

**Opening Statement by
H.E. Leonid KOZHARA,
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
at the 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the 21st
OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
(Kiev, 16 April 2013)**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you this morning to the 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum, here in the Diplomatic Academy in Kyiv.

During the next two days participants of the meeting will be generating substantive food-for-thought on how to enhance security and stability by improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE area.

This is not an easy task, of course.

Nevertheless, I am convinced that excellent speakers as well as the selection of relevant issues will contribute to the success of our event.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship has carefully selected topics for 2013 Economic and Environmental Forum cycle.

We have chosen the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, renewable sources of energy, energy savings and energy efficiency as main lines for our discussions.

We hope these themes would unite the participating States in an open discussion on challenges and opportunities faced by the OSCE in the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

Indeed, we are convinced that energy efficiency can slow down the global energy demand increase, reduce our household and business energy bills and decrease energy related greenhouse pollution.

The Second Preparatory Meeting is designed to look for ways to promote such efficiency and sustainability.

The debates will place strong emphasis on strengthening co-operation in the fields of new and renewable sources of energy, recent innovations and technology transfer, as well as in the development of green growth and green economy.

Possible ways to better orientate our co-operation with relevant stakeholders will also be analyzed. Key representatives of civil society, the private sector and major international partners are our privileged participants to this debate.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Energy is a subject with many different aspects.

The world's population will continue to grow in the next decades. The energy demand is likely to increase.

Recent studies have pointed out that today, worldwide, 64% of electricity supply comes from fossil fuels, 16% from nuclear power and 19% from hydro energy, with very little from other renewable sources.

This energy mix has implications for climate change and de-carbonization efforts. The need to mitigate the environmental footprint of energy related activities provides us with many challenges and tasks.

Still, discussing the challenges is only part of our Organization's energy dialogue during this year's Forum cycle.

The good news is that solutions to these challenges hold the potential for green job creation, innovation in our economies, and green growth.

Sustainable economic growth, as well as the provision of security in both the supply and demand of energy, is an integral part of the OSCE's mandate of comprehensive security. We should find ways to consolidate our efforts in this area.

In order to foster an economic environment where innovation and green growth is possible, it is necessary to provide for a stable investment climate.

Public private partnerships are also important. Neither the corporate sector nor the governmental sector alone is able to provide innovative solutions to today's energy challenges. I do hope that we will hear about best practices in this field today and tomorrow.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The First Preparatory Meeting in Vienna witnessed a fruitful discussion about the challenges of the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE area.

I would consider our proceedings in Kiev today and tomorrow to be a success if we would hear about specific and realistic recommendations that could be later translated into relevant OSCE decisions.

I would therefore like to encourage all of you to actively participate in the discussions and to contribute to pave the way to the Concluding Forum Meeting in Prague.

I thank you.