

Vienna, 8 December 2017

**DECLARATION OF THE 2017 AUSTRIAN OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP
AND THE CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMITTEE KAZAKHSTAN ON GREENING OUR ECONOMIES
AND FOSTERING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION**

The Chairmanship-in-Office and the Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee,

After a year long of constructive consultations and engaging negotiations, the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee are appreciating the active participation and broad support of all participating States in almost achieving a consensus,

Reaffirming and recalling the commitments and principles related to environmental co-operation contained in the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, the Ministerial Council Declaration on Environment and Security adopted in Madrid in 2007, the Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening Dialogue and Co-operation on Energy Security adopted in Athens in 2009, the Ministerial Council Decisions on Improving the Environmental Footprint of Energy-Related Activities and on Protection of Energy Networks from Natural and Man-Made Disasters adopted in Kyiv in 2013, the Ministerial Council Decision on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction adopted in Basel in 2014, and the Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity adopted in Hamburg in 2016,

Recognizing that greening our economies and fostering our environmental co-operation can increase economic prosperity while reducing environmental risks, thereby contributing to stability, security and enhanced co-operation in the OSCE area,

Recalling the often cross-boundary nature of environmental challenges, including disasters, climate change, unsustainable use of natural resources, hazardous waste and pollution, that calls for co-operation,

Recognizing the role of OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within the scope of their mandates, in addressing environmental challenges,

Acknowledging that women are often disproportionately affected by disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, and that women should play an active role in designing and developing strategic responses to environmental threats,

Recognizing that energy efficiency and renewable energy can contribute to sustainable economic growth, a diversified energy mix, resource efficiency and energy access, and improve energy security,

Acknowledging that the responsible and sustainable management of natural resources, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and the increasing use of renewable energy contribute to conserving nature, addressing climate change and greening our economies,

Recognizing that the implementation of green innovations, the use of green and low-carbon technologies and sound waste management measures offer economic opportunities and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and environmental pollution,

Highlighting that good environmental governance, including transparency, corruption prevention, public participation and equal opportunities for women and men in environmental decision-making, supported by raising awareness and enhancing education on environment and sustainable development, contributes to addressing environmental challenges more effectively,

Acknowledging the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a comprehensive framework contributing to peace, security and co-operation,

Acknowledging the Paris Agreement as a global instrument for enhancing collective action against climate change and for contributing to stability and sustainable development,

Supporting the efforts towards reducing environmental risks, greening our economies and promoting sustainable development through relevant regional and international organizations and multilateral agreements, *inter alia*, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement,

Acknowledging the outcomes of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi and the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in the margins of the International Specialized Exhibition EXPO 2017 in Astana,

Welcoming the substantial discussions held in the framework of the 25th Economic and Environmental Forum on “Greening the economy and building partnerships for security in the OSCE region”, in particular those of the Preparatory Meeting held in Astana in June 2017 and of the Concluding Meeting in Prague in September 2017, of the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting and of the thematic Economic and Environmental Committee meetings held in 2017,

1. Calls upon participating States to:
 - Strengthen our environmental co-operation in support of disaster risk reduction, climate action, sustainable use of natural resources, sound hazardous waste management and pollution prevention and control, thereby also contributing to security and confidence-building;
 - Promote the sustainable use and management of ecosystems for the prevention of environmental disasters;
 - Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy for economic growth and sustainable development;
 - Strengthen good environmental governance, *inter alia*, by preventing corruption, by promoting transparency, by raising awareness and enhancing education on environment and sustainable development, by promoting engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including the public and private sector, civil society, media and academia, and by ensuring equal opportunities for women and men in environmental decision-making processes;
 - Further strengthen measures that contribute to greening our economies, *inter alia*, by increasing resource efficiency and circular economy, and exchanging best practices and knowledge in environmentally sound technologies;
 - Foster our environmental co-operation to strengthen security, as applicable, through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement;

- Strengthen the role of women in greening our economies and fostering our environmental co-operation.