

25<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum  
“Greening the economy and building partnerships for security in the OSCE region”

Prague, 06-08 September

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Opening statement  
Armenia

ENGLISH only

Mr. Moderator,

At the outset we would like to thank the Austrian Chairmanship, the OCEEA and the Czech authorities for organization of the Economic and Environmental Forum. Our thanks go to distinguished speakers for their comprehensive presentations.

We approached this final stage with already detailed elaborations on the topic of good governance and prevention of corruption, connectivity and economic participation, rebuilding economic partnerships in conflict regions, green economy and renewable energy, to name a few.

We are pleased to note that the agenda of the Forum summarizes and incorporates all topics, discussed throughout the year and meantime represents both economic and environmental pillars of the second dimension in a balanced manner.

Environmentally friendly economy is a high priority for Armenia. We have registered significant progress in this field together with our partners, namely OSCE Office in Yerevan and wide network of Aarhus Centres in Armenia, which has helped to enhance the role of green indicators in economic decision making and raise awareness of local communities in the field of environment. Despite the attempts of certain participating States to undermine cooperation of Armenia with international community, including through attacking and closure of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, we will continue to implement our commitments in the second dimension in good faith.

Membership of Armenia in the EITI is another important step to promote good environmental governance and reduce environmental risks in cooperation with civil society.

Economic participation is an important factor to promote realization of economic and social rights and the right to development for all. In this regard we fully share the view of Ambassador Chatardova that equal economic participation is a human right and the only option, which we have is to ensure its full protection. Inclusive economic participation, encompassing also conflict areas can promote trust and confidence through development of cross-border cooperation in trade, transport, water management and other areas of economy.

OSCE needs to pay more attention to promoting the right of peoples to development, free from reprisals and unilateral coercive measures, in the entire OSCE region. We attach importance to using the OSCE expertise in conflict cycle in promoting inclusive economic participation and sustainable development in the conflict areas.

We are looking forward to constructive and result oriented discussions on how to further enhance cooperation in promoting environmentally friendly economy and building partnerships for security in the OSCE area.

Thank you.