

**ADDRESS BY H.E. MR. ZANDAAKHUU ENKHBOLD, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE
GREAT HURAL (PARLIAMENT) OF MONGOLIA, AT THE OPENING OF THE 2015
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AUTUMN MEETING**

16 September 2015

Your Excellency Mr. Ilkka Kanerva, the president of OSCE PA,
Mr. President of Mongolia Elbegdorj
Honorable Parliamentarians and Delegates,
Honourable members of the Mongolian government,
Ladies and Gentleman,

First of all, on behalf of the Parliament of Mongolia, I like to extend my sincere greetings to all guests and delegates of the Autumn meeting of the OSCE PA.

Three years ago, Mongolia became a full member of the OSCE, which was established upon the principles of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. By acceding to this important organization, Mongolia was able to strengthen its multi-pillared foreign policy, cooperate with other member states on security issues, exchange information and experiences, and consistently engage in dialogues.

Today the OSCE has grown into an organization that has a distinct role in protecting and promoting security in both global and regional context.

The Parliamentary Assembly was established in 1990 to support parliamentary involvements of its member states within the activities of OSCE, an active peacekeeping and peace guarding organization that embraces 57 countries of the world.

In 2012, the Parliament of Mongolia became the 57th member of this prestigious Parliamentary Assembly. The October 2014 decision made during the 13th Autumn meeting in Geneva to organize today's event in Mongolia was

a clear indication that Mongolia's international reputation has grown and that, with great effort, Mongolia is contributing to the protection of global and regional security.

We are pleased to host the 2015 Autumn meeting for the first time not only in the country but also in the whole region, and I am delighted to remind the participating delegates that Mongolia will host 2016 ASEM summit.

The main objectives of the OSCE PA are to increase the involvement of parliaments and parliamentarians of the signatory states, to settle complex issues both globally and regionally, and to generate open discussions and reach consensus.

Today countless complicated issues still exist in many corners of the world. This calls for improved coherence and communication among the international organizations, the furthering of close cooperations, and the necessity to comply with decisions and recommendations.

The theme of this Autumn meeting is “addressing security challenges in the OSCE region and beyond: the role of parliamentarians in fostering regional cooperation.” Over the course of two days, we, therefore, plan to discuss regional security, terrorism, human trafficking, regional economic challenges, food security, disaster risk reduction, human rights, freedom of press, religious and gender equality, and many other important issues.

Honorable parliamentarians, the representatives of your people, I have full confidence in you all to reach a common consensus through thorough discussions and multiple approaches to the given issues.

Distinguished guests and delegates,

Finally, I like to note that this Autumn meeting is coinciding with the

widely celebrated commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Mongolia's first democratic election, which led to the establishment of a permanent parliamentary system. By ensuring universal suffrage to its citizens in a short span of time, Mongolia now walks alongside countries with years of democratic election history and experience. It is a privilege to state that the parliamentary democracy has taken firm root in Mongolia.

This achievement was, in part, the result of the contribution made by the parliaments of many OSCE countries and their members of parliament.

Once again, I express my sincere gratitude for your kind acceptance of our invitation, wish you a very pleasant stay in our beautiful country, and wish you the best success during the Autumn meeting.

Thank you for your attention.