

# A SPEECH ACT ANALYSIS ON POLITICAL SPEECHES OF ELBEGDORJ TS.

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***Abstract*** – In Linguistics, Speech Acts theories have been brought a major revolution in the development of pragmatism. However, under the variety different analysis of the discourse, pragmatics is inextricably linked and therefore cannot be deepened-both are linked with each other, tightly. Speech Act plays a main role in the analysis of political discourse which is to identify human's action and utterance, particularly. Public and political speeches have a profound effect on the public, and even in the case of political speeches and its presentations, politicians and candidates today still have the specific means in using the language, with the different tone of voice, hand movements, etc., with utterance to convey the meaning with actions performed by a speaker can be discussed as the linguistic issues. For the politicians of any country, the word has become materially powerful and has become a key concept in influencing the audiences and the public and in deciding the fate of the party and politics. Therefore, this study provides a practical analysis of the development of Mongolian political discourse and the current situation based on speech act theories, as well as a comparative study towards world-class politicians and their speeches. The discourse examines the language, mentality, and cognitive concepts of politicians about the level of speeches in the socio-political sphere, and focuses on language features, political differences, approaches, attitudes, speech frameworks, social and political situations, people's characteristics, and language in use. This work was developed to further determine the specifics of political topics and based on both theoretical and practical materials sourced from Mongolian politician in the concept of discourse analysis and researches.

This study also investigates the role of language in the communication and interpretation of intentions by examining a selected political speeches as some piece of discourse with specific goals. Since the politician's speech is mainly concerned with persuading or making the others believe what you are saying, the Speech Acts play the most important role, undoubtedly. It presents and documents some of the significant illocutionary acts that convey the intentions of speakers in political speeches. Thus, this work will be to provide the theoretical explanation of the two main theories concerning Speech acts,

**Austin and Searle's ones. Mainly, this is to analyze political speeches by Elbegdorj Ts concerning Speech Acts and its categorizations.**

**Keywords:** Speech Act Theory, Political Speech, Analysis, Political Discourse, Illocutionary Force, Commissive Speech Acts, And Expressive Speech Acts

## I. INTRODUCTION

In this sense, many scholars and researchers agree that political discourse is an area where language can be truly applied and seen in practical terms. This is because language is used as a force to regulate people's minds, thinking, perceptions, and opinions through political language and verbal understanding. Basically, language is a tool to govern society. Political and public speeches are seen in any societies as a means of establishing social relations, establishing understanding, expressing opinions, implementing one's own ideas or ideologies and political policies, and making decisions. From a pragmatic point of view, it is possible to explain and define the expression of locution depending on the speaker's attitude and intent within the content of any topic, which is the most important phenomenon that can be deduced from the theory of verbal action. Therefore, the article aims to explain and reveal in linguistic terms the tactics used by the speaker to express the discourse content and its influence on how discourse is a force for the audiences in discourse studies.

The speech acts hereby play the most important role in political speeches since it is mainly concerned with persuading others believe what the speaker says. It leads to investigate the notions of discourse that are common among candidates in the current political arena, substantiate them with statistics and case studies, evaluate them, and identify issues for improvement; importantly this is to note that the development of recommendations and guidelines for future socio-political discourse theory and practice will be useful for researchers in this field. In short, the public as well as candidates' attitudes and linguistic discourses, use verbal speeches, which are common in the socio-political field, as a subject for linguistic analysis of texts or transcripts and videos from sources. This is a pragmatic approach to identifying the meaning of each speaker based on the content and context of each speaker's speech. The political and party positions or personal ideology, activism and efforts to make important changes in society – say how the stories affect the people in terms of governing. Therefore, this studies to illustrate the hidden meanings over the word expressions and the actions behind those words.

