Mr. Moderator,

We thank Ambassador Raunig for presenting food for thought papers of the Austrian Chairmanship. As we approach Vienna Ministerial we are looking forward to discussions on the possible MC deliverables. We took note of the food for thought papers and appreciate intention of the Austrian Chairmanship to put forward draft decisions on economic participation and environmental cooperation.

Our position in this regard will be based on the following elements: first, the need to reaffirm and build upon our previous commitments, second, protection of social and economic rights for all, including people residing in conflict areas and third, further strengthening of confidence-building potential of the economic and environmental cooperation at all levels.

Thank you.