

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 25th OSCE
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Astana, 14 June 2017

Opening session

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We join in welcoming the participants in the Second Preparatory Meeting for the 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum devoted to “Greening the economy for sustainable development, security and stability”.

We should particularly like to thank the Austrian Chairmanship, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Vuk Žugić, and our Kazakh colleagues for the excellent organization of this event and the interesting and ambitious agenda. We should also like to mention in particular yesterday’s visit to the EXPO-2017 exhibition, which gave us an opportunity to study the latest achievements in the practical implementation of the concept of “green growth” and the development of energy-saving technologies and renewable energy sources.

The question of increasing energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources has long been a firmly established item on the agenda of the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE’s activities. These issues have repeatedly been the focus of thematic meetings of the Economic and Environmental Committee and have been reflected in Ministerial Council decisions. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE field presences have gained relevant experience in working in this field.

The tasks of ensuring the sustainable development of the economy and society, reducing the negative impact on the environment, and effective use of resources are at the forefront in today’s world. The search for a new development model has led to the evolution of paradigms of sustainable development, the appearance of the concept of a “green” (ecological) economy and a deeper understanding that the economy and society should adapt to natural systems and their limitations, and not vice versa. The modernization of the energy basis of the economy, including the elaboration of new energy-efficient and resource-saving

technologies, along with the development of alternative energy, provides the foundations for green growth.

Russia is very much part of this global trend. Greening the Russian economy is seen as one of the key areas of government policy. It will help to increase the competitiveness of the Russian economy on global markets, to implement international commitments and, ultimately, to ensure sustainable economic growth.

The transition to a green growth model, including elements such as environmentally responsible development, financing in natural capital and a low-carbon economy is no easy task. It requires the investment of significant financial resources (according to various estimates, for the transition to the best available technologies, Russian industrial companies will have to commit to additional investments for the period until 2031 in the amount of between 8 and 13 trillion roubles or 130 to 210 billion euros) and systematic work to develop a system of green financing and the functioning of green capital markets.

Serious work has been done in recent years to transform the legislative framework for electricity with a view to developing renewable energy sources. Federal Law No. 261-FZ on energy saving was adopted in 2009. The State programme entitled “Energy efficiency and the development of energy” was adopted in 2014. The elaboration of the Energy Strategy of Russia for the period up to 2035, which will identify long-term tasks for countering climate change and creating a low-carbon economy, is now in its final stages. The tasks include the elaboration of a system for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, the development of financial and economic instruments to encourage the reduction of such emissions, increased investment in the development and use of renewable energy sources, and a set of measures to increase energy efficiency.

The economy’s transition to the green track and ensuring sustainable green growth and development are global tasks requiring concerted efforts on the part of all States. In our opinion, the OSCE has proved its worth as a platform for dialogue and a suitable international format enabling participating States to look for new opportunities for developing co-operation, and is able to make its contribution and bring added value to ensuring environmentally oriented economic growth and preserving a favourable environment and natural resources to meet the needs of the current and future generations.

We look forward to the continuation of serious, productive and expert dialogue in Astana with a view to achieving a higher level of understanding of the problems involved in greening the economy, problems encountered by all participating States without exception.

Thank you for your attention.