## II. SPEECH ACT THEORY

Through the use of words, people perform a variety of actions, expressions of how, and by what actions the phenomenon of reaching the audience and speaker is defined as Speech Act. The theory of verbal function was first developed by Austin (1962) and continued in detail by his student Searle (1969) in his book *How to Do Things with Words Theory*. They proposed the empirical idea that the source of knowledge is the senses, that the signs and letters have a fermo

concept behind them, that they move to the true meaning of the characters they use to express ideas and meanings. For Austin (1962), the scientist suggested that verbal actions fall into three main levels: illocutive, locutive, and perlocutive. For example: Good day everyone! (including the verbal tone of speech) - is a basic concept in the theory of verbal action (expressing meaning for a purpose, having a specific purpose in speaking a word, offering, promising, apologizing, demanding, etc.). Perlocutive action, on the other hand, is the result of a change in the actions, thoughts, and feelings of the listener/receiver after hearing, reading, and receiving the object in some way. an instrument. It may be intended to persuade, intimidate, irritate, or cause the listener to take an action. Perlocutive actions are described as encouraging, persuasive, reassuring, promising, or supportive, or influencing the attitudes, attitudes, and beliefs of the recipient. Similarly, Levinson (1981) considered perlocutive action to be the expression of the speaker, the effect of intentional and unintentional processes. There is also the Prosecutor's Action, which means that the word is effective. Affecting the audience and the audience reacting: for example, saying that you have someone in your household can affect the audience, lead to fear, or lead to a house check. Or telling me that I have a CD signed by Michael Jackson allows me to see if the listener likes the singer, the reaction, and the attitude. As Searle (1969) further deepened the theory of verbal action proposed by his teacher Austin (1962) and distinguished two types of verbal action: direct and indirect verbal action. Searle (1969) also classifies illocutive action into five other classifications in it:

1. Representatives: The expression of a speaker's own point of view, judging the truth or falsehood of what is happening in a society.
2. Directives: It is a bold statement made in order to consolidate the intentions of others in one's own opinion, an attempt to influence the opinions of others.
3. Commissives: A statement to reverse the outcome of an event in accordance with the views expressed by the speaker. In other words, it may be a promise of a future situation.
4. Expressive: Expressing opinions politely using verbal actions in a mutually agreeable manner.
5. Declarations: an attempt to bring about change or reform, or used to make a statement, such as declaring someone guilty or starting a war.

The study of the practical application of the theory of speech acts in these five types is developed as follows as speech acts theory was first developed by John Austin and his student John Searl in 1961, giving rise to the term Speech Action Theory. After that, according to Crystal, speech act (the philosophy of linguistics considers a form of speech and the notion of verbal action) not only provides information, but also expresses it and performs a specific, appropriate action. For example: "I want to eat kimchi, please pass it on to me?" I believe that a speaker/and speaker can only become a real discourse if he or she expresses his or her desire in words and emotions, actions, facial expressions, and hand gestures. According to Kent Bach,

speech act is not only the result of speech, but also a set of actions. Depending on the speaker's intentions, the ideas may be interpreted differently.

The study herein highlights the different types available today to bring John Austin's ideas to life as the speech acts are a function of speech and discussion.

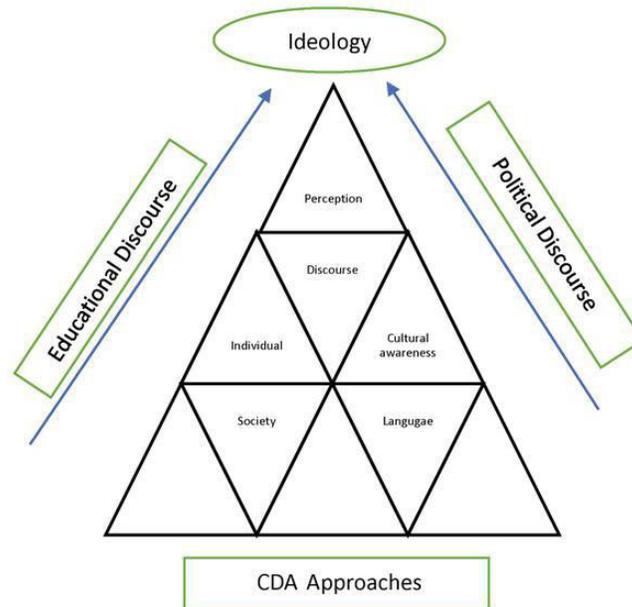


Fig 1. Speech acts and ideologies in discourse

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. The Aim

Based on John Austin's speech act theory and public speaking theory, this is believed that a language expresses the meaning and conveys it to others, therefore it is aimed to observe how persuasion, style, social exclusion, and participation are portrayed for specific purposes; and the main research is to identify a speech art, presentation, tone of voice, hand and other body language, gestures occurred in the speeches; this article is also to illustrate, locutive, and perlocutive actions in political discourse and speeches, including command and control, and the level of expression is the key to expressing the personal participation of political speakers in society.

