

OPENING REMARKS BY
STATE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
SOM LEADER OF MONGOLIA AT THE OPENING OF THE
5TH ARF PEACEKEEPING EXPERTS' MEETING

Ulaanbaatar, 27 August 2012 09:30

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I warmly welcome you all to Ulaanbaatar and to the 5th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting. I am very pleased to see the delegates from the fellow ARF participating countries. My Government is also proud to host this important meeting jointly with the Republic of Indonesia.

The Government of Mongolia gives high priority to its participation in ARF dialogue. Mongolia is of the view that ARF has proved its usefulness as it builds a habit of dialogue and consultation among the regional countries on political and security issues of common interest and concern. Further the ARF gives us the opportunity to pull our collective efforts to the causes of peace and security in the region. Mongolia, particularly, commends the fact that the ARF is becoming an effective mechanism for developing and implementing joint practical measures to address non-traditional security issues, such as, disaster relief, non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, transnational crimes and piracy, which are common to all the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. I would like to reaffirm that Mongolia is committed to strengthen our cooperation with the ARF countries in above mentioned areas, including peace keeping which is the main subject of our today's meeting.

It is my pleasure to note that this year Mongolia is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping operations. More than 5000 peacekeepers from Mongolia have served in different peacekeeping operations within the last decade. It is also a pleasant coincidence that with the celebration of the 10th anniversary, Mongolia is hosting the 5th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting in our home country.

Contributing to the efforts of strengthening international peace and security resides in the very nature of Mongolian foreign policy of securing independence and sovereignty. Concepts of Mongolian National Security and Foreign Policy both have provisions assert as "...optimizing Mongolia's participation in the international organizations and maximizing its contribution to the solution of the world's challenging issues", and in this regard, Mongolia shall "participate in the UN's and international peacekeeping, peace-building, and peacekeeping efforts".

Expanding our participation by sending troops to the UN as well as to other international peacekeeping operations, our military personnel have gained tangible and intangible skills to better understand military politics and multinational inter-operability. Mongolian peacekeepers studied and learned the experiences from the countries with wide range of experience, which in return make them to participate more efficiently and adapt in different environments, where duties and responsibilities are constantly change.

With the aim of building on the results from the previous four meetings Mongolia and Indonesia are hosting the 5th meeting under the theme of "Cooperation of regional peacekeeping centers and challenges in the peacekeeper's training". The meeting aims to highlight the positive role of better networking and close cooperation among the peace support centers of the region in peacekeepers` training and peace building efforts at large. I hope that this two-day event will provide a venue for frank, open discussion, and exchange of ideas on this subject and would certainly be a meaningful and useful contribution to the ARF peace keeping efforts.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Indonesian colleagues for their collaboration and support on this event. My appreciation also goes to the lead discussants.

I wish you all have a pleasant and enjoyable stay in Mongolia.

Thank you for your attention and I wish a successful accomplishment with this meeting.