



Permanent Council of 17 October 2013

Election Observation in Mongolia

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson

On behalf of Norway, Canada, Liechtenstein and Iceland, Switzerland congratulates Mongolia on the conduct of the presidential elections in June. As the final report issued recently by ODIHR confirms, the elections took place in a free and fair environment, and the joint OSCE commitments, to which Mongolia subscribed last year as the latest participating State to our organization, were largely respected.

The report has, however, identified room for improvement, notably with regard to the legal framework and various aspects of the campaigning process, including issues of media freedom. We encourage Mongolia to implement the recommendations issued by ODIHR and to continue seeking ODIHR's assistance with a view to the full and thorough implementation of all commitments.

The report once again testifies to the high standards applied by ODIHR in election observation. The scope of the election mission and the methodology used both allow for comprehensive observation that reaches beyond the mere presence of observers on Election Day but includes nationwide long-term observation.

Finally, let me express our appreciation for the cooperative and constructive spirit in which Mongolia has engaged with the OSCE. On that note, we support Mongolia's readiness to establish an OSCE field mission with the aim of facilitating the full accomplishment of our common commitments.

Thank you, Mister Chairperson.