

**STATEMENT BY LUNDEG PUREVSUREN
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF MONGOLIA**

**At the OSCE Ministerial Council
Belgrade, Serbia**

3 December 2015

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I wish to join the others in expressing our deep condolences to the United States and families of victims of yesterday's mass shooting in California.

Mr. Chair,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In 1975 the Helsinki Final Act set out the path towards peace and stability in Europe. Today, as we celebrate its 40th anniversary, it gives us a distinctive opportunity to take stock of our past experiences and reflect on the future of our organization. The current situation in the region reminds us yet again the necessity of redoubling our efforts towards reinvigorating our organization.

Mr. Chair,

Today the fight against terrorism becomes more important as never before. People around the world are being deeply shocked by the recent acts of killing committed by the terrorist group named the Islamic State. Their acts pose alarming threats to peace and security not only in the region but also in the whole world. Mongolia has consistently supported the fight against terrorism and expressed solidarity with those who are engaged in this fight. Thus, President of Mongolia paid an official visit to France just after recent terrorist attacks in Paris. This was received as an expression of our support and solidarity with the people of France.

As the scale of terrorist activities is increasing and expanding across regions, and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is growing dangerously, the international community should undertake more concerted and coordinated actions against terrorism. And we welcome those steps taken by major powers involved in this fight.

On its part Mongolia will be taking concrete measures in this regard starting with the suspension of non-visa regime temporarily introduced last year for citizens of EU and some other countries. As host of ASEM Summit next year we will take additional measures to further enhance our security.

Mr. Chair,

The issues related to the migration and refugee crisis have been discussed in recent months at numerous international fora. It has wide-ranging security implications for all. It became a global phenomenon, a global challenge. It requires not only mobilization of political will and financial support, but also viable and forward-looking solutions. We note with deep appreciation the efforts made by the Governments and people of those countries who receive them. But more should be done in the years to come.

At the UN Conference on Climate Change on 30 November 2015 President of Mongolia highlighted two pressing challenges that the world is facing today: one is the fight against terrorism, and the second – the climate change. We believe that issues of environmental security should also be given due consideration within the OSCE.

Mr. Chair,

The crisis in Ukraine has been the subject of intensive discussions within the OSCE. Concrete results have been achieved in practical implementation of the Minsk agreements. Nevertheless, the situation remains tense and further efforts need to be made by parties to the conflict to bring peace in eastern Ukraine. Full implementation of Minsk agreements is an absolute necessity in this regard.

We note the important role played by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. This year Mongolia began sending its observer to SMM to Ukraine.

At this Ministerial Council Meeting we should reaffirm our commitment to support de-escalation of the crisis, to bring an end to this tragedy of losing human lives and sufferings, to restore peace. Mongolia reiterates its full support for peaceful solution of this crisis through inclusive political dialogue on which our organization was built up.

Mr. Chair,

Over the past three years since joining the OSCE in 2012, Mongolia has actively participated in the implementation of OSCE programs and made its modest contribution. This year was of particular significance for us. Mongolia successfully chaired the Forum for Security Cooperation during the first trimester of 2015. Last September the Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was successfully held in Ulaanbaatar.

We are of the view that in order exchange our experiences and lessons of election observation with other countries, a regional training centre for election observers could be established in Ulaanbaatar. We had already started discussions on this idea with relevant international and regional institutions.

As an Asian country, Mongolia fully shares the view that the security of Europe and Asia are inseparable, and thus welcomes initiatives to foster dialogue and cooperation among nations of the Eurasian continent. As you are aware, Mongolia will be hosting in Ulaanbaatar the 11th ASEM Summit on 15-16 July next year.

My country attaches particular importance to strengthening peace and security in Northeast Asia. To that every effort has been made to promote further “Ulaanbaatar dialogue on peace and security in Northeast Asia”.

Taking this opportunity I wish to inform the Council that President of Mongolia came forward with an initiative to uphold the status of permanent neutrality of Mongolia. This could complement our mediation efforts towards strengthening peace and security in our region.

Mr. Chair,

We attach particular importance to our engagement in the international efforts aimed at promoting democracy and human rights. In May this year we hosted the 5th Conference of “Online Freedom” Coalition. Last week in Bern we officially took over the Chairmanship of the International IDEA Council from its outgoing chair - Switzerland.

Last October Mongolia was elected to the Human Rights Council. Taking this opportunity, I wish to express our sincere thanks to all participating States and Partners for Cooperation for their valuable support.

In conclusion, I wish to express once again our thanks the Serbian Chairmanship for their tireless efforts in leading our Organization throughout this year. We also wish every success to our incoming Chair – Germany.

Thank you for kind attention.