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Delegation of Italy

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR STEFANO BALDI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ITALY TO THE OSCE, 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**

Panel discussion

Italy aligns itself fully with the statement by the European Union and wishes to add some brief observations in a national capacity.

The 30th anniversary of the establishment of this Forum for dialogue among participating States, the business community and civil society is an important occasion to be celebrated. Over the years, the Prague Forum has provided a useful opportunity to strengthