

Joint Vision Statement for the U.S.-Mongolia Security Relationship

The United States and Mongolia have a common strategic interest in sustaining a stable international security environment and regional order based on peaceful resolution of disputes, democratic governance, political freedom, economic openness, and a universal respect for human rights.

Mongolia serves as a stabilizing influence in Asia and is seeking to modernize its military in a transparent fashion. Mongolia welcomes and supports the role that the United States plays in securing peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. Both nations see the 21st century as a time of opportunity for the Asia-Pacific region in economic growth, empowerment of people, and democratic advancement. At the same time, both nations see challenges in dealing with common threats in the form of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) proliferation, terrorism, climate change, transnational crime, pandemic disease, mass migration, and cyber-attacks.

The United States commends Mongolia's efforts to expand its contributions to international security through its cooperative security partnership with the United States. The United States reaffirms its support for Mongolia's active promotion of friendly relations with its neighbors. Furthermore, the United States recognizes that Mongolia's transparent democracy, security policy, and market economy provide a positive model in the region.

U.S.-Mongolia cooperation has furthered international stability, validating the basis of the bilateral relationship and justifying deeper defense cooperation.

Partnership for Security

The U.S. Department of Defense supports the Mongolian Armed Forces' continuing efforts to modernize and become interoperable with other partners. Noting Mongolia's considerable support for United Nations peacekeeping operations around the world, the United States plans to continue to encourage and support Mongolia's global peacekeeping deployments and its humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities. As its economy grows, Mongolia intends to increase its contributions to defense modernization and United Nations peacekeeping operations, making them self-sustaining wherever possible.

The Mongolian Armed Forces-hosted annual peacekeeping exercise, KHAAN QUEST, is a key element of the U.S.-Mongolia bilateral security relationship. KHAAN QUEST makes valuable contributions to international peace and stability, while increasing friendship, fostering shared values, expanding multinational interoperability, strengthening ties between our respective armed forces, and reinforcing mutual respect. Both nations desire to expand multinational cooperation, and to develop KHAAN QUEST into a premier regional peacekeeping operations exercise.

With our shared values and goals, the United States welcomed in 2012 Mongolia's status as one of NATO's Global Partners and intends to support the Mongolian Armed Forces in fostering partnership with other countries for training, professional development, and modernization initiatives to support interoperability and cooperation in NATO-led international missions.

Defense Cooperation

The U.S. Department of Defense appreciates its past defense cooperation with Mongolia and is grateful for Mongolia's support, including nine rotations in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in

Afghanistan and ten rotations in Iraq. The United States commends Mongolia for its stated intent to support coalition efforts on behalf of Afghanistan's security post-2014.

The Mongolian Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense intend to continue to sustain regular high-level policy dialogues that establish the framework for defense cooperation activities. The United States welcomes Mongolia's efforts in defense reform and supports improving military education for its defense forces and the building of the necessary institutions to sustain a professional, modern military. Both countries place importance on increased opportunities to enhance ties between officers and institutions, including professional military education. The Mongolian Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense intend to continue to support the State Partnership Program with the Alaska National Guard to strengthen cooperation and institutional ties.

The Mongolian Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense plan to seek ways to expand and develop Mongolia's capabilities to support Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, peacekeeping operations, and defense reform. Both desire the Five Hills Training Center to become a Regional Center of Excellence for peacekeeping operations training.

Shared Vision for Peace and Prosperity

The national and global conditions are favorable for the Mongolian Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense to expand cooperation and their defense relationship in ways that complement the comprehensive partnership based on common values and a shared strategic interest in global peace and prosperity. To increase regional and global security and stability, the Mongolian Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense intend to seek ways to improve joint training and exercises, increase opportunities to observe and participate in multilateral exercises, and expand efforts to increase interoperability and practical cooperation. The Mongolian Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense plan to continue to seek ways to strengthen the two countries' defense relationship, the benefits of which will be felt beyond both nations' borders and throughout the international community.

Signed in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on April 10, 2014.

Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
United States of America

Dashdemberel Bat-Erdene
Minister of Defense
Mongolia