



CENTRE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

# DEFENCE WHITE PAPER PROJECT

## A Review of the National Security Concept of Mongolia

Garima Sahu

Edited By: Aryan Gupta

## About the Author

**Garima Sahu** was a postgraduate student at the Jindal School of International Affairs.

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# Introduction

This report reflects on Mongolia's national security in their citizen's interest by accommodating the various social groups of their society. Mongolians have always been concerned about their national security and more so in recent decades. This is primarily due to their huge southern neighbour, China and on the north, Russia. Having said that, when we take a glance at Mongolia's geography: It lies in the Central-East region of Asia. It has international borders with the Republic of China in the south and Russia in the north. Furthermore, it has around 38 kilometres (about 23.61 mi) of international border with Kazakhstan on the west. Therefore, it is also called a 'landlocked' nation. This country is also a hub to some of Asia's largest mineral reserves, including copper, coal, and tin. Nevertheless, many of them remain untapped despite mining being a significantly profitable sector around the region. The investment into infrastructure required for industries such as, energy, construction, telecommunication, and transport will be critical for upcoming growth of the nation.

## Summary

The national security report of Mongolia, 2010, is in the interest of its citizens and the nation as a whole. As mentioned, the report distinctly addresses the country's civilization, autonomy, independence, geographical stability, and resistance to oppression of its boundaries, national unity, democratic setup, security, financial independence, and long-term environmental sustainability for the future. The primary goal of national security is to protect and ensure political sovereignty and integrity of the nation. The dominant promise for national protection should be congressional governance based on respect for human rights and liberties, the rule of law, and a liberal democratic structure based on social cohesion. Mongolia's national security will be achieved after the interaction between state, society and individual security has been set up. National history, language, culture, legacy, practices, and traditions must be protected and preserved as essential and crucial requirements for survival and strength of Mongolian individuality and nationality. It also implies that it is the state's duty to preserve Mongolia's past and to encourage future generations to learn about Mongolian culture, language, and history, increase research into the

Buddhist history of the country. Such influence not only helps the country to preserve history for the future but also for diplomatic missions.

## Economic Security

The country believes in the implementation of sustainable development model that assures economic progression and a natural habitat suitable for regional security and stability. They consider the above as the primary requirement for reaching economic security. To take this forward, they have a practical strategy divided into four segments as defined below:

First, the multi-pillared economic structure being a pivotal sector including natural resources, food, farming, vitality, public transit, data, and communications industry must be developed in compliance with global and EU (European Union) benchmarks to ensure the citizenry's basic requirement, financial viability, reliability and revenue generation. It also necessitates precision in the form of an open and accountable mining and mineral resource business. The evolution of the infrastructure must also be related to national security concerns, and financial profitability must be the deciding criteria. Importantly, safeguarding the local labour force while pursuing a persistent poverty eradication approach that includes the creation of secure employment. Next is a balanced investment strategy that paves the way for regional stakeholders to diversify their operations, boost their pattern evaluation in emerging economies, and perform a crucial vocation in the progression of financial prosperity, advancement, and improvement while developing an approach to improve and safeguard the fraction of the local investors. The budget and finance sector security promotes the establishment of a robust, resilient, and professionally managed financial sector that supports protracted national growth and development, and the foreign trade and integration policy.

## Internal Security

Mongolia's internal security includes safeguarding citizens' rights and voices, strengthening the constitution, aiding, rigorous powers to the citizenry, and social stability. To achieve internal security, it is important to enhance the federal sector's transparency and accountability to provide facilities to residents and adopt a system to attract professional and competent individuals for the

public sector. Also designing a digital democracy will ease and expediate the public services in cost effective manner. Overall, it suggests that the base for securing state security, unification and agreement must also lay on decent social moral behaviour, proper social motivation, and access to discuss liberal standards. Strengthening the press's autonomy and independence, strengthen media personnel's accountability, and individual's moral standards, and sustain societal peace.

## Human Security

The foundations for aid of human security should be the creation of a safe and comfortable daily environment, the provision of food availability, the provision of secure habitation, and the protection of a Mongolian from being the target of theft or violence. Strengthen global cooperation in this area by intensifying a collaboration and awareness campaign to protect citizens against criminality. Also, it's the government's duty to keep in mind the citizens living near the border areas and their safety.

## Natural Environment Security

Sustaining ecological order, preserving water resources, lessening the consequences of climate change and habitat destruction, prevention of harm from wide range of biological inadequacies, and lowering the risk of carbon emissions, environmental catastrophes, and hardships should also be preconditions for encouraging safe human existence as well as the conservation of Mongolia's natural habitat. The report suggests ways to protect the ecology such as: Implementing a series of research measures to investigate, conserve, and mitigate the exploitation of natural ecosystem elements such as woods, lakes, streams, flora, and fauna. Offer highly renewable growth by assessing the biological implications of natural asset use. Ensure an informed sustainable and environmental evaluation of environmental assets and set up a financial mechanism for any environmental harm.

## Information Security

Assuring strategic interests in data and preserving data integrity, secrecy, and accessibility for the administration, citizens, and private institutions must serve as the foundation for information security. As data and information security are critical for ensuring public safety, promoting national growth, instilling national ideals, and developing civic intelligence. Minimise actions by foreign forces and agencies that affect Mongolian's cognitive construction, societal security, personal knowledge, and morality. Gain the ability to undermine or contradict any data that fosters or encourages hostility, bigotry, or prejudice and cultivate a societal attitude that rejects such attempts made towards breaching any information. Later the report is followed up with the goals to achieve national security in the country, Mongolia.

## Analysis

Mongolia's economy is heavily reliant on its mining industry, but the nation does not fully use its natural resources. Overseas companies presently control the mining industry. Mongolia is deprived of future revenue due to the lack of robust industrial foundation since raw commodities are exported with hardly any economic benefit. Recently, world bank claimed that Mongolia's budget is narrowed by 3.1% for the year 2021<sup>1</sup>. Mongolia's financial prosperity is critical to the state's prosperity as it tries to keep foreign relations warm with its larger neighbours, China and Russia. In a complicated world, a strong economy is part of the political toolkit for protecting and supporting Mongolia's Strategic goals.

According to the Mongolian national security concept 2010, "national sovereignty must be ensured by the interplay between the protection of Mongolia's existence, financial stability, domestic security, national rights, environmental security, and information security."<sup>2</sup> According to Mongolia's National security concept, "Economic security is an adaption of an environment safe for conflict prevention." Furthermore, the Mongolians must prioritise national security concepts

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank Group. (2022, April 18). *Mongolia: Reforms crucial to navigate stronger headwinds*. World Bank. Retrieved May 4, 2022, from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/19/mongolia-reforms-crucial-to-navigate-stronger-headwinds>

<sup>2</sup> Embassy of Mongolia, Mongolian National Security Concepts, accessed October 1, 2016. [http://www.nsc.gov.mn/sites/default/files/images/NationalSecurity\\_Concept20of20Mongolia\\_EN.pdf](http://www.nsc.gov.mn/sites/default/files/images/NationalSecurity_Concept20of20Mongolia_EN.pdf)

and emphasise that while growing the resource sectors, Mongolia must prevent national and international disputes, as well as minimise an over-reliance on trade.

Border protection of the country is again one of the principal factors due to its landlocked geography. It is important to make some reforms and instil rigorous training sessions. Changes must focus on the issues along the demarcation line and border control specialists should design a new regulation to defend the boundary. Second, the Border Force service in Mongolia must be reorganized. Mongolia should bring all line of control policies under one roof. There are currently many disputes among these. Third, instead of distributing wealth throughout the country, specialized border enforcement techniques should be designed and deployed along different stretches of the international demarcations. Whereas, in the current situation, there is a significant trust imbalance amongst the most sophisticated military partnerships. There is currently no security coordination framework in place. Therefore, I think that the above suggested reforms will strengthen national security.

## **Conclusion**

Mongolia should concentrate on its overall efforts on developing national security to support different level of developments in different sectors and enhance ways of securing national security.

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