

Welcome Note from H. E. Bold. L, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

I extend my deep appreciation to the Institute of International Studies (IIS), of the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia for publishing this special edition of the “Mongolian Journal of International Affairs”, and for supporting our successful organization of the 7th Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies (CD).

Many political scientists excitedly study Mongolian democracy. This democracy is considered somehow an odd case since it has no pre-conditions that some political theory previously dictated, defeated their arguments, and then caused a revision to the theories about the prerequisites of democracy. It has brilliantly proven that an Asian society has a cultural root on which democracy can successfully build in a rather short time, than all western democracies have experienced. Although it still faces serious developmental challenges. Presented in this special edition are some fascinating studies of Mongolia’s current challenges with democracy and lessons learned.

The past twenty five years of democracy in Mongolia has not been smooth. I still remember the days of the democratic uprising in 1990. As a leader in the Mongolian Student Movement, I had actively taken a part in this revolution with my colleagues, supporting the Mongolian Democratic Union. Being a deputy of the People’s Great Khural in 1992, my vote was one of many that helped to adopt the current Mongolian Democratic Constitution. This was the north star that every political party sternly oriented toward all the ups and downs of political dynamics that we have experienced in nearly two and a half decades.

The CD Presidency is a confirmation that democracies all over the world have recognized our success, and we as a nation have done many things to further this movement.

The Ulaanbaatar conference is becoming a landmark event in the history of the community. During the past two years, the CD has undergone a fundamental institutional and philosophical transformation. It has become more of an action-oriented international platform to advance the cause of democracy and democratic development. We have proven that the CD can deliver results, can be focused, and provide practical assistance to emerging democracies and a vibrant civil society.

The Mongolian Presidency has focused on issues that are instrumental for improving the quality of democracy throughout the world. Education for

democracy has been our Presidency's top priority. Educating people, especially younger generations in democracy, and democratic values and principles, is central to strengthening democratic and democratizing societies. Our groundwork in this area has resulted in the unanimous adoption by the UN General Assembly last year of a historic resolution on Education for Democracy.

Mongolia put considerable effort into the regional cooperation with Asia and the Pacific. Our initiatives and commitment inspired the civil society activists in this region to embark on establishing and launching the Asia Democracy Network. The Asian Partnership Initiative for Democracy (APID) put forward by the Presidents of Mongolia and the Republic of Korea continues to draw attention from like-minded countries.

The most important achievements under our Presidency are the establishment of permanent institutional mechanisms of the CD – the Governing Council, the Executive Committee and the Secretary-General.

All these successes have contributed to a more effective performance of the CD in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Warsaw Declaration. No doubt that the VII CD Ministerial Conference in Ulaanbaatar will prove that we are on the right track.

Again I cordially appreciate IIS for its kind initiative and support. I also thank our dear readers for their interest in Mongolian democracy.