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**Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of
energy-related activities in the OSCE region**

**Session I: Strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks and fostering international
co-operation to prevent adverse environmental impacts of energy activities**

The National Environmental Monitoring System of the Republic of Belarus and its
contribution to stability, security and reducing environmental damage from energy-related
activities in the OSCE region

Slide 1

Monitoring and risks:

- Measures to mitigate environmental risks and reduce their level (later: risk management) “include developing and putting into practice a set of rapid-reaction and long-term measures to prevent and neutralize risks, challenges and threats to national security” (*The National Security Framework of the Republic of Belarus*);
- Monitoring the environment is a key element of such a set of measures when ensuring environmental – including radiation – safety, helping to guarantee stability, security, and a reduction in harm to the environment as a result of energy-related activities in the OSCE region.

Slide 2

Monitoring the environment: from a brown economy to a green one

1927

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1930

Slide 3

The objectives and tasks of the environmental monitoring system in today's context:

- Solving the problem of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; the transition to a low-carbon economy;
- Developing policies to introduce “green” instruments;
- Tightening technical thresholds for emissions of pollutants;
- Renewable sources and energy saving;
- Introducing modern, scientifically-proven approaches to natural resource management, including methods of rationally exploiting all types of resources.

Slide 4

The National Environmental Monitoring System of the Republic of Belarus brings together 11 types of monitoring that are independent but passed on common principles. It is based on a standardized system for collecting, processing, analysing and assessing information acquired using a scientifically-tested network with more than 4,000 monitoring stations that appear on the State register of monitoring stations.

Slide 5

Main outcomes:

- There is a need to further develop the System, both in terms of coming into line with new trends in economic development, including the principles of the “green economy” and ensuring sustainable development, as well as in terms of introducing new technologies for monitoring, collecting, processing, storing and presenting information;
- The System's results make it possible to create an information bank so that the Republic of Belarus can fulfil its commitments under international environmental conventions and treaties;
- The System's results make it possible to create an information bank to ensure sustainable natural resource management and to assess environmental damage where events have an impact on the environment, including in the case of a natural or man-made disaster in the OSCE region.

Slide 6

The Republic of Belarus in the context of European approaches:

- A feature of the assessment of the results provided by the System is that since 2011, analysis based on the results of monitoring has been presented taking into account environmental indicators;

- The listed environmental indicators have been drawn up based on a set of environmental indicators recommended by the Committee on Environmental Policy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Slide 7

Conclusions:

- Currently, environmental monitoring is an important tool in ensuring radiation safety, stability and security. It also helps to mitigate environmental damage caused by energy-related activities in the OSCE region;
- The results of monitoring can be used as indicators for sustainable development, green growth and the principles of the “green economy”.

Slide 8

Conclusions:

- The National Environmental Monitoring System is an integral component of the system for managing the state of the environment. This is because information on the current state of the environment and how it is changing forms the basis for developing environmental protection policies and planning the socio-economic development of the country;
- In order to ensure environmental safety, the Republic of Belarus needs to constantly improve its system for environmental (including radiation) monitoring so that it can respond appropriately to new threats to radiation safety, a worsening of existing such threats, or changes in the information needed by the State or the general public. The decision to build a nuclear power plant in our country makes this task all the more relevant.