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Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

25th Economic and Environmental Forum FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING "Good Governance, Business Partnerships and Economic Participation"

Opening Session

Vienna, 23-24 January 2017

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan expresses gratitude to the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities for organising the First Preparatory Meeting of the 25th Economic and Environmental Forum.

We welcome inclusion of such topics as good governance, its role in fostering business integrity, building economic partnerships into our deliberations. Promoting good governance plays an important role in our efforts to foster economic development, stability and security in the OSCE area.

Chairmanship's initiative to actively engage representatives of the business community from the OSCE participating States in the work in the second dimension will provide a good opportunity for the private sector to present their views and experience on these issues.

Inclusion of the topics of economic participation, job and business creation with the aim to address the problem of radicalisation is also timely in our view and reflects the recognition that this phenomenon must be tackled also at grass-root level. Focus on empowering of women, in particular, promoting their role in entrepreneurship will also greatly contribute to developing of more inclusive and sustainable economies in participating States.

Trade facilitation, promotion of intra- and trans-regional transportation links, including through development of efficient multimodal transport corridors can contribute to sustainable economic connectivity and economic growth in participating States. We welcome focus of the Austrian Chairmanship on these topical issues.

We once again thank the organisers of the First Preparatory meeting and look forward to deliberations.

Thank you.