

# International cooperation

## INTERVIEW WITH NYAMAA ENKHBOLD

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**NYAMAA ENKHBOLD** graduated from the High School of Tuv province and went on to qualify from the Press Institute of Moscow, Russia, the Political Institute in Moscow, and the University of Sydney, Australia. In 1993 he became Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia. From 1997-2000 he was Head of the Press and Public Relations Department, Office of the President of Mongolia. He has been a Member of the State Great Hural (Parliament) since 2000.

### What are the key aims, objectives and guiding principles of Mongolia's foreign policy?

We wish Mongolia to be a respectful member of the international community, which maintains friendly relations, cooperation and partnership with all nations of the world and is a party to the regional and global integration process and institutions as well as a reliable partner in regional cooperative efforts.

Mongolia's location between two major countries: Russia and China, determines the country's foreign policy. Mongolia is a landlocked nation with a small vulnerable economy, far away from the world market centres and transport and communication networks. At the same time Mongolia is a Northeast Asian nation, which seeks active participation throughout Asia and wishes to make a contribution to solving pressing regional issues.

My country is a democratic nation with its own rules, its own principles and values. These are values of human freedom, democracy, good governance and rule of law. Mongolia adheres to these rules, while pursuing its foreign policy.

### Global security is a key issue for governments and policy makers. What role can the UN and NATO play in maintaining stability? What part is Mongolia playing?

In today's interdependent and global world, threats are inter-linked and do not recognise borders and the best way to tackle them is multi-lateralism at the global and regional levels. In this way, the United Nations and the regional security organisations stand as indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

Mongolia actively supports the initiatives of the World Organisation in all its aspects and has been increasing its international commitments and responsibilities, especially through its contribution to the UN peacekeeping operations. There are currently over a dozen Mongolian military observers with UN peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Western Sahara, Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Once confined to military observers, Mongolia's commitment to UN peacekeeping operations has broadened to include our deployment of a 250-man contingent to Sierra Leone in January 2006.

An important priority of Mongolia's multi-pillared foreign policy is to engage more actively in

regional efforts aimed at strengthening peace and security, promoting development and consolidating democracy. Mongolia became an Asian partner with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in late 2004 and continues to participate in the NATO's Partnership for Peace. I believe that these partnerships will contribute to security and stability in the region as well as further our country's commitment to common democratic values. This June, Mongolia will be hosting an international conference with the OSCE on cooperative security issues.

Mongolia supports the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In this context Mongolia declared its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone in 1992 and institutionalised it at the national level through the adoption of *Law on Mongolia's Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status*. We continue to vigorously pursue our NWFS' through the UN General Assembly resolutions on Mongolia's International Security and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status and continued references in support of the status in both bilateral and multilateral international fora. In 2000, the P5 jointly issued a Statement on security assurances in connection with Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, serving as a tangible indication of its growing international recognition.

### Are you happy with the increasingly close relationship between Mongolia and the EU? How do you see this relationship developing?

Since Mongolia embraced democracy at the end of the 1980's, Mongolia has set itself an open and multi-pillar foreign policy. In this regard, Mongolia is establishing relations and partnerships with various nations.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations with the European Union in 1989, Mongolia has developed a friendly partnership and cooperation with the European Union in the political and socio-economic fields. The main legal basis of the Mongolian-EU cooperation and partnership is the "*Agreement on trade and economic cooperation between Mongolia and the EU*", which was signed in 1992. Within the scope of this agreement, both sides have successfully developed a close relationship over the last 15 years. Another important document concerning the Mongolia-EU partnership is the "*Resolution on the political, socio-economic situation in Mongolia*" which was ratified in 1994 by the European Parliament. In this resolution the European Parliament