#### 3.2. Data and Analysis

In this study, two political speeches by Elbegdorj Ts, a former president of Mongolia are selected; selected and in according to the speech act theory (the philosophy of linguistics, which is a form of speech, means not only giving information, but also expressing it and doing

something appropriate.) For example, “I want to tell one short story to you.”, the speaker expresses the desire to receive in words and emotions, actions, facial expressions, and hand gestures, and is considered to be a real discourse. Depending on the purpose, the idea can be interpreted differently. In modern research, the researcher J.L. Austin points out that different types of tools come to life. Speech acts after speech. Promises, orders, responses, complaints, warnings, invitations, rejections, congratulations, etc. Theoretically, The inquiry examines the speaker’s understanding of how to convey the speaker’s behavior to the client.

A skipping act or action is an action that is specifically used to convey an idea, promise, warn, command, or convey an idea to a speaker. (Cruse, 2000, p.331). The Speech Act consists of three separate parts (Searle, 1974):

(Locutionary act),

(Illocutionary act),

(Perlocutionary act).

Speech act (expression form): In terms of expression, the speaker uses the following two conditions to convey ideas to the listener: a locutionary act, a illocutionary act - Fictional and real or pretending and live speeches and there is another term used in the relevant studies which is speech event, the process by which speakers use a language to communicate with each other through a language in order to achieve a result, and can also be considered a prelocutionary act. Last one is a kind of conversation consisting of a number of integral parts: conveying the purpose of the conversation in a common language (such as jargon or politically used words, etc.) to understand the parties within the topic, such as: bringing them closer to jokes, stories, and greetings. etc.

Under the analysis, this discourse research, focusing on speech acts and event is led a person can do and create through language, using language as a tool of communication, and discourse ideas consist of various roles, units, and functions of communication.

The various speech act techniques of discourse expression are intended to express and respond to the expectations of the audience. This micro-study was developed on the basis of the theory of verbal function, as well as within speech acts. Before the theory of language was first developed, the concept of words that had a powerful effect on others was studied in the field of philosophy, and it is believed that the foundations of this research were laid. And the pragmatic content emphasizes the use of language by examining how a person’s actions relate to what they say and what they mean. This is also evidence that modern linguistics also focuses on the study of how words and sentences are used in pragmatic life, while discourse focuses on the study of written and spoken language and attempts to interpret them verbally. In the sense that discourse is a pragmatic basis for analysis, having a broad, diverse genre, and the study of speakers within the texts or speeches. Types of theoretical speech are used in the context of the speeches of political

leaders, explaining their wording and meaning in oral and written texts, and categorizing them accordingly. This is because, as mentioned in the examples above, speech acts bring meaning to the listeners in addition to words.

The verbal actions used by the speaker in the course of the speech include both his position on the topic and the personality of the speaker. Speakers of the above speeches, such as high-ranking government officials, have been observed to soften their persuasiveness, persuade, and encourage their public discourse in a manner that is more in line with their health needs.

It was observed that their speeches were aimed at supporting and approving their work, expressing their hopes for the support of the people, as well as signaling to the people that a bright future is coming soon, and announcing a positive support decision. It was clear from the content of the speeches that the aim was to reiterate the protection of fundamental interests. The first part of the study was based on the illocutive expression, which was a verbal act of communicating information to the public as softly as possible, in an explanatory manner, in a tone that was reassuring, comprehensible, collaborative, and supportive. For the selected subjects, the theory of verbal action provides a great opportunity to study how political leaders use language and communicate it to the public.

### 3.3. Findings and Discussion

Language is a powerful weapon in getting to the political thoughts and ideologies of politicians, this is said that political speeches create controversy rather than balance truth. Above studied, political speeches can be delivered to the public in text or oral form. Most politicians pay close attention to what they are saying, therefore, research on the theory of linguistic action is more effective with speech act theories for such speeches. According to the study, how language is used, how it affects people, and how it affects communication outcomes. From the findings and results on the speeches, discourse is not only a discourse to reiterate meanings, but also a complex or interconnected ideologies behind that. The two concepts of discourse and pragmatics study verbal function and the processes involved in language use and language communication. Types of oral and written discourse are those in which they express a higher level of meaning from purposeful speech; for a speaker, or listener, pragmatics is a study of language in use and semantic comparison. In addition, the concept of conversation in discourse is considered at a higher with proposition than the word, what sets the dialogue apart from the discourse is that it continues to take place and changes according to the topic. It is an exchange of information and a series of conversations. It can be observed from the tones of the human voice, gestures, other body languages, and so on. Current research in discourse analysis focuses on Elbegdorj, Ts, former president of Mongolia with two selected speeches according to the speech acts. From this study, we consider different intellectual and physical ideologies because the authors are different with their academic education, work experience, historical background, character, and worldview. Then necessary and highlighted facts and information from the study are as below in the tables.

