



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

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Statement

by Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE,
Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk at the closing session of the 20th Economic and
Environmental Forum

Prague, 14 September 2012

**Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,**

I am pleased to have this opportunity to address the concluding session of the Economic and Environmental Forum and warmly welcome all participants of the meeting.

Against the background of positive changes in the economic and environmental dimension calendar and introducing last year of a new annual second dimension event – the Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting – the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum remains the key and the highest level annual meeting within the second basket of the OSCE. Most recently that was reiterated by the participating States in PC decision No. 1011 on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE.

In this context Ukrainian delegation wishes to extend its appreciation to the Irish Chairmanship for a highly relevant theme chosen for the discussion during the Forum as well as to the Office of Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for assisting Chairmanship in preparation of this meeting. Our special thanks go to the Czech Government for hosting this meeting.

In our view, discussions within this year's Forum have generated interesting thoughts and ideas and have deepened our knowledge on good governance and its linkages to security and stability within the OSCE region.

Transparent, accountable governance at all levels contributes to prosperity, stability and security as opposed to weak governance or lack of it, lack of the rule of law or transparency and accountability which provide a favourable environment for corruption, money laundering and various forms of organized crime. Weak governance also represents one of the major obstacles to sustainable economic development as it deters domestic and foreign investment and economic and social progress and enables mismanagement of public resources. Thus, deepening our cooperation on good governance within the OSCE is vital and recommendations

for future activities in this area should be followed-up in a result-oriented manner in preparation for the Dublin Ministerial.

Noting interest among the participating States in continued discussion on the subject and as a matter of continuity and follow-up to the 20th EFF Ukraine, as an incoming OSCE Chairmanship, would further pursue deliberations on good governance and transparency, in particularly in the area of energy cooperation. The issue of active engagement of civil society and the private sector, including through public-private partnership could be of particular merit in this regard. This subject among others is expected to be addressed by one of the preparatory meeting to the next 21st EFF under the Ukrainian Chairmanship.

Touching upon plans of the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship for next year's economic and environmental cycle I would like to inform the audience that the Forum process will be traditionally given a key role within the EED. The theme for the 21st EFF proposed by Ukraine received broad support among the OSCE pS and was approved on 26 July by the Permanent Council (Decision No. 1047). Thus, the theme of the 21st EFF will be **“Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy related activities in the OSCE region”**.

In our view the OSCE being the largest regional security organization uniting countries which are producers, transporters and consumers of energy is in an excellent position to address how energy related issues impact the environment. The assessment of this impact and interrelation will highlight such important areas as energy saving and renewables.

Ladies and Gentleman,

One of the tasks of OSCE Chairmanship is to promote the broader capacity of economic and environmental dimension in strengthening the synergy between OSCE's dimensions and its potential in contributing to general OSCE's agenda. So far the second dimension of the OSCE has remained, for some objective reasons, underutilized, despite its essential role in the comprehensive approach to security and its crucial importance for all participating States. The Ukrainian Chairmanship will continue to support the development of an institutionally strong second dimension to provide the participating States with assistance and expertise in responding to the new economic and environmental challenges. In particular, Ukraine will build upon the recently launched discussions to determine if the Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental dimension needs to be adapted to the evolving economic and environmental situation.

Ladies and Gentleman,

In conclusion, Ukraine thanks all the panelists and participants of this meeting for their thoughtful contributions on the subjects of promoting security and stability through good governance. We remain convinced that this meeting will strengthen the economic and environmental dimension through providing a new

and meaningful impetus to cooperation between the Participating States, interaction with the field missions on a broader range of issues relating to the good governance. The Ukrainian Delegation looks forward to practical follow-up of this dialogue in preparation for the Dublin Ministerial Meeting, which could be translated into relevant decision.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson