Leary, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Stéphanie Rossion, First Secretary, Permanent Representation of Belgium to the OSCE

This session will focus on:

- Enhancing co-operation in addressing transnational threats, in particular combating illicit trafficking in drugs, with special focus on Afghanistan
- Strengthening multilateral security co-operation, including military transparency, in East Asia

Speakers

- Mr Toyohisa Kozuki, Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- H.E. Amb. Michael Potts, Permanent Representative of Australia in Vienna
- Mr. Joern Rohde, Head of East Asia Division, German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Discussion
Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

1–3 p.m. Lunch hosted by the OSCE Secretariat

3–5.30 p.m. **Session 2: Intensifying international economic co-operation, in particular on transport and energy security**

Moderator: H.E. Amb. Nongnuth Phetcharatana, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand in Vienna

Rapporteur: Mr. Simon Mamouney, Third Secretary, Embassy of Australia in Vienna

This session will focus on:

- The OSCE contribution to enhancing energy security
- Enhancing transit co-operation, in particular with regard to customs and cross-border operations as a means for promoting secure borders and economic development

Speakers

- J. Bat-Erdene, State Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport Construction and Urban Development, Mongolia
- Mr Goran Svilanović, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

Tuesday, 24 May 2011

9.30–11.30 a.m. **Session 3: The role of human rights, fundamental freedoms and rule of law in promoting comprehensive security**

Moderator: Amb. Michael Potts, Permanent Representative of Australia in Vienna

Rapporteur: Ms. Agnė Martinez, Third Secretary, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Lithuania to the OSCE

This session will focus on:

- Exchange of experience in the promotion of democratic governance
- Sharing best practices on promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms

Speakers

- Mr. Mashbat Otgonbayar Sarlagtai, Dean of Research, Institute for Strategic Studies, National Security Council, Mongolia
- H.E. Amb. Hyun-ju Lee, Ambassador for International Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea
- Mr. Douglas Wake, First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

11.30 a.m.–12 noon Coffee break

12 noon– 1.30 p.m. **Closing session**

Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Evaldas Ignatavicius, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Discussion and assessment of the OSCE Asian dialogue

H.E. Mr. Gombojav Zandanshatar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mongolia

Mr. Askar Kuttykadam, Deputy Director of the Europe Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

1.30 p.m. End of Conference

2 Summary of the opening ceremony

Report by Rita Marascalchi, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

The opening session was chaired by Mr. Gombojav Zandanshatar, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia. Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Evaldas Ignatavičius, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania; Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE; and Mr. Paul Fritch, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General.

Minister Gombojav Zandanshatar welcomed the participants and stressed the great value attributed by Mongolia to the OSCE. Becoming an OSCE Asian Partner for Co-operation represented an accomplishment of Mongolia's foreign policy, which was aimed at broad multilateral interaction. On that basis, Mongolia was interested in further expanding its relations with the OSCE in all areas of co-operation. He also hoped that the Conference would serve as a platform for exchanging views on pivotal topics, including the strengthening of synergies in responding to transnational threats, transport, energy security and the role of human rights in promoting comprehensive security. In that context, he referred to the successful wide-ranging reforms undertaken by Mongolia in its democratic and market-oriented transition initiated in 1990.

The OSCE comprehensive approach to security and its confidence- and security-building measures, as well as its field presences, represented valuable assets and potential models for Northeast Asia. Mongolia was committed to establishing a multilateral security co-operation mechanism in Northeast Asia, a topic that it had proposed for discussion at the 55th session of the UN General Assembly in 2000.

As a landlocked developing country, Mongolia was aware of the negative effects of barriers to international transit transport and had promoted the establishment in Ulaanbaatar of an International Research Centre for Landlocked Countries. The Asian Partners and participating States were invited to support the activities of the Centre.

Noting the serious implications that developments in Afghanistan could have for international security, he invited the participants to contribute to the side-event planned on the margins of the Conference, focusing on devising ways to promote capacity-building in Afghanistan and to strengthen its diplomatic service through a training programme that Mongolia was proposing as a Partnership Fund project to be implemented in the autumn of 2011.

He announced that Mongolia would assume the chairmanship of the Community of Democracies starting on 1 July 2011. He congratulated Lithuania as the successful outgoing Chair of the Community and indicated that the main priorities of the Mongolian chairmanship would be education for democracy, regional co-operation, civil society and interaction between democracies.

In his opening remarks, **Deputy Minister Evaldas Ignatavičius** welcomed the participants and thanked Mongolia for hosting the annual conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

The Lithuanian Chairmanship of the OSCE attached great importance to the Organization's links with its Asian Partners for Co-operation, and the Conference provided a good

opportunity for sharing know-how regarding OSCE commitments. He then gave an overview of the priorities of the Lithuanian Chairmanship and stated that it was also committed to strengthening the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan through concrete projects. In that context, Lithuania fully supported the Conference's side-event focusing on capacity-building of the Afghan diplomatic service as an excellent opportunity for brainstorming in connection with the training concept proposed by Mongolia for mid-level diplomats from Afghanistan.

Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov began by thanking the OSCE Secretariat and the Mongolian Government for organizing the Conference. As an Asian country, Kazakhstan attributed special importance to the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation. That importance was testified to by the attention paid to the Eurasian dimension of security in the Astana Declaration. As concrete demonstrations of the will to move forward in co-operation with the OSCE Partners, he referred to Kazakhstan's contribution to the Partnership Fund projects, including the programme for the placement of young diplomats from the Partners, the Conference's side-event and a seminar on security in Northeast Asia to be held in the autumn in Vienna.

Concerning the planned side-event, he emphasized the importance to his country of stability in Afghanistan. He consequently praised the initiative taken by the Mongolian authorities of proposing a training course for mid-level Afghan diplomats.

In conclusion, he invited the participants to focus on areas of co-operation where a productive result could be achieved by providing concrete suggestions and recommendations, enabling the Conference to afford an opportunity not only for sharing experience, but also for outlining a road map for future work. Lastly, he thanked the Lithuanian Chairmanship for its leadership and constant support in facilitating dialogue.

The Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General, **Mr. Paul Fritch**, thanked the Mongolian authorities for their reception and congratulated them on the 150th anniversary of the country's independence. The year 2011 was not one of "business as usual" for the OSCE Partnership for Co-operation, given the important political shifts taking place in the Mediterranean and the unfortunate disaster in Japan that reminded everybody of the interdependence between the regions and of the need to co-operate.

He then shared some views on the topics to be covered by the Mongolia Conference. Regarding transnational threats, he stressed the importance attached by the participating States to co-operating with the Partners in addressing such challenges, especially in areas where the OSCE could bring added value. The OSCE's comparative strengths resided in its comprehensive and multidimensional mandate, its broad regional expertise and its ability to develop flexible responses. The OSCE Partnership provided a valuable framework for identifying emerging threats, co-ordinating responses, fostering synergies and exchanging best practices and lessons learned. Mongolia had contributed to those efforts in 2010 by hosting an international workshop on combating modern slavery, at which national, regional and international experiences had been exchanged.

Another fruitful area for co-operation lay in providing support to Afghanistan by means of targeted capacity-building efforts on border management, law enforcement and elections, and of the inclusion of Afghan representatives in a wide range of OSCE activities through the Partnership Fund. Two practical initiatives in that area were already foreseen: the Mongolian proposal to train Afghan diplomats in the autumn of 2011, to be further discussed at the

Conference's side-event, and a follow-up workshop on combating illicit crop cultivation to be hosted by Thailand.

With reference to addressing the security aspects of economic and environmental challenges, in particular on issues related to transport and energy security, the OSCE provided added value as a unique platform for political dialogue and facilitation of regional co-operation, matched with first-hand local knowledge and experience gathered through its unique network of field operations and its diverse, inclusive membership.

Touching upon the topic of the last session, he noted that, in the OSCE's vision, there could be no lasting stability without functioning democracies that respected the inherent dignity of the individual, as demonstrated by recent developments in the Southern Mediterranean. The OSCE's expertise and its complex toolbox, which had been developed in helping its participating States to consolidate their democratic institutions, were at the disposal of the OSCE Partners for Co-operation. The Asian Partners also had positive experience to share, as was the case regarding Mongolia's practice of using democratic indicators, and further co-operation in the promotion of democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law would surely consolidate and strengthen the shared security.

3 Reports by session rapporteurs

3.1 Session 1: Strengthening synergies in responding to transnational threats

Report by Mrs. Stéphanie Rossion, First Secretary, Permanent Representation of Belgium to the OSCE

In introducing the topic, the Moderator, **Ambassador Eoin O’Leary** of Ireland, recalled the agreement reached at the Astana Summit on the need to achieve greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats. The OSCE model and its broad, cross-dimensional approach was particularly relevant in that regard. Threats that affected the OSCE region affected its Partners as well. Co-operation should be maximized without duplicating efforts. Afghanistan was in many ways a test case in that respect. Regarding multilateral security co-operation and military transparency, there was no ‘one size fits all’ approach, but the OSCE might provide useful models and lessons that could be drawn upon in East Asia, such as the Vienna Document and the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

The first speaker, **Mr. Toyohisa Kozuki**, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, indicated that there were still many uncertainties in the East Asian security environment, relating to North Korea and the risk of missile and nuclear proliferation, China and its double-digit increase in military spending, and non-traditional security problems. He referred to two approaches: to maintain alliances, such as NATO or the Japan-US security arrangement, which was a public good for the stability of the region and effective also in tackling non-traditional threats; or to establish a comprehensive multilateral framework, such as the OSCE. Both were essential in maintaining peace and security in the region and were complementary.

The evolution of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was encouraging in that regard. It should progress from confidence-building to preventive diplomacy and ultimately to the resolution of conflicts. The 2010 Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement mentioned six areas of co-operation for implementing the 2009 Statement: disaster relief, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, peacekeeping operations and defence dialogues. Disaster relief exercises were organized and could benefit from Japan’s recent experience. He also touched upon the publication of the Annual Security Outlook by the ARF and its recent standardization as a means of increasing military transparency in East Asia. He described Japan’s efforts directed at fighting against drug trafficking in Afghanistan, in co-operation with other relevant actors. Finally he expressed heartfelt gratitude for the encouragement, prayers and support that had been received after the earthquake and tsunami in Japan on March 11.

Ambassador Michael Potts of Australia, the second speaker, expressed Australia’s appreciation for the warm welcome it had received since joining as a Partner for Co-operation in 2009 and spoke about its participation in OSCE events and projects. He also noted Australia’s belief in co-operative security and some aspects of its aid programme, focusing on the Asia Pacific region and Afghanistan. In his presentation, he discussed security challenges and the security architecture in East Asia. Among the challenges facing East Asia, he referred to its military expenditure, which was increasing as a direct

function of its economic growth, the potential competition for scarce resources, the unresolved territorial disputes and flashpoints, and other threats, related for example to proliferation, cybersecurity, natural disasters, climate change, and other transnational issues.

He then described how the OSCE's habits of co-operation and peaceful dispute resolution; its culture of negotiation; its practical assistance, security and confidence-building measures; and its framework for managing protracted disputes, could provide a model for East Asia, since the region also needed robust rules-based co-operation. In his view, the expansion of the East Asia Summit (EAS) in 2010 to include Russia and the United States, so that it now brought together the five major powers of the region, had been a major step forward in developing the architecture to address security challenges in the region. He saw the ARF as a valuable mechanism for practical co-operation and for building confidence, and described the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus Eight as a new and positive step forward in building a regional security architecture. He also mentioned the Council for Security Co-operation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). The OSCE had demonstrated how strategic stability could be built, and both the OSCE and the East Asian security institutions could learn from each others' experiences.

