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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE CONCLUDING MEETING OF THE 30th OSCE ECONOMIC
AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 8 and 9 September 2022

**Promoting security and stability in the OSCE area through sustainable economic
recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

Opening session

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the participants in the Concluding Meeting of this year's OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, which marks the Forum's 30th anniversary.

The topics of the meeting's sessions are on the whole consistent with OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 1433 of 10 December 2021. As for the sessions' subtopics, we note once again the Polish Chairmanship's deviation from the established practice of reaching prior agreement on the agenda. Unfortunately, the Russian delegation's concerns about the incorporation of contentious wording into that document were not taken into account.

We firmly reject the statements made by some speakers here which contain false accusations against our country, are of an overtly Russophobic nature and have no bearing on the theme of the 2022 Economic and Environmental Forum.

We call on those OSCE participating States that persistently act as advocates for the Kyiv regime to acknowledge and condemn the numerous instances of shelling of the site of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant by Ukrainian armed formations using missiles, shells and unmanned aerial vehicles. These shelling attacks are creating a real threat of radioactive contamination in an extensive geographical area around the plant and on the European continent as a whole. They are undermining and casting a shadow over efforts to ensure sustainable economic recovery and "green" growth in the OSCE area after the pandemic.

We would point out that the illegal unilateral restrictions imposed against Russia are, to a growing extent, inflicting damage on their instigators and having a negative impact on international development.

In particular, the policy of rushing to reject Russian energy has led to volatility in energy markets and a steep jump in the prices of energy resources. In several countries, the share of more carbon-intensive

options in their energy balance is growing, such as coal or the replacement of natural gas with petroleum products, which is leading to an increase in global greenhouse gas emissions. By seeking to replace Russian energy carriers, developed countries are in effect stimulating the highly non-environmentally friendly process of shale gas extraction and are also buying up raw materials that developing countries so sorely need.

Despite the unprecedented pressure of sanctions on our country and the anti-Russian hysteria being whipped up in the West, we are consistently enhancing our economic policies and practices, with a focus on tackling environmental challenges, and we are advocating broad international co-operation in the economic field and in environmental protection.

Russia is making a significant contribution to international efforts to reduce human impact on the environment and the climate. We continue to implement the Strategy for socio-economic development of the Russian Federation with a low level of greenhouse gas emissions through to 2050 and are striving to achieve climate neutrality by 2060.

As instructed by the Russian President, a system is being developed for the concessional financing, through special bonds or loans, of “green” projects and initiatives in the field of sustainable development. Support is being provided at the State level for reduction of the carbon footprint arising from the use of fossil fuels, for the adoption of carbon-free energy sources, the development of renewable energies and hydrogen energy, and increased use of low-carbon technologies.

We reaffirm our interest in engaging in constructive co-operation with other OSCE participating States and in exchanging experience related to overcoming the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the economy and making balanced progress towards “green” growth.

Thank you for your attention.