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**STATEMENT BY MR.PUREVJAV GANSUKH,
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THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MONGOLIA
AT THE 15TH OSCE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
(Madrid, 30 November 2007)**

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to join the others in expressing our gratitude to the Government and people of Spain for their warm reception and hospitality, and the Spanish Chairmanship for those significant efforts undertaken over the passing year for the benefit of the OSCE. I would also like to commend the OSCE Secretary General Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut and his Secretariat for the important activities successfully carried out during this period. I would assume that the appeal for consistency that the Secretary General made in his report is equally addressed to Partners for Cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Three years have past since Mongolia became an Asian Partner of the OSCE. And we note with pride and encouragement that our cooperation has been successfully promoted over the past short period of time. I wish to highlight the importance of the OSCE Secretary-General's first official visit to Mongolia last year, and the weighty impact it had on our relations.

Mongolia, along with our fellow Asian Partners for Cooperation, strives to make its modest contribution to the implementation of OSCE's standards and values, to enhance our participation in its activities. Last June we hosted in Ulaanbaatar the first ever OSCE-Mongolia Conference on Strengthening the Co-operative Security between the OSCE and its Asian Partners for Cooperation. We believe that the Conference achieved its goals. And, we join ourselves in the appeal for wider applicability of the recommendations and suggestions stemming from this Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia's foreign policy is based upon the principle of balanced relations not only with our two neighbours, but also with countries both in the West and East. Based on this premise, we attach particular importance to our partnership with the OSCE, which provides us another opportunity to expand our cooperation with the participating States and Partners for Cooperation, to exchange views, ideas and information on a wide range of security related issues, to participate in the OSCE program activities, many of which have intra-regional dimensions.

In today's globalizing world, cooperation at the international and regional levels has far greater importance for the security, economic development, environment protection and social progress of any individual country. For Mongolia

cooperation on strengthening security and stability, developing cooperation in Northeast Asia is of particular significance.

The current trend in our region seems to be largely toward stability and dialogue, particularly in light of the recent developments at the Six-Party Talks on the Korean Peninsula's nuclear issue. Mongolia welcomes the progress achieved at these Talks, and, as its contribution, hosted in September this year a meeting of the working group on the normalization of relations between Japan and the DPRK. We stand ready to continue such efforts in the future. In view of recent positive developments in Northeast Asia's security environment, we are of the view that Mongolia's suggestion, made earlier at the 55th session of the UN General Assembly, for a multilateral security cooperation mechanism in Northeast Asia would gain support of Northeast Asian countries. It should be emphasized that efforts towards creating such a mechanism will be critical in view of both traditional and non-traditional security issues facing today our sub-region.

Today, economic and environmental dimension of security is becoming increasingly important. We are pleased to note that the Spanish Chairmanship attaches high importance to this dimension. Here I wish to single out the issue of energy security, which is an extremely important topic for Mongolia. Major challenges that our energy sector is facing today include among others the dependence on oil imports, increasing reliance on coal in power plants and use of traditional inefficient and pollutant technology.

Of course, the promotion of the special interests of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) is extremely important for us. Among the Asian Partners, Afghanistan and Mongolia are landlocked developing countries. LLDCs bear high additional costs for transportation. Furthermore, there is an urgent need to have well developed infrastructure. While it is the primary responsibility of national Governments, one should also stress the critical importance of international support in meeting these challenges. In this context, I am pleased to note that significant part of assistance, that Mongolia will receive from the US Millennium Challenge Account, will be devoted for the improvement of our railways facilities.

Last August Mongolia hosted the Meeting of Trade Ministers of LLDCs and the Global Event on Trade and Trade Facilitation in close cooperation with the UN organizations. We believe that this has provided yet another opportunity for LLDCs and their development partners to promote cooperation towards the full implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and its mid-term review next year. I would also like to note that the OSCE conference on prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia, which took place in Dushanbe last October, has been valuable for us to envision the regional and sub-regional potential in transit transport development.

The current Ministerial Council is taking place at a time when the attention of the international community is being focused on the issue of greater concern: addressing the challenges of climate change. The recent UN reports present us alarming pictures. It should be noted that the warming affects land more than ocean areas leading to more intense and longer droughts and desertification. But the most alarming conclusion is that it would pose serious effects on economic development

in many regions. The global nature of these threatening issues convinces us to hold together and take countermeasures through various international and regional cooperation structures. We hope that the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Bali in December this year shall have a crucial role in shaping the post-Kyoto framework.

Efforts should also be mobilized at the regional and sub-regional levels. Mongolia attaches particular importance to developing environmental cooperation mechanisms in Northeast Asia, and has, therefore, come up with an initiative to hold a Northeast Asian Summit on Climate Change in the nearest future. It is our strong believe that such a high level event would make a breakthrough in the regional cooperation on climate change and serve as a tangible contribution to the global efforts.

Mongolia is more convinced that the OSCE will play an important role in fostering co-operation in this area. With this in mind, we fully support the appeal for speedy implementation of recommendations the OSCE Conference on Environmental Security and Sustainable Development in Central Asia which took place on 30-31 October 2007 in Tashkent.

As you might know, Mongolia is prone to a variety of natural disasters, including dzud (Mongolia-specific harsh winter with extreme cold temperature), drought, sand and snow storms. The incidence of dzud, drought and forest fires has increased even further in recent years. Highlighting the importance of international cooperation and support in this field I wish to inform you about the project entitled "Strengthening the Disaster Mitigation and Management System in Mongolia" funded by the UNDP and the Government of Luxembourg. Under this project, a new disaster management law was enacted in 2003 and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) was established in 2004. I am pleased to note that during the recent visit of our Prime Minister to Luxembourg the Government of Luxembourg announced to continue this important project (3rd stage), and I express once again our gratitude to the delegation of Luxembourg.

Mr. Chairman,

In recent years, the OSCE participating States and its Partners for Cooperation have jointly made considerable efforts to give a new impetus to their relationship. That makes us strongly believe that there is a bond of partnership between us, and that bond should be further strengthened in the years to come. We believe that the proposed Partnership Fund would encourage active participation of Partners for Cooperation in the OSCE activities and further intensify cooperation between them.

It is gratifying to note that during this Ministerial Council a particular emphasis has been made on ways and means of strengthening further the relationship and cooperation between the Partners and the participating States. Mongolia is highly encouraged with the submission of the draft Ministerial Declaration on this matter, and fully supports its adoption. I believe that other Asian Partners for Cooperation would join us as we highlighted this point in our joint paper introduced to the Troika Meeting the other day. We believe that this spirit of partnership should be sustained

and nurtured as it creates new hopes for better lives for billions of people in our world.

The experience of the OSCE is not only important for its Partners for Cooperation, but also relevant to their respective regions as whole. Therefore, it is of particular value to further develop and strengthen cooperation between the OSCE and the ASEAN Regional Forum. Both would benefit from such cooperation through learning each other's instruments and tools, mutual exchange of views and experiences in addressing security challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to reiterate that my country highly values its partnership with the OSCE. Mongolia is keenly interested in expanding its cooperation and, if possible, jointly implementing specific projects in such areas like border management, human trafficking, police assistance, institutional and structural legal reforms, reform of criminal-justice system.

As an example, I would note that the OSCE Border Security and Management concept attracts the attention of my country. For Mongolia with its vast territory border security and management is becoming a serious challenge at a time of increased transnational crimes, and international support and cooperation are of particular importance in this regard. Thus, in response to our appeal to the UN Security Council 1540 Committee, the US Government has offered to fund a project which aims to enhance the technical capability of border control agencies in preventing and detecting illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials. Respective MOU was signed during the recent visit of our President to the United States. We highly appreciate this generous offer of the United States and hope that the project would start soon.

Mongolia highly values its relationship with the international community when it comes to issues such as democracy, human rights and good governance. We believe they are directly linked to development and security. That is why Mongolia in addition to eight global MDGs initiated and adopted its ninth MDG on "*Strengthening human rights and fostering democratic governance*". Today we are implementing in cooperation with the UN Democracy Fund a specific project in this regard, and we hope that it will bring positive outcomes.

Mr. Chairman. Let me conclude by wishing every success to our incoming Finnish presidency.

Thank you.