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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE  
FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 27th OSCE ECONOMIC  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Vienna, 28 and 29 January 2019

**Promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through  
energy co-operation, new technologies, good governance and connectivity  
in the digital era**

**Opening session**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the participants in the First Preparatory Meeting for the 27th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. We should like to thank in particular the Slovak Chairmanship, the distinguished Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Ambassador Vuk Žugić, and his team for drawing up an ambitious agenda for our event and selecting interesting speakers.

The proposed topic for discussion – “Promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through energy co-operation, new technologies, good governance and connectivity in the digital era” – is fairly broad and includes the entire spectrum of issues of relevance to all OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation without exception. These include good governance and connectivity during the transition to a digital economy, and the use of modern digital technologies for the development of energy co-operation and fighting corruption. The OSCE has already gained some experience in a number of these areas, while others have to be developed further.

We note, on the positive side, the continuity of this preparatory meeting’s agenda with the Italian Chairmanship’s results in the second basket, first and foremost the decision adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting on the digital economy.

The introduction of modern digital technologies is an important factor in economic progress. We believe that the development of international co-operation in “digitalization” helps to strengthen connectivity and, ultimately, build a common economic space on the Eurasian continent.

Greater use should be made of the achievements of the digital economy to fight corruption. As President Vladimir Putin said in his address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on 1 March 2018, digitalization of the public administration system is a powerful factor in fighting corruption. The Russian Federation is currently in the process of transferring the work of State bodies to an electronic format. In particular, the ongoing transition of the public procurement system to a digital format reduces the human influence and hence the possibility for corruption. The expert community in Russia is also working on the creation of a digital platform for co-operation between businesses and the public sector.

Digital technologies play an ever increasing role in the energy sector as well. In particular, digitalization is a key driver of technological change in the Russian fuel and energy complex. Modern technologies, primarily big data and machine learning, provide new opportunities for data analysis, enabling us to manage energy production, transportation and consumption more efficiently.

These and other changes are reflected in the Digital Energy project, which is part of the government-approved programme entitled “The Digital Economy of the Russian Federation”.

Very noticeable technological transformations are taking place in the Russian electrical energy sector, primarily related to the use of renewable energy sources. At the same time, the State plays an important role in the digital transformation of the electrical energy sector by establishing minimum standards for digital solutions and ensuring the flexibility of regulatory policy and the security of the solutions implemented.

We look forward to a substantive and fruitful discussion here in Vienna. We are in favour of continuing to develop constructive and depoliticized dialogue and preserving the unifying nature of the OSCE economic and environmental dimension.

Thank you for your attention.