**Table 1 Illocutionary Acts (A)**

<i>Illocutionary Acts</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Assertives</i>	8	40%
<i>Directives</i>	3	15%
<i>Commissives</i>	7	35%
<i>Expressives</i>	2	10%

**Table 2 Illocutionary Acts (B)**

<i>Illocutionary Acts</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Assertive</i>	3	17%
<i>Directives</i>	5	28%
<i>Commissives</i>	4	22%
<i>Expressives</i>	6	33%

Based on the data analysis,

- Speech Acts Analysis of “Two good news to share”
- Speech by Commissioner of ICDP Mr.Elbegdorj Tsakhia on 46th session of the Human Rights Council Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty

The following propositions analyzed are taken from the speech of Elbegdorj, Ts.

Locution:

S1: *“We Mongolians want the world enjoy peace.*

*We want any dispute be settled through dialogue.”*

S2: *I want to tell one short story to you. When I was sworn in as President of Mongolia, I faced with choice to commute or to continue to carry out death sentences. I chose life.*

Illocutionary act: Assertive (reporting). Expressive Perlocutionary effect: Belief.

Locution: S1: *“I am confident that the OSCE can serve as the best model for engagement and dialogue and cross-continental co-operation and shall be a leader in finding the solutions to the most pressing issues.”*

S2: *I would like to thank here the current High Commissioner Madame Bachelet for her star leadership for human rights at a very challenging time. My utmost gratitude to the chair of today’s discussion, President of the Human Rights Council Madame Nazhat Shameem Khan.*

Illocutionary act: Assertive (stating).Perlocutionary effect: Confidence.

Locution: S1: *I wish success to the proceedings of the Meeting.*

S2: *One trend I would like to make here as specially important. After we began the official campaign and practical measures to dismiss capital punishment, there was no increase of violent crimes in country.*

Illocutionary act: Commissive (promising). Perlocutionary effect:  
Encouragement and hopefulness.

Locution: S1: *"We do have the remarkable scientific and technologies achievements. We have a new, young, tech-savvy, open, creative generation."*

S2: *In today's world they are obsolete and outdated. Global practices show that human rights are firstly universal.*

Illocutionary act: Commissive (promising).

Perlocutionary act: Happiness and hopefulness.

Locution: S1: *"Mongolia views that the situation in Ukraine must be resolved by ceasefire and resolute enforcement of the Minsk Peace Plan."*

S2: *When discussion comes against or for death penalty, the argument of sovereign right or deterrent effect of death penalty are no longer valid.*

Illocutionary act: Commissive (offering and promising). Perlocutionary act:  
Encouragement and hopefulness.

Locution: S1: *"It is a great honor to participate in this distinguished panel to talk about the death penalty. Sanctity of human life is very important I assume that our blue planet will become more humane if there is no death penalty."*

S2: *It is a great honor to participate in this distinguished panel to talk about the death penalty. Sanctity of human life is very important I assume that our blue planet will become more humane if there is no death penalty.*

Illocutionary act: Directive (appealing). Perlocutionary effect: Inspiring.

Locution: S1: *"We know well. Europe lived through 30 years of mistrust and conflicts after World War 2. And the OSCE played a decisive role in finding the best way to end this impasse. And the process eventually ended the global Cold War."*

S2: *Finally, I would like to warmly congratulate the Honorable Minister of Chad for leading his country to become 107th abolitionist state. Now in our blue planet more than two-thirds of the States have abolished the death penalty in practice. We still have a lot to do. Let's be vigilant until the last death sentences are removed.*

Illocutionary act: Assertive (stating). Perlocutionary act: Loss of confidence.

Locution: S1: *"...Speaking straightforwardly, the situation in Ukraine might instigate misunderstanding and deep conflicts in Europe."*

S2: *When the debate comes to punishment, "no severity but certainty" matters more. Any punishment should not be final. Because it runs into destroying of innocent life.*

Illocutionary act: Commissive (offering).

