



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia



Institute for Strategic Studies of Mongolia

ULAANBAATAR DIALOGUE International Conference

The Concept Note

The Ministry Foreign Affairs and the Institute for Strategic Studies of Mongolia will jointly organize **the Eleventh Ulaanbaatar Dialogue (UBD) from 04-05 June 2026**.

During the past decade, Dialogue has firmly established itself as a credible and constructive platform for fostering dialogue among countries of Northeast Asia and beyond. The UBD consistently brings together senior government officials, scholars, and experts to exchange views on pressing regional security challenges, confidence-building measures, economic and energy cooperation, infrastructure connectivity, as well as environmental and broader security issues.

Based on Mongolia's long-standing peace-oriented principles and enduring commitment to multilateralism, the UBD aims to provide a neutral, inclusive, and forward-looking platform for Northeast Asian States. This year's conference consists of the following sessions.

Session One: Security Challenges and Opportunities in Northeast Asia

This session will serve as a platform for regional experts, policymakers and academics to analyze and discuss key security challenges and opportunities in Northeast Asia. Discussions will address a range of pressing security issues, including dynamics of US - China relations, China - Japan relations, Japan's security posture, Russia's role in the region, implications of North Korea's nuclear developments, inter-Korean relations, rise in military expenditures, and impact of alliances such as US - Japan, US - South Korea, and Russia - North Korea partnerships.

While security risks remain high in Northeast Asia, the opportunities for diplomatic engagement, regional confidence-building, and economic cooperation are also present. Drawing on regional security expertise and country-specific perspectives, this session will explore policy recommendations and potential pathways toward a stable and peaceful Northeast Asia.

Session Two: Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation Pathways

Session Two will welcome global experts, policy-practitioners, and scholars to explore practical and sustainable measures of preventive diplomacy and mediation for Northeast Asia. Even though state and non-state actors have sought ways to increase confidence and trust through various confidence-building measures (CBMs), the region still lacks a formal, overarching mechanism of preventive diplomacy and mediation.

Discussions will focus on realistic steps and practices for designing and implementing long term confidence-building mechanisms and ways to build the regional capacity of mediation and preventative diplomacy. While security rivalries and historical grievances remain significant obstacles, there are hopes and efforts for dialogue and cooperation in Northeast Asia.

Session Three: Emerging Security Challenges (Artificial Intelligence)

This session will examine how new technologies are shaping states and societies. Particular attention will be given to artificial intelligence (AI). In today's world, AI-enabled tools can strengthen early warning, hazard mapping, logistics, and resource allocation-supporting effective adaptation and disaster response. However, they also introduce new challenges, ranging from cyber vulnerabilities, disinformation, algorithmic bias, opaque decision-making to potential escalation risks if AI-informed assessments are misinterpreted or unreliable.

The session will explore how countries can responsibly harness AI for resilience while mitigating security risks through governance, transparency, and cooperation. It will consider practical approaches for international collaboration, including data sharing for early warning, joint preparedness exercises, public-private coordination for critical infrastructure protection, and development of shared principles for safe and accountable use of AI in security-related contexts.

Session Four: Connectivity between Northeast and Central Asia

Session four explores opportunities and challenges of fostering regional cooperation between Central Asia and Northeast Asia by welcoming scholars and experts from both regions. Given Mongolia's unique geopolitical position - not only between China and Russia, but also between two dynamic regions - Mongolia could serve as a multilateral platform for academics from Central and Northeast Asia.

Participants will engage in discussions on key issues related to peace and security, economic cooperation, and share their insights, experiences, and best practices. While both regions have distinct historical trajectories, they also share common strategic interests for peace and prosperity.

Northeast Asia is home to strong economies but lacks a formal regional economic mechanism, whereas Central Asia is more economically fragmented yet benefits from Russia and China-led frameworks such as the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This session aims to identify pathways for regional connectivity, addressing institutional gaps and exploring synergies between the two regions.

Session 5: Green Power Corridors connecting Northeast and Central Asia

Building on the discussions in Session 4, this Session aims to dive deeper into the potential for power system connectivity between Northeast Asia and Central Asia. Enhanced power system connectivity between Northeast Asia and Central Asia offers significant opportunities to support the energy transition, strengthen regional energy security, and accelerate the large-scale integration of renewable energy. For landlocked and energy-exporting countries in particular, power connectivity can also support economic diversification and deepen regional cooperation.

Within this context, ESCAP's Green Power Corridor (GPC) Framework provides a structured approach for advancing cross-border and subregional power connectivity by linking high-quality renewable energy generation areas with demand centers through coordinated infrastructure development, policy and regulatory alignment, and institutional cooperation. Mongolia's vast wind and solar resources, combined with its strategic geographic position between Northeast Asia and Central Asia, present a compelling case for exploring the development of a Mongolia–China–Central Asia Green Power Corridor.

This session will exchange perspectives on the opportunities, challenges and practical pathways for developing this potential green power corridor. Participants will share views on technical, regulatory, institutional and investment considerations, and discuss how the GPC Framework can be applied to support phased and cooperative development of cross-border power connectivity between Northeast Asia and Central Asia, contributing to a more integrated, sustainable and low-carbon regional energy system.

The conference participants will be responsible for their own accommodation and travel expenses. The organizers will cover the cost of local transportation and cultural events. Meals will be provided during the conference.

Please refer to the UBD2026 website at <https://ubd.iss.gov.mn/> for more information. For further inquiries, please contact the UBD organizing team at ubdialogue2026@iss.gov.mn.

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