



**Second preparatory meeting, 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum,
Kiev, April 16-17, 2013**

Declaration by Switzerland for the opening session “Increasing stability and security in the OSCE area through sustainable energy solutions”

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson in Office and the Ukrainian authorities for the organization and the hosting of this 2nd preparatory meeting of the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

Mr. Chair,

Sustainable energy solutions represent an important way of decreasing the ecological footprint of the OSCE participating States. Decreasing the ecological footprint helps reducing carbon emissions, protects the environment and reduces the risk of disasters thus increasing well-being, health and security of the people living in the OSCE region.

Switzerland is a leading clean technology country and our Government is determined to further promote energy efficient technologies in all aspects of daily life: transportation, industrial production and buildings to cite just the most important sectors.

At the same time Switzerland is committed to renewable means of energy production, such as hydropower, which is our longest-serving and most important source of renewable energy, but also solar, wind and biomass.

The latter so called “new forms of renewable energy” currently only contribute around 5.7% of Switzerland's electricity production.

One of the goals of Switzerland's energy policy therefore is to increase the proportion of electricity produced from non-hydraulic renewable energy to 10% of the country's

present-day electricity consumption by 2030. Today, around 56% of Switzerland's overall electricity production comes from renewable sources, hydropower being by far the biggest contributor.

Mr. Chair,

At present, approximately 50% of Switzerland's primary energy consumption is attributable to buildings. Economically speaking it is essential to continue exploiting the still considerable efficiency potentials in this area, which is also a major consumer of material resources, generates high levels of waste and pollutes, in a significant manner, the environment.

Increasing the degree of energy efficiency for buildings is the most important means for Switzerland of reducing energy consumption and can be achieved without incurring losses in terms of quality and comfort. In Switzerland, programs and standards such as the "Minergie" standard have been created to promote energy efficiency and ecological construction.

A higher level of energy efficiency means consuming less energy while continuing to obtain the benefits to which we are accustomed (e.g. availability of lighting, heating, electric motors). In its international cooperation, Switzerland supports energy efficient production by so called "Cleaner Production Centers". Just some weeks ago, a "Cleaner Production Center" has been opened in Kiev. Wow!

As a conclusion, Switzerland is committed to sustainable sources of energy and to promote energy efficient technologies. The decrease of the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region will help participating States to increase security and stability.

Thank you for your attention.