Perlocutionary effect: discouragement, hopeless.

Locution: S1: *"...And apparently, the situation in Ukraine cannot be resolved through coercive means. Especially, posing sanctions and rejecting dialogue and engagement will not be the*

*means to solve the issue.”*

*S2: State killing has no moral justification. Because the state killing is intentional and violates the basics of human rights. Everywhere the state has a trust problem. When powers have right to kill, they always have a chance to abuse it. If you do not have sufficient trust for your government, don't trust death penalty.*

Illocutionary act: Commissive (promising).

Perlocutionary effect: Happiness and honor

Locution: 1: *“Lawmakers in any country are seen as the small people representing the greater people. We are profoundly honored and happy to host in our country such respectable individuals.”*

*S2: Now in our blue planet more than two-thirds of the States have abolished the death penalty in practice. We still have a lot to do. Let's be vigilant until the last death sentences are removed.*

Illocutionary act: Assertive (stating). Perlocutionary effect: Thanking

Locution: S1: *I wish success to the proceedings of the Meeting.*

*Thank you for your attention.*

*S2: In our Central Asia region Kazakhstan brought good news by joining the Second Optional Protocol. That means Central Asia and Mongolia are just one step away from becoming probably the first zone in the world without death penalty.*

Illocutionary act: Expressive (thanking).

Perlocutionary effect: Cheerfulness and gratitude.

Locution: S1: *“... I would like to thank here the current High Commissioner Madame Bachelet for her star leadership for human rights at a very challenging time. My utmost gratitude to the chair of today's discussion, President of the Human Rights Council Madame Nazhat Shameem Khan.”*

*S2: Also, I have one message to the people. Don't give to the state the right to kill. State killing has no moral justification.*

Illocutionary act: Directive (claiming).

Perlocutionary effect: Determining and accomplishing.

Locution: S1: *“Until this moment, we demonstrated that we wanted Renaissance to occur, now we are left with the most crucial part, we have to work and sacrifice ourselves to make it be successfully accomplished.”*

*S2: After two terms, eight years when I passed the presidency to my successor my country was no longer killing, the country was free of death penalty.*

Illocutionary act: Directive (requesting, demanding).

Perlocutionary effect: Inspiring and encouragement.

Locution: S1: *“I want to tell one short story to you. When I was sworn in as President of Mongolia, I faced with choice to commute or to continue to carry out death sentences. I chose life.”*

*S2: I want to tell one short story to you. When I was sworn in as President of Mongolia, I faced with choice to commute or to continue to carry out death sentences. I chose life.*

Illocutionary act: Commissive (promising).

Perlocutionary effect: Hopefulness and encouragement.

*S1: In the past 25 years Mongolia pursued peace-loving, open, multi-pillar foreign policy. We also recorded notable success in strengthening human rights and freedoms, rule of law and democracy. And we have been encountering challenges as well. Mongolia firmly upholds the policy of solving any international dispute by peaceful means, not interfering into internal affairs and without application of force.*

*S2: When I assumed the presidency in June 2009, my state was killing. After two terms, eight years when I passed the presidency to my successor my country was no longer killing, the country was free of death penalty.*

#### IV. RESEARCH CONCLUSION

*The analysis of the selected speeches by Elbegdorj Tsakhia:* Concepts of the theory of linguistic action are believed to have revolutionized the development of pragmatic discourse research. Although pragmatic research is not considered a complete study without the development of discourse analysis, these two disciplines have always been interrelated. In addition, political discourse research has been a major research topic in the use of language over the past few decades, attracting the attention of linguists. In this sense, political discourse is highly regarded as a field of analytical, in-depth research, creative, critical, non-conceptual critical research, including human action that works out at the level of social organization and governance. Therefore, the study will explore the role of language in communication and the motives, attitudes, and goals of speaker discourse by analyzing political speeches and speeches addressed to the public as part of discourse research, exposing specific speech theory in practice. Since the main purpose of political speeches was to persuade others, including the public, to do what the speaker is saying, the theory of rhetoric can be considered its most important driving force. This article is a linguistic analysis of the main content, attitudes, and motivations of political authorities to convey the message to the people, and how the theory of verbal action and its types, such as illocutive, locutive, and perlocutive. At this point, under the theories by Austin and John Searl, verbal action should be considered. According to the theoretical concept, selected speeches analyzed and developed with a classification based on the concepts derived from the theory of speech acts. The theory of verbal action dates back to the philosophical study of the notion that words have a powerful effect on others, rather than the theory of language. In conclusion after the analysis on selected speeches, language and words are considered having specific actions. It is believed that words become real when they are expressed with proposition to proposition by a phrase. For example, in Illocutive acts, action means through the speech: the

