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30th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
“Promoting security and stability in the OSCE area through
sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”
Concluding Meeting

Prague, 08 September 2022

Opening Statement by the Delegation of Armenia
as delivered by Ambassador Armen Papikyan

Mr Moderator,

Allow me to begin by thanking the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland H.E. Zbigniew Rau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, H.E. Jan Lipavský and the OSCE Secretary General Helga Maria Schmid for their opening remarks.

I also join others in thanking the Polish OSCE Chairmanship, the Czech authorities and the OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities Ambassador Igli Hasani, and his team for organizing the 30th Economic and Environmental Forum.

Dear colleagues,

Against the backdrop of deep security crisis in Europe, our discussions on a number of pertinent issues such as innovative and digital economy, human capital development, good governance remain highly topical. The focus of this year's Forum on promoting security and stability in the OSCE area through sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder of continuous challenges and humanitarian impact of pandemic which necessitate urgent steps in ensuring the unhindered access to those in extreme need, particularly people residing in conflict zones. In doing so, we should be guided by the inalienable right of all people to “freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development”.

Mr Chairman,

We note with satisfaction the continued focus on combating corruption and its inclusion in the agenda of the Forum. It is not a secret, that corruption undermines the foundations of democratic states and societies, hindering the development and progress, thus directly affecting the well-being of people and posing serious threat to national and global security. Therefore, fighting corruption always remains highly relevant and timely.

The recurrences of infamous state-led malign practices of channeling corrupt proceeds into international organizations and parliamentary assemblies, bribing foreign officials with the aim to silence criticism for dire human rights situation and to whitewash one's image is a point in case.

The fight against corruption remains a priority for the Government of Armenia. With the support and recommendations of its international partners, notably the OSCE as well as civil society, Armenia continues to improve its instruments to fight corruption.

In this regard we are pleased that Ms. Mariam Galstyan, Commissioner from Corruption Prevention Commission of Armenia will present experience of our country on this highly important issue.

Mr. Moderator,

This year marks thirty years of Economic and Environmental Forum process and Twenty-five years of the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities.

These are indeed important anniversaries, which provide good opportunity to take stock of the current state of affairs and to focus on the achievements, shortcomings and the way ahead.

First, over the years the OSCE has developed clear-cut profile in the field of Economic Environmental dimension emanating from number of decisions, declarations and commitments. OSCE as the largest regional Security Organization must be able to fulfil its mission in addressing economic, social and environmental threats to security in strict compliance with its mandate.

Second, concrete actions should be taken to safeguard full implementation of our commitments. Principles of economic cooperation, identified in the 2003 Maastricht Strategy, namely equal and non-discriminatory partnership, full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States and minimizing negative impact of actions in the economic field on other participating States should be implemented in good faith. So far, there is a huge gap between the essence of those principles and their practical realization. Obviously, application of non-transparent instruments for the implementation of non-consensual projects is a step in the opposite direction.

Third, OSCE's comprehensive concept of security presumes that economic and environmental activities and policies cannot be projected in isolation and they should bring the added value in promoting peace, stability and protection of Human Rights. To this end OSCE's economic and environmental policies should promote inclusive economic participation and uphold the right of peoples to development encompassing also conflict zones.

On a final note, we look forward to constructive and fruitful discussions and stand ready to contribute to the Forum by sharing our experiences and best practices.

Thank you.