



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
The Secretariat



2023 PRAGUE FORUM ON THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF THE OSCE

Side Event: “*Strengthening good governance and climate resilience in Mongolia*”

14 September 2023, 13:30 – 14:30

Venue: Czernin Palace, Loretánské nám. 5, 118 00 Prague

Introduction

Since joining the OSCE in 2012, Mongolia has engaged with the OSCE Secretariat, including through the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), to implement its commitments and national priorities in the areas of good economic governance and climate resilience. In this framework and in line with the mandate stemming from relevant Ministerial Council Decisions, the OCEEA has supported Mongolia with policy recommendations and targeted capacity building activities in these two thematic areas.

Framing the Discussion

In 2016, OCEEA carried out a national anti-corruption needs assessment mission in Ulaanbaatar. Following extensive consultations with key national stakeholders, four key areas were identified for targeted support, prompting the development of the OCEEA-led extra-budgetary project titled “*Strengthening the anti-corruption capacity of Mongolia*”. Launched in 2017, the project included a range of modular training courses aimed at identifying corruption vulnerabilities in public procurement processes, understanding the nuances of investigating corruption offenses, and recognizing corruption risks within customs procedures.

The project, which concluded its active phase in 2019, facilitated the transfer of expertise and knowledge from the OSCE to Mongolia's anti-corruption initiatives, bolstered Mongolia's anti-corruption infrastructure, and nurtured a spirit of cooperation between international organizations and local stakeholders. The OCEEA stands ready to continue supporting Mongolia's endeavors to put in place anti-corruption measures and further increase its national capacities in this field.

The side event will look at the measures taken by Mongolia in the area of preventing and combating corruption, including in co-operation with the OSCE. In this context, discussions are expected to highlight the role of the Independent Authority against Corruption (IAAC), which has been at the forefront of these efforts, introducing and implementing mechanisms to detect, investigate, and prevent corrupt practices. The meeting will provide an opportunity to share good practices and lessons learned that can potentially inspire similar initiatives in other parts of the OSCE region.

The OSCE has also closely co-operated with Mongolia in the increasingly important thematic area of *climate change and wildfire risk reduction*. In 2015, in partnership with the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), the OCEEA supported Mongolia to establish the Regional Central Asia Fire Management Resource Center at the National University of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar. Since then, the challenges posed by climate change have intensified considerably, including in Mongolia. Due to adverse climate effects, Mongolia is experiencing warming rates that far exceed the global average. The intensity of extreme climate-driven hazards such as heatwaves, drought and dust storms is expected to increase, potentially amplifying the stress on human health, livelihoods, and ecosystems. This could lead to loss of forest cover and associated species, and reduction in yields of agricultural crops threatening Mongolia’s food security.

In its efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change and secure a sustainable and climate resilient development, Mongolia launched the “One Billion Trees” national campaign on 4 October 2021. The plans for implementing this initiative extend until 2030, and were approved by the National Climate Committee in March 2023. The OCEEA through its extra-budgetary project “*Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia*”¹ is ready to support Mongolia in strengthening the landscape fire management and wildfire risk reduction capacities within the framework of the campaign. The OSCE can also facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices at cross-regional level including with the countries of the Central Asia region. The side event will therefore support the planning to reduce climate-induced fire risks in the reforestation and afforestation areas as well as to foster regional and cross-regional co-operation in addressing these climate-related challenges in line with the provisions of the 2021 Stockholm OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Climate Change.

Objectives of the side event

In light of the above, the side event will provide the setting for showcasing successful OSCE partnerships with participating States, in this case Mongolia, and for underlining the significance of international/regional co-operation to strengthen good economic governance and climate resilience. Discussions will explore areas for potential future OSCE engagement in support of efforts to prevent and combat corruption and address the pressing challenges caused by climate change.

Audience and Stakeholders: OSCE pS and Partners for Co-operation, international organizations, civil society organizations and policymakers. The event will be held in English without interpretation for registered participants of the 2023 Prague Forum on the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE present at the Czernin Palace.

AGENDA	
13:30 – 13:40	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>H.E. Helga Maria Schmid – OSCE Secretary General Ambassador Tsengeg Mijiddorj – Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Mongolia</p> <p>Moderator – Mr. Ralf Ernst, Deputy Co-ordinator, Head, Economic Activities, OCEEA</p>

¹ For more information on the project please visit <https://www.osce.org/node/521965>

13:40 – 14:15	<p><u>Panel session:</u></p> <p><u>Good Governance/Anti-corruption</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Solongoo Bayarsaikhan, Deputy Minister for Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia (tentative or State Secretary, Ministry of Justice) - Ms. Bolorchimeg Jargalsaikhan, Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Senior Commissioner, Independent Authority Against Corruption of Mongolia <p><u>Climate Change:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Oyunsanaa Byambasuren, Director General, National Forest Agency of Mongolia (online) - Prof. Dr. Johann Georg Goldammer, Director, Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
14:15 – 14:25	Q&A
14:25 – 14:30	Wrap-up and conclusions