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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE CONCLUDING MEETING OF THE 28th OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Prague, 10 and 11 September 2020

Promoting security, stability and economic growth in the OSCE area by preventing and combating corruption through innovation, increased transparency and digitalization

Opening session

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship and to the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the distinguished Ambassador Vuk Žugić, and his Office for their great efforts in preparing and holding this year's OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum events, which traditionally end with a meeting in the beautiful city of Prague. We welcome the participants in this meeting and thank the distinguished guests who have already spoken for a number of interesting ideas and their contribution to the development of the Forum's recommendations in the area of anti-corruption policy and practice.

We note the comprehensive approach of the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship to the fight against corruption, which was chosen as the main theme of the 2020 Economic and Environmental Forum. The high-level anti-corruption conference on 6 and 7 July this year was an important addition to the discourse during the First and Second Preparatory Meetings of the Forum. The discussion there confirmed that preventing and combating corruption remain priorities for the OSCE participating States and are highly relevant to economic development, environmental protection, and the provision of stability and security.

We agree with the focus in the agenda of the Prague meeting on key anti-corruption aspects such as the use of digital technologies, the enhancement of transparency and the promotion of good governance.

Significant progress has been made in the Russian Federation in the automated analysis of income and property declarations by government employees; in the computerized anti-corruption appraisal of legislative and regulatory instruments, including the use of artificial intelligence technology; and in the digitalization of State and municipal services. Our country would welcome an exchange of information in those areas with other OSCE participating States.

In the context of stepping up efforts to combat corruption, we believe that it is essential to pay special attention to a further aspect – anti-corruption education programmes, including those conducted internationally or with the involvement of international experts.

For example, our country is implementing a programme of this type together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Under that programme, a model training course on the United Nations Convention against Corruption has been developed and is currently being customized to meet Russian educational standards. We regularly provide funding through the UNODC for its Anti-Corruption Legal Library and the TRACK (Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge) web portal.

We hope that the aforementioned topics will be covered in the discussions ahead of us. We wish success for all of us in developing Forum recommendations and agreed approaches.

Thank you for your attention.