The third speaker, **Mr. Joern Rohde** of the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented the point of view of the Chair of the OSCE Security Committee and gave a brief account of recent developments regarding activities related to transnational threats of the OSCE in general and in the Security Committee. Since more than a decade, the OSCE had been constantly expanding its activities to counter transnational threats as a flexible political platform. Further to the impetus given by the Corfu Process and the Astana Summit, delegations were working to raise the OSCE's profile, with a broad overhaul of strategic guidance for many areas of work related to transnational threats, including regarding structures and resources.

After referring to the ongoing work in the Security Committee directed towards the Vilnius Ministerial Council meeting, he described the recent developments related to interaction with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, such as the initiative to include the Partners for Co-operation in the OSCE National Focal Point Network on Border Security and Management, the suggestion that reference should be made to the experiences and best practices of the Partners regarding terrorist threats during the Private-Public Partnership Expert Workshop on Tourism Security, the OSCE activities aimed at building and improving border and travel security in Central Asia with regard to threats stemming from Afghanistan, and participation in thematic OSCE conferences or workshops. As there seemed to be further potential for exploring the prospects and benefits of the Partnership with a view to identifying concrete areas and tools for targeted interaction, he indicated the Chair's readiness to explore means of facilitating the exchange of information between the Committee and the Asian Contact Group in the future.

A lively discussion took place, with many delegations expressing views in support of the presentations made by the speakers. Rapid changes occurring in Asia, entailing opportunities and challenges, were considered an incentive to increase regional co-operation. It was pointed out that civilian control was also a very important factor in enhancing military transparency and that solving territorial disputes would pave the way for enhanced co-operation. As the North Korean programme was generally seen as a very serious threat to security, information was provided on an upcoming meeting on security

and co-operation in Northeast Asia and the OSCE, multilateral security co-operation and non-proliferation, planned to take place in Vienna on 1 and 2 November 2011. It was also pointed out that not only traditional security issues deserved due attention, but also disaster relief co-operation.

Incremental steps to develop the East Asia Summit showed the “Asian way”, based on practicality and the comfort level of all stakeholders. The latest developments and prospects related to ASEAN and its Regional Forum were highlighted, including initiatives on trafficking in persons, counter-terrorism and the combating of illicit drugs. Although it was noted that there were significant differences between the OSCE and the Asian security landscape and history, it was broadly acknowledged that the OSCE, especially given its style of dialogue and its confidence- and security-building measures, could provide inspiration to the Asian partners, and that there was scope for co-operation as a two-way street, based on common interests. It was recalled that an important part of the OSCE’s success stemmed from its comprehensive concept of security, including democratic governance and human rights. Attention would need to be given to identifying concrete needs in the area of transnational threats, in particular those stemming from Afghanistan.

3.2 Session 2: Intensifying international economic co-operation, in particular on transport and energy security

Report by Mr. Simon Mamouney, Second Secretary, Australian Permanent Mission to the OSCE, Vienna

In her opening remarks, the Moderator, **Ambassador Nongnuth**, highlighted some of the issues affecting Asian Partners within the second dimension of the OSCE. They included the need for customs and cross-border facilitation; achievement of economic security; action to address deforestation; and climate change. In addition to their stand-alone importance, those issues affected the security of States and of their regions. The OSCE's second dimension comprised many examples of best practices and could also serve as a forum for dialogue that Asian Partners could take advantage of. One of the advantages of the OSCE activities was that they had brought policymakers and experts together to network and share best practices.

The first speaker, **J. Bat-Erdene**, State Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport Construction and Urban Development of Mongolia, outlined some of Mongolia's plans for the transport sector. As a landlocked country with poor infrastructure, Mongolia suffered from limited access to overseas markets. Rail networks formed an integral part of Mongolia's transport networks; over 90 per cent of goods were transported by railway out of Mongolia. "Transit Mongolia" was a national programme aimed at increasing transit freight through Mongolia. Adopted by the Government in 2008, its aim was to support the transit and logistic sector in Mongolia, particularly in respect of railways. The Moderator commented that Mongolia's plan to do more with transport networks was commendable and could serve as a model for other similar landlocked countries.

The second speaker, **Mr. Goran Svilanovic**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, highlighted the direct correlation between strengthening engagement in the field of the economy and environment and strengthening democracy and security throughout the OSCE region and beyond. By addressing transportation issues, countries could directly influence their economic effectiveness. Landlocked countries depended on surrounding countries for access to seaports, and therefore regional co-operation on transport issues, such as promoting good governance at border crossings, tackling corruption in customs and border agencies and simplifying and harmonizing border-crossing procedures were of key importance. He outlined the work of his office to promote dialogue on energy security and called on governments to ensure that the prosperity that came from natural resources trickled down to the needy. His office would also consider organizing regional workshops to exchange best practices on energy efficiency, energy savings and development of and investment in renewable sources of energy.

Following the statements by speakers, there were a number of substantive interventions by delegations on the subject under consideration. One delegation noted the need to look at the commonalities of objectives between the OSCE and other international and regional organizations. Sustainable transportation options and energy security were areas of interdependency where co-operation among States and organizations was essential. It was noted that, in the transportation sector, good governance was critical. Border crossings were an important element in that respect. Corruption at a border was costly in a number of ways, including in the sense that it lowered the credibility of the government among its population,

caused an erosion of trust throughout society, and in the end brought about a reduction in the revenue realized by the government.

Many delegations highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach that ensured sustainable development and also integrated environmental and social considerations. It was mentioned that trade and cargo flows had not yet increased substantially after the global economic crisis, and a major factor was insufficient and ineffective transport links. Delegations recognized that there remained significant challenges faced by landlocked countries in securing access to markets and the facilitation of cross-border transports, and that was of great importance. There was a significant cost to GDP faced by landlocked countries in comparison to other countries, and more research was needed. The numerous OSCE measures, including the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, adopted in 2005, could be used as models for other regions, and dialogue should be encouraged within the Contact Groups with the Partners for Co-operation.

On energy security, it was recognized that stability, predictability and respect for the rule of law were core factors in attracting investment in industries such as the oil and gas sectors, as well as in meeting energy security objectives. In both the private and the public spheres, transparency and good governance drove stability and predictability.

In conclusion, the Moderator noted that co-operation in the area of second-dimension issues brought mutual benefits to all involved, including increased security, economic growth, environmental protection and energy security. The discussions had provided a good background for the OSCE to identify areas of co-operation for the future. Countries could also benefit from Mongolia's experience and its potential to highlight difficulties and possible solutions as it positioned itself to serve as a transit point between Asia and Europe.

3.3 Session 3: The role of human rights, fundamental freedoms and rule of law in promoting comprehensive security

Report by Ms. Agne Martinez, Attaché, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Lithuania to the OSCE

The third session of the Conference, moderated by Ambassador Potts, Ambassador of Australia in Vienna, was dedicated to the role of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in promoting comprehensive security. During the session, speakers representing the ODIHR, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea, as well as other participants in the Conference, focused on their respective countries' experience of democratization, the challenges lying ahead for countries in transition, and the OSCE's role in the democratization endeavour.

Part of the discussion was dedicated to institutes and conditions of democratic process. A few participants stressed that democracy was not only a goal, but also a process reflecting the will of the people. Successes as well as errors occurred, but the latter should not discourage a country in transition from pursuing its goal. Two speakers stated that cultural differences should not be used as an excuse to postpone the democratic transition. One participant pointed out that democracy had to be home-grown, starting from the grass roots and representing all levels of society, so that everyone was included in the process of democratization. Another participant described the importance of developing indicators of democratic governance which allowed progress to be evaluated. Free and fair elections, the development of political parties, an open and accountable State, minimized corruption and civil society were some of the key indicators of democratic process suggested by the Conference participants. Civil society was mentioned a number of times, underlining the role of NGOs and other groups in the process of democratization. It was stressed that the inclusiveness of civil society was crucial for countries in transition.

One member of the panel pointed out that the Asian Partners for Co-operation had acquired a wealth of experience in democracy-building. It was agreed that the success of the Republic of Korea, Mongolia and other Asian Partners to that end had resulted from enormous efforts by their people as well as their Governments, which had allowed them to overcome the challenges lying on the path towards democratization. Many speakers noted that the events in North African countries, including in some of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, proved that people had a genuine desire for freedom, while modern technology made it difficult for governments to control the flow of information.

The debate touched upon the different and at times potentially conflicting priorities of a country in democratic transition, for instance, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and other desirable things, such as national security. One speaker warned against such an attitude, expressing the view that neither the goal of economic stability nor any other factor could be used as an excuse to undermine human rights and fundamental freedoms, as was advocated by some countries.

Referring to the support of the OSCE, and in particular of the ODIHR, in the democratization process of countries in transition, one speaker referred to the crucial importance of the ODIHR's work in monitoring and supporting the implementation of OSCE commitments. Election observation missions remained the most important activity of the ODIHR in which

seconded personnel from the Partners for Co-operation could also participate, as Japan and the Republic of Korea had already done. It was also stressed that the recommendations of the ODIHR on elections were an outcome of every election observation mission, and authorities were called upon to implement them. The ODIHR had also issued a list of recommendations on the election framework in Afghanistan, following the deployment of an Election Support Team on the occasion of past elections in the country, and it was now up to the Afghan authorities to take them into account.

Another topic of the discussion was freedom of the media, which was one of the priorities of the Lithuanian Chairmanship and of the EU. The Chairmanship invited the participating States to attend the Conference on Safety of Journalists in the OSCE Region, which was scheduled to take place in Vilnius on 6 and 7 June.

An international intergovernmental organization that was mentioned many times during the Conference was the Community of Democracies (CoD), embracing 156 countries respecting democratic values all around the world. The 2011 Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship, which was also chairing the CoD until 1 July, 2011, invited the participating States and the Asian Partners to send their representatives to the CoD Ministerial Conference in Vilnius on 30 June and 1 July. Mongolia, the incoming holder of the chairmanship of the CoD, mentioned that civil society would be one of its priorities. The added value of multilateralism in the twenty-first century was also stressed.

4 Summary of the closing session

Report by Rita Marascalchi, Senior External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

The closing session was chaired by Mr. Evaldas Ignatavičius, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. Concluding remarks were delivered by Mr. Askar Kuttykadam, Deputy Director of the Europe Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, and by Mr. Gombojav Zandanshatar, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia.

Deputy Minister Evaldas Ignatavičius opened the session by summarizing the outcomes of each of the three sessions of the Conference. The discussions in the first session had pointed to the transnational character of contemporary threats and to the fact that the OSCE could usefully contribute to addressing them, also through the work of its field presences and through the implementation of concrete projects, such as those being conducted with regard to Afghanistan. Military transparency in East Asia had also been mentioned, and attention had been called to the potential relevance of the OSCE as a model or an inspiration. The OSCE's experience in confidence- and security-building measures, preventive diplomacy and activities related to issues such as border management, police reform and action to counter narcotic drugs had been referred to as particularly relevant.

The second session had provided opportunities for discussing issues related to transport and problems faced by landlocked countries, as well as challenges posed by climate change. The link between energy, economy and the environment had been highlighted, pointing to the need for more solidarity among participating States.

The valuable expertise in supporting human rights and democratization that had been acquired by the ODIHR, as well as by some Partners such as Japan and Korea, had been illustrated in the third session. Such experiences should be further exchanged, as democratization was a long and complex process.

In conclusion, he stressed that the current year was exceptionally important for the OSCE Partnership, and referred to the paper that had been circulated earlier by Lithuania on the instruments that the OSCE could offer to its Partners. Ongoing dialogue was essential for co-operation to bear fruit, and the Partners were invited to put forward specific proposals.

Mr. Askar Kuttykadam, Deputy Director of the Europe Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, focused his concluding remarks on issues deserving further follow-up in the work of the Asian Contact Group. In the area of strengthening co-operation in responding to transnational threats, a further opportunity to discuss relevant issues with the Partners would be afforded by the special session foreseen in the upcoming Annual Security Review Conference at the beginning of July 2011. The follow-up workshop on the Thai experience in countering drugs cultivation would provide a further venue for enhancing co-operation on that issue, especially with Afghanistan.

The discussions during the second session, on transport and energy security, had highlighted the potential benefit of furthering co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners in those areas. Partners were therefore invited to pursue closer co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and to contribute to the upcoming Economic and Environmental Forum and to the OSCE-UNECE Workshop on Eurasian Transport Links planned for June 2011.

In the field of human rights, democratization and the rule of law, the importance of continuing co-operation and exchanges of experiences had been duly highlighted during the third session. The relevance of OSCE/ODIHR expertise, both for the Asian Partners and for the Asian region in general, had been stressed, and it had been suggested that the possibilities for sharing the ODIHR's expertise with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights should be explored.

He concluded by calling on the Asian Partners to avail themselves of the next Contact Group meetings to contribute suggestions and inputs for the preparations for the Vilnius meeting of the Ministerial Council.

Mr. Gombojav Zandanshatar, Mongolian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, praised the very valuable contributions to the discussions made by participants. In particular, he recalled the remarks by Mr. Fritch on promoting co-operation among landlocked countries and the EU suggestion that challenges in the human dimension should be addressed in the framework of the OSCE Asian Partnership, with a special focus on freedom of the media.

He also noted that the Conference had afforded a good opportunity for presenting the situation in East Asia and for encouraging further exchanges, not only between Partners and participating States, but also among the Asian Partners themselves.

The side-event on capacity-building for Afghanistan had been particularly stimulating and practical, providing useful inputs to Mongolia for formulating its proposed training for Afghan diplomats.

In conclusion, he once more thanked the participants for their contributions.

5 Annex

5.1 List of participants

Germany

Ambassador Pius Fischer	Ambassador of Germany to Mongolia
Mr. Joern Rohde	Head of East Asia Division, MFA

United States of America

Ambassador Johnatan S Addleton	Ambassador, Embassy in Mongolia
Mr. Andrew Covington	Political Chief
Ms. Julie Raschka	Political Officer
Mr. Daniel Rakove	Political Officer
Ms. Shelly H Han	Policy Advisor
Ms. Naran Tsogoo	Political Assistant
Ms. Nomintsetseg Munkhbayar	Political Assistant

Belgium

Ambassador Geneviève Renaux	Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ms. Stéphanie Rossion	First Secretary

Bulgaria

Mr. Kolev Krasnodar	Charge d’Affairs of Republic of Bulgaria
---------------------	--

Canada

Ambassador Gregory Goldhawk	
Mr. B. Bulgan	Political and Public Affairs Officer

Denmark

Ambassador John Bernhard	Permanent Mission of Denmark to the OSCE
--------------------------	--

Finland

Ambassador Kimmo Lähdevirta	
-----------------------------	--

France

Ambassador Jean-Paul Dumont	Ambassador of Republic of France
Mr. Viet-Luan Nguyen	Counsellor, Permanent Representation to the OSCE

Czech Republic

Ambassador Vaclav Jilek

Ambassador to Mongolia

Vladimir Hejduk

Third Secretary, Embassy in Mongolia

Turkey

Ambassador Ahmet Asim Arar

Ambassador to Mongolia

Mr. Aykut Renda

Chief of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

Afghanistan

Mr. Ahmad Waheed Amin

General Manager for Abroad Posting

Mr. Sayed Abdul Bashir Sadaat

Australia

Ambassador Michael Potts

Ambassador to Austria and International Organizations in Vienna

Mr. Simon Mamouney

Second Secretary, Embassy in Vienna

Mr. Michael Kourteff

Executive Officer, Northern, South and Eastern Europe Branch, Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra

Japan

Mr. Takuo Kidokoro

Ambassador to Mongolia

Mr. Toyohisa Kozuki

Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Koji Kasai

Deputy Director

Republic of Korea

Ambassador Hyun-Ju Lee

Ambassador for International Security Affairs

Ambassador Chung IL

Ambassador to Mongolia

Mr. Choi-Jin Won

Counsellor, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy in Mongolia

Ms. Moo-Kyung Cho

Second Secretary

Mongolia

Mr. Gombojav Zandanshatar

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ya. Batsuuri

Member of Parliament

S. Oyun

Member of Parliament

D. Tsogtbaatar

State Secretary, MFTA

Mr. Badam Makhbal	Director General, Road & Transportation Policy Department
Ambassador Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan	Ambassador of Mongolia to OSCE
Sh. Odonbaatar	Director of the European Department, MFAT
G. Ganbold	Counsellor of the European Department, MFAT
Dr. B. Mandakhbileg	Deputy Director, European Department, MFTA
Mr. Amarsanaa Tumur	Second Secretary, Embassy in Vienna
Ts. Och	General Intelligence Agency
G. Ganbayar	General Intelligence Agency
J. Battogtoh	Teacher UIR
S. Bayasgalan	Teacher UIR
D. Oyunsuren	Teacher UIR
O. Mashbat	Dean of Research ISSC
Z. Pagmajav	Deputy Director ISSC
N. Soyolgerel	Deputy Director ISSC
G. Drjzodov	Researcher ISSC
G. Dorjsuren	Researcher ISSC
Ts. Lkham	Researcher ISSC
D. Batjav	Counsellor of the European Department, MFAT
D. Batsaikhan	Counsellor of the European Department, MFAT
B. Mondkhai	Attaché of the European Department
Ts. Orkhontulga	Attaché of the European Department
A. Enkhbold	Specialist, Ministry of Road, Transportation and Urban Development
L. Khiasandai	Director, International Studies Institute, Academy of Science
D. Zolboo	Head of Research, Europe Studies Sector
Z. Batchimeg	Researcher, Europe Studies Sector
Mr. Noosgoi Altantstseg	Director, School of Foreign Service, NUM

Thailand

Ambassador Nongnuth Phetcharatana	Ambassador to Austria and International Organizations in Vienna
Ms. Patcharamon Siriwatana	Second Secretary
Ms. Busadee Santipitaks	Director Europe Division One
Mr. Krirkbhumi Chitranukroh	Second Secretary

OSCE Secretariat

Mr. Paul Fritch	Director, Office of the Secretary General
Mr. Goran Svilanovic	Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
Dr. Oleksandr Pavlyuk	Head of External Co-operation
Ms. Rita Marascalchi	Senior External Co-operation Officer
Ms. Aldona Szymanski	Senior External Co-operation Assistant

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Mr. Douglas Wake	First Deputy Director
------------------	-----------------------

OSCE Academy in Bishkek

Mr. Payam Foroughi	Research and Teaching Fellow
--------------------	------------------------------

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Indonesia / ASEAN Chair

Mr. M. I. Derry Aman	Deputy Director for ASEAN Political-Security Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Antonius Prawira Yudianto	Staff for ASEAN Political-Security Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CICA Secretariat

Mr. Man Mohan Bhanot	Professional Officer
----------------------	----------------------

International Committee of the Red Cross

Mr. Andres Kruesi	Delegate to the Armed and Security Forces for East Asia
-------------------	---

United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Sezin Sinanoglu	Resident Representative
Mr. Thomas Eriksson	Deputy Resident Representative

UNHCR

Mr. Erdenebulgan Davaa	Senior Programme Assistant
------------------------	----------------------------

5.2 Seating arrangement

