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EEF.DEL/45/21  
9 September 2021

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE CONCLUDING MEETING OF THE 29th OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 9 and 10 September 2021

### **Promoting comprehensive security, stability and sustainable development in the OSCE area through women's economic empowerment**

#### **Opening session**

Madam Chairperson,

The discussions during the two preparatory meetings for the 2021 Economic and Environmental Forum confirmed the great relevance of the topic of women's economic empowerment. In our opinion, the ideas and recommendations put forward by the participants in the meetings provide a good basis for joint constructive work on the possible renewal of the commitments in this area adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius in 2011.

Aspects of this topic related to the coronavirus pandemic and post-pandemic economic recovery deserve special attention. We also believe it is necessary to consider the broad impact of the evolution of digital technologies, especially on women's employment and training. Moreover, under the current circumstances, in which the global economy and many national economies are in crisis, we consider it a priority to take measures to support women and protect their social and economic rights.

In our country, from the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the authorities focused on helping women with children. Supplementary benefits were introduced for families with children, unemployment benefits were increased and the procedure for receiving social assistance was simplified.

Russian women are universally oriented towards full-time employment and career growth, but they are characterized by a commitment to traditional family values, including giving birth and raising children. In this regard, the State is seeking to create conditions for women to combine family and professional life in an optimal manner. While continuing to implement programmes for the protection of motherhood and childhood and to provide material incentives to increase the birth rate, the Russian authorities are taking measures to ensure the more active involvement of women in all spheres of social relations.

Thanks to the National Action Strategy for Women, the Strategy for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, the National Programme "Digital Economy" and other instruments being implemented in the Russian Federation and aimed, among other things, at removing the barriers faced by

women entrepreneurs, our country has achieved a fairly high representation of women in various senior posts in government agencies and business – at over 40 per cent.

We are sharing our experience in increasing women's participation in the economy through multilateral formats. Notably, the third Eurasian Women's Forum, which is jointly organized by parliamentarians from Russia and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, will be held in St. Petersburg from 13 to 15 October this year. The main theme of this year's Forum is "Women: A Global Mission in a New Reality". We have invited representatives of the OSCE and other international organizations to the event. We are looking forward to their active participation.

We hope to continue the fruitful discussions during our Concluding Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum. We wish its participants success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.