act of saying is the process of forming and acting. Suggesting and explaining a thing is a way of engaging the audience vice versa. In locative act: this is the process on how the speech are expressed and performed. But process starts when if the listener fulfills actions with the author's speech – called prelocutive act. Furthermore, political discourse has become a major area of language use and has long drawn the attention of researchers for many years. This is because political discourse is a complex human activity, above all at the center of organization and social governance, and this deserves serious researches on language usage. To sum up, this study investigates the role of language in the transmission and interpretation of intentions by exploring selected political speeches as a sort of speech with a specific goal, and identifying the purpose of which may have the hidden meaning, intent and attitude of the speaker.

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## APPENDIX

*Speech I by Ts. Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia, at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 2015 Autumn Meeting "TWO GOOD NEWS TO SHARE"*

Honorable President of the Assembly Mr. Ilkka Kanerva, Honorable members, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Forty years ago Helsinki hosted a meeting which laid down the foundation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

And, twenty five years ago, it was agreed to establish the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Paris. In July 1990 Mongolia held her first democratic, multiparty parliamentary election.

In September 1990 Mongolia established her first permanent Parliament and has been consistently implementing open and democratic policies.

We know well. Europe lived through 30 years of mistrust and conflicts after World War 2. And the OSCE played a decisive role in finding the best way to end this impasse. And the process eventually ended the global Cold War.

We Mongolians want the world enjoy peace.

We want any dispute be settled through dialogue.

And that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly would play an important role in this cause.

Honorable President of the Assembly,

The European continent has been the role model for the rest of the world for its prosperity, openness and freedom-loving spirit.

Speaking straightforwardly, the situation in Ukraine might instigate misunderstanding and deep conflicts in Europe.

And apparently, the situation in Ukraine cannot be resolved through coercive means.

Especially, posing sanctions and rejecting dialogue and engagement will not be the means to solve the issue.

Mongolia views that the situation in Ukraine must be resolved by ceasefire and resolute enforcement of the Minsk Peace Plan.

The charged situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa also are the hard challenges of our time. As a direct aftermath, the situation of refugees is exacerbating. There are many other emerging issues which might threaten the very existence of the mankind. All of this requires us to examine the situation from new angles, more broadly and comprehensively.

Nevertheless, there are two good news worth noting.

First. The humankind still possesses the means, the opportunities to solve any emerging challenge. We do have lessons. We do have the remarkable scientific and technologies achievements. We have a new, young, tech-savvy, open, creative generation.

Second, we have the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Some of the challenges are spilling over the boundaries of one continent. This necessitates creating security, co-operation open mechanisms in continents. I am confident that the OSCE can serve as the best model for engagement and dialogue and cross-continental co-operation and shall be a leader in finding the solutions to the most pressing issues.

Ladies and gentlemen, In the past 25 years Mongolia pursued peace-loving, open, multi-pillar foreign policy. We also recorded notable success in strengthening human rights and freedoms, rule of law and democracy. And we have been encountering challenges as well. Mongolia firmly upholds the policy of solving any international dispute by peaceful means, not interfering into internal affairs and without application of force.

These policies and stances enable Mongolia to be a permanently neutral, peace-loving and open country. This past Monday the Government of Mongolia made a decision on the permanent neutrality status of Mongolia. And the public discussions of the issue are continuing. And hereby Mongolia conveys to the international community, to foreign states, that Mongolia will further consolidate the success and achievements we recorded in our policies and actions of the past 25 years and shall unwaveringly continue to pursue our open, multi-pillar, neutral, active, peace-loving policy. And it is auspicious and important that this present Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly coincides with Mongolia's statement.

Lawmakers in any country are seen as the small people representing the greater people. We are profoundly honored and happy to host in our country such respectable individuals. We kindly ask for your understanding and wide support of Mongolia's peace-loving, neutral, active foreign policy. We have no doubt that our neighbors and other countries and international organizations with which Mongolia has maintained friendship would continue their active and constructive cooperation with Mongolia.

