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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 30th OSCE ECONOMIC
AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Łódź, 23 and 24 May 2022

**Promoting security and stability in the OSCE area through sustainable economic
recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

Opening session

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the participants in the Second Preparatory Meeting for the 30th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. Its agenda has been drawn up in accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 1433 of 10 December 2021 and looks very interesting.

At the same time, we take a negative view of the highly politicized opening session. The representative of Ukraine made false accusations against Russia, “forgetting” to mention that Ukrainian armed formations are blowing up bridges across rivers on a massive scale; they are creating provocations by causing explosions in chemical storage facilities and, on 4 March of this year, on the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. They have laid hundreds of moored contact mines on the approaches to Ukraine’s Black Sea ports.

Returning to the central theme of the Forum, we note that the global incidence of COVID-19 has declined significantly. This is encouraging and sets the stage for a sustainable post-pandemic recovery of economies, notably through the introduction of digital technologies and innovation, the improvement of energy efficiency, the increase in the use of renewable sources of energy and the promotion of green growth.

However, the illegal unilateral restrictive measures that have been imposed by Western countries against Russia are having a devastating effect on the post-pandemic recovery. In the OSCE area and the world as a whole, the so-called “sanctions” and “sanction packages” have caused a slowdown in business activity; disruption to transport, logistics and supply chains; higher prices for energy resources and haulage services; and additional inflation.

In the current circumstances, the Russian Federation is nevertheless confidently pursuing a course of further improvement of the public administration of natural resource use.

In April of this year, draft amendments to the Forest Code of the Russian Federation and to the Federal Act of 2021 on Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions were submitted for public discussion. The amendments have been made so as to be able to implement climate-related projects in the forestry sector in our country, which will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. According to preliminary estimates, the total contribution to carbon sequestration by 2030 as a result of climate-related projects in Russia will amount to 100 million tonnes per year. Furthermore, half of this contribution is expected to come from forest-related climate projects.

Russia previously announced plans to achieve a carbon-neutral economy by no later than 2060 and is implementing the corresponding Strategy for socio-economic development with a low level of greenhouse gas emissions until 2050.

We believe that the transition of different countries to such development with a low level of emissions should be gradual and balanced and take into account national contexts. There is a need to formulate a low-emission economy model to reduce emissions by developing renewable energy sources, hydropower and nuclear energy, but also by significantly increasing the efficiency of hydrocarbon use. In that context, it is important to promote international co-operation in the development of new technologies, including hydrogen technologies.

An example of this approach is the construction of the Snowflake International Arctic Station on the Yamal peninsula in the north of Western Siberia and in the Murmansk region. It will be a fully autonomous diesel-free research facility powered by renewable energy sources and hydrogen fuel.

Mr. Chairperson,

We continue to believe that broad international co-operation is a priority both in the OSCE area and at the global level. Only by working together can we find an optimal balance between economic development and the preservation of the environment for the current and future generations.

We shall work towards this at the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum events this year. May the meeting participants enjoy fruitful discussions!

Thank you for your attention.