



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Gombojav Zandanshatar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 9, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States warmly welcomes Minister Zandanshatar to the Permanent Council.

Mr. Minister, we welcome Mongolia's engagement in the OSCE, as demonstrated by your visit today. As you noted, the recent conference in Ulaanbaatar was an excellent opportunity to exchange views and share experience on complex issues of international security. We were deeply impressed with the contributions by Mongolian officials, who shared with participants Mongolia's experiences in transitioning to democracy and the challenges it faces today.

Mongolia has rightly been praised for its 1990 bloodless democratic revolution and the strength of its subsequent transition. Today, the country's democratic institutions are vigorous and abiding. Secretary Clinton has highlighted this fact, stating that "Mongolia's transformation to a thriving democracy is an inspiration to people around the world struggling to establish democracies in their own countries." For all its many challenges, democratic transition in Mongolia has not only met with success, but also provides an important example for others in the region. We believe Mongolia shares the values of the OSCE, as contained in the organization's founding documents, and has the ability to make a positive contribution to Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security. We would encourage Mongolia to share its experience with the participating States and other Partners for Cooperation.

Mr. Minister, we note with interest your personal wish expressed at the end of your statement to upgrade your engagement with this organization.

And let me stress, the United States has been – and will continue to be – a consistent and supportive partner of Mongolia. We thank Mongolia for its contributions as a member of the UN-mandated International Security and Assistance Force in Afghanistan and its support for U.S. regional and global policy objectives—especially those linked to the Global Peacekeeping Operations Initiative.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.