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STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR BEKHBAT KHASBAZAR,  
STATE SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MONGOLIA,  
AT THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Brussels, 4-5 December 2006

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by joining the previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to the Government of Belgium and our OSCE Chairman-in Office, H.E. Mr. Karel De Gucht, for the excellent organization of this meeting and heartwarming hospitality extended to all of us here in Brussels.

Mr. Chairman,

It is a distinct honour and pleasure for me to represent Mongolia at the 14<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Meeting as its Partner for Cooperation. May I reiterate our full support to the underlying principles and objectives of OSCE and its comprehensive and cooperative approach to security and related issues of economic and human development.

With its philosophical premise that security is indivisible, the OSCE plays an increasingly important role in fostering cooperative security, mutual understanding in the region and beyond. We commend the OSCE Chairman-in-Office's priorities defined for the outgoing year, particularly promoting the rule of law, re-balancing the organization's three dimensions without weakening the human and politico-military aspects and placing transport issue at the top of the economic agenda.

As holders of primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights of their citizenry States' role in ensuring the implementation of human rights commitments cannot be overemphasized. However, in face of a broad range of human rights challenges, including wide-spread poverty, discrimination and intolerance, armed conflict and violence, democratic deficits and institutional weaknesses, the efforts of States ought to be supported more substantively through technical assistance and advisory services in capacity building and human rights education.

Since its establishment in 2001, the National Human Rights Commission has been serving as a powerful and independent advocate of the protection and promotion of human rights in Mongolia. In May this year, the National Human Rights Commission submitted its fifth annual report on the status of implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Mongolia to the Parliament, encompassing two thematic chapters on torture and on the freedom of assembly and collective bargaining. Furthermore, the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Program adopted in 2003 has further revealed the need for more focused cooperation in the areas of capacity-building and human rights education. In this regard, may I reiterate my Government's strong resolve to work towards ensuring protection and promotion of all human rights through, *inter alia*, its cooperation and interaction with OSCE and its participating States.

Mongolia stands for promoting the rule of law and consolidating democracy and strives to make its modest share in our concerted efforts both nationally and internationally. In her capacity as Chair of the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies over the last 3 years Mongolia has endeavored to promote democratic values and engage itself in a pioneering exercise to develop nationally-owned Democratic Governance Indicators and draw up a country specific National Plan of Action to Consolidate Democracy. These innovative and practical initiatives are intended not to be mere declarations but practical guides and information-and-evaluation tools aimed at improving the quality of democracy.

The development and application of nationally-owned democratic governance indicators (DGIs) was designed to assess progress in democratization as improving the quality of democracy has become a practical need and a political demand in both new or restored and mature democracies.

The process of developing DGIs and lessons learnt so far has been introduced and shared with international democracy experts at the Follow-up International Conference to ICNRD-5 last June in Ulaanbaatar and later at the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference in Doha, Qatar. My delegation will be most pleased to engage itself in sharing experiences in democracy consolidation and addressing the challenges ahead with OSCE and its participating States.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite our concerted efforts in consolidating democracy, promoting human rights and the rule of law we are well aware that much remains to be done in better ensuring the human security in Mongolia. In this context, we remain hopeful to benefit from the wealth of experience gained by OSCE and its participating States. Here, I wish to emphasize that the official visit of the Secretary-General of the OSCE to Mongolia last October laid a solid groundwork for developing our cooperation with OSCE. As a priority of our collaboration we have identified the following areas to focus our attention, i.e. capacity building of law enforcement institutions, fight against transnational organized crime, including human trafficking and enhancement of border control and management.

It is my pleasure to inform that Mongolia is set to host in Ulaanbaatar the OSCE-Mongolia Conference in June next year. We believe that it will represent yet another opportunity for us to explore future prospects for our cooperation in achieving the common cause of ensuring security and development throughout the region and beyond. I wish to invite all the participating States and Partners for Cooperation to actively contribute to the fruitful outcome of the Ulaanbaatar conference.

In conclusion, may I reiterate my Government's strong commitment to actively participate in the OSCE multi-faceted efforts aimed at ensuring the comprehensive security for all. Here my delegation wishes to express its full support to the proposed establishment of a Partnership Fund, which would enable the OSCE Partners for Cooperation to reap greater benefits from its experience and expertise. We hope that all OSCE members will find it possible to endorse its establishment not before too long.

Finally, I wish every success to Spain, next chairmanship-in office in promoting and achieving fundamental objectives of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.