

**OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum 1<sup>st</sup> Preparatory Meeting  
Vienna 14-15 February 2022**

**Closing Statement by the Delegation of Armenia**

The Delegation of Armenia closely followed the conduct and discussions of the first preparatory meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum under the Polish Chairmanship and would like to make the following closing remarks.

Our discussions reaffirmed strong link between corruption and security problems the importance of the implementation of commitments on tackling corruption, in particular corruption of high level public officials.

Armenia's economic reforms are aimed at creating favourable environment for revealing the potential of our citizens and protection of their social and economic rights. Innovative education and development of human capital are crucial in this regard.

We once again would like to stress the importance of safeguarding the human rights of the population in the entire OSCE area in all aspects of economic and environmental dimension including human rights of the people residing in conflict zones. Against the backdrop of COVID 19 pandemic it is of utmost importance to reach out to the people residing in conflict zones to address dire economic and humanitarian situation.

Our discussions demonstrate that there is a need to once again remind of our agreed commitments stemming from the Hamburg Ministerial decision on Connectivity, which reaffirmed that our economic co-operation should be based on solidarity, transparency, equal and non-discriminatory partnership, mutual accountability, and full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States, including through minimizing negative impact of actions in the economic field on other participating States.

However, we deplore that these discussions turned into another missed opportunity to engage in genuine and constructive dialogue to utilize the potential of the second dimension, in line with our agreed commitments and principles.

In this regard, we emphasize that such meetings should also serve to increase the profile and efficiency of this organization in ensuring implementation of our

principles and commitments. It is regrettable that this objective was not captured by all keynote speakers of this meeting.

In closing, let me express the hope that the OSCE Polish Chairmanship will take necessary measures to prevent in the future attempts to misuse this forum for promotion of misleading one-sided narratives and perceptions.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.