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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
CONCLUDING MEETING OF THE 24th OSCE ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 14 to 16 September 2016

**Strengthening stability and security through co-operation
on good governance**

Opening session

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We join in welcoming the participants to the concluding meeting of the 24th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on the theme of “Strengthening stability and security through co-operation on good governance”.

We should like in particular to thank the German Chairmanship and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Halil Yurdakul Yiğitgüden, for the excellent organization of this event and the interesting and comprehensive agenda.

The issue of good governance is firmly established on the agenda of the Organization’s second dimension of activities. The principles of good governance are key to promoting business, help to attract investment and have a positive impact on the general economic situation in countries overall. Ensuring the smooth and cross-border circulation of goods, services and labour, as well as fighting corruption and managing migration flows are prerequisites for stable economic development.

The OSCE participating States are faced with countless threats and challenges in the economic and environmental sphere, which require consolidated efforts, increased cross-border co-operation and local, national, regional and international capacity-building. This difficult economic situation is exacerbated by the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis and the repeated imposition of reciprocal sanctions.

We believe that the OSCE has proved itself as an appropriate international forum that enables participating States, even when they have different approaches, to search for new opportunities to develop co-operation. The Organization could make a positive contribution to stepping up dialogue among countries and act as a catalyst for international co-operation

through the exchange of best practices and experience in the economic and environmental sphere.

We commend the preparatory events held for the 2016 Economic and Environmental Forum in Vienna in January and in Berlin in May, along with the business forum organized by the German OSCE Chairmanship in Berlin in May 2016 on the theme of “Connectivity for Commerce and Investment”.

We are looking forward to continuing serious and productive expert dialogue here in Prague with a view to gaining a better understanding of the problems facing all of the participating States without exception.

We stand ready to play an active part in reaching agreement on a possible Ministerial Council document in Hamburg on the subject of good governance and economic connectivity summarizing the main results of the 2016 Economic and Environmental Forum. We have studied with interest the food-for-thought paper on this subject distributed ahead of the Forum by the German Chairmanship and consider it to be a good basis for further discussions. At the same time, we are obliged to note that it will not be easy to achieve significant practical results at a time of continuing economic sanctions, which are leading to the creation of new dividing lines between OSCE States and the entrenchment of old ones.

Thank you for your attention.