

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY MUNKHJIN BATSUMBER,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MONGOLIA,
AT THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING
OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
2-3 December 2021**

Madame Chairperson,
Madame Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to join the colleagues in expressing my sincere gratitude to the Swedish Chairpersonship and the team for their dedicated work throughout this year.

Mongolia appreciates Sweden's call for defending the European security order, upholding the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security and the drive for conflict resolution in the region. We commend the Chairpersonship's efforts towards fostering and enriching the comprehensive security approach in promoting peace, security, stability and cooperation in the OSCE area.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is causing lingering difficulties around the globe, it has become clear that these complex challenges cannot be tackled unilaterally, but require comprehensive solutions through collective efforts. The pandemic not only threatened the lives of many people and the economic and social progress of all of us, but also threatened the very spirit of the multilateralism and confidence and trust between participating States.

Maintaining our existing security architecture and the commonly agreed European Security Order-as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris-is of utmost importance for Mongolia and our whole region.

We remain firmly convinced that the OSCE is a key actor in the European and Eurasian security landscape and its role should be further strengthened in order to be able to respond not only to the current security challenges and threats but also to those of tomorrow. The OSCE's principles and commitments must remain at the core of our work to prevent conflict and foster stability for people throughout the OSCE area.

The Swedish Chairpersonship has steered the OSCE through the turbulent times of 2021 with great commitment and competence. This period has been characterized by the pandemic and the conflicts and crises. Despite this, Madame Chairperson, you have succeeded in raising these very different challenges, by involving the OSCE participating States in the search for solutions and in inspiring confidence in new approaches. We thank and congratulate you on this.

Dear colleagues,

We are fully committed to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. For that reason, we particularly appreciate the connection that the OSCE makes between security and human rights. In this regard, we will continue to work actively with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, whose valuable works have our full support and recognition.

Gender equality must be present as a cross-cutting element in all of the OSCE's activities. Full economic empowerment and political integration of women and their equal participation in peace and security agenda need to be ensured in parallel with combating violence against women and girls. The OSCE's role in this area is immensely important.

I would also like to conclude my statement by wishing every success to the incoming Polish Chairmanship and assure them of our full support and cooperation.

Thank you.