



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

PC.DEL/1601/17
24 November 2017

ENGLISH only

Statement on “Report by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities”

As delivered by Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1165th meeting of the Permanent Council,
23 November 2017

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me express gratitude to Ambassador Vuk Zagic for presenting an overview of the recent activities of his Office for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

We highly appreciate the work of the Office in fostering the implementation of OSCE commitments in the second dimension.

The delegation of Ukraine attaches particular importance to promoting implementation of the provisions of key OSCE ministerial decisions and declarations related to good governance and we register support of the continued focus by the Coordinator on this area of OSCE activities. In this connection we commend, in particular, the regional approach manifested by conduct of a round table “Development of the system of effective combating of corruption and related serious crimes” earlier this month in Kyiv, which gathered representatives from the EU, Lithuania, Moldova, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The delegation of Ukraine welcomes the fruitful work within the framework of ENVSEC initiative and the development of a pilot climate change adaptation strategy and the implementation plan for transboundary Dniester River basin. We also recognize as successful other completed and ongoing projects, such as “Restoring ecosystems to mitigate floods and improve cooperation between countries in transboundary basins in Eastern Europe” and “Improving radiological and environmental awareness in territories affected by the Chernobyl accident in Belarus and Ukraine with a focus on wildfire management”.

We encourage the Coordinator to continue expanding cooperation within the ENVSEC initiative.

We further encourage the Coordinator to focus on other linkages between environment and security such as environmental risks and impact of conflicts as these combined with other factors may provide cumulative negative effects on security in wider areas.

We believe that the Organization has a role to play in monitoring and assessing negative impact of armed conflicts on the environment, with a view to providing recommendations to OSCE participating States on effective response to civilian health risks and potential long-term environmental damage, post-conflict environmental assessment and recovery and should include in its toolbox the environmental aspects of conflicts' impact.

Before concluding, we wish to emphasise that as long as one participating State remains in clear, gross and uncorrected violations of OSCE principles and commitments and continues its armed aggression against a neighbouring State, it is impossible to discuss the concepts of common economic space in the OSCE area.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.