Mongolia shall further consolidate and strengthen our peace initiatives, openness and activity on international stage. We shall constructively cooperate with you. Mongolia's doors will always be open to peace talks and engagement. We shall always welcome cooperation for prosperity. We would be happy to share with the lessons we have and are learning. I wish success to the proceedings of the Meeting. Thank you for your attention.

Speech II by Commissioner of ICDP Mr.Elbegdorj Tsakhia on 46th session of the Human Rights Council Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty

Dear High Commissioner, dear President of the Human Rights Council, dear Minister of Justice, dear Professors, dear friends. It is a great honor to participate in this distinguished panel to talk about the death penalty. Sanctity of human life is very important I assume that our blue planet will become more humane if there is no death penalty. I want to tell one short story to you. When I was sworn in as President of Mongolia, I faced with choice to commute or to continue to carry out death sentences. I chose life. When I assumed the presidency in June 2009, my state was killing. After two terms, eight years when I passed the presidency to my successor my country was no longer killing, the country was free of death penalty.

Mongolia was not a soft place when it came to the death penalty in particular. Not long ago, Mongolia's record of death penalty was one of the worst in the world. According to Amnesty International, Mongolia carried out executions in secrecy. There was a total darkness. From that the experience of becoming death penalty free country was not easy.

To make it succinct, I will briefly tell you the chronology of those years.

- In June 2009, I began commuting death sentences.
- In January 2010, I announced single handedly the official moratorium on death penalty.
- In January 2012, my country became signatory to the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, the international treaty against death penalty.
- In July 2015, Mongolia's Parliament approved a new Penal code where we removed all capital offences.
- Since July 2017, that new Penal code come into effect.

From our experience, we learned so far three things.

First: Political will and continued leadership have played a central role.

Second: Step by step approach in decision making and international support were very important.

Third: Maintaining the status of the death penalty free country is crucial. Dear friends,

One trend I would like to make here as specially important. After we began the official campaign and practical measures to dismiss capital punishment, there was no increase of violent crimes in country.

Second trend could be of greater importance. There have been occasions to bring back death penalty. But, public opinion has shifted. There are increased voices that abolishing death penalty was good thing for Mongolia.

When discussion comes against or for death penalty, the argument of sovereign right or deterrent effect of death penalty are no longer valid. In today's world they are obsolete and outdated.

Global practices show that human rights are firstly universal. Secondly, from my experience, death penalty retentionist arguments based on deterrence are weak and not supported by the facts.

When the debate comes to punishment, “no severity but certainty” matters more. Any punishment should not be final. Because it runs into destroying of innocent life.

Also, I have one message to the people. Don’t give to the state the right to kill. State killing has no moral justification. Because the state killing is intentional and violates the basics of human rights. Everywhere the state has a trust problem. When powers have right to kill, they always have a chance to abuse it. If you do not have sufficient trust for your government, don’t trust death penalty.

Dear friends, I am a Commissioners of the International Commission against Death Penalty, which is led by the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Judge Navi Pillay. I would like to thank here the current High Commissioner Madame Bachelet for her star leadership for human rights at a very challenging time. My utmost gratitude to the chair of today’s discussion, President of the Human Rights Council Madame Nazhat Shameem Khan.

In our Central Asia region Kazakhstan brought good news by joining the Second Optional Protocol. That means Central Asia and Mongolia are just one step away from becoming probably the first zone in the world without death penalty.

Finally, I would like to warmly congratulate the Honorable Minister of Chad for leading his country to become 107th abolitionist state. Now in our blue planet more than two-thirds of the States have abolished the death penalty in practice. We still have a lot to do. Let’s be vigilant until the last death sentences are removed. Thank you for your attention.

## **AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY**



Munkhchimeg, Otgonchuluun born in 03.01.1992 at Bulgan province. She completed her bachelors in 2013 from National University of Mongolia. She obtained her master's in business from the Mokpo Maritime University in 2018. Currently she is pursuing Ph.D from the University of Humanities. She has expertise in Mandakh Gegee LLC in accord with translations, Blue Bandana, Seven Summit as an office assistant, Great expedition LLC and Blue Bandana LLC as a translator and guide, Clean Energy LLC, NewCom group and School of foreign languages and cultures, National University of Mongolia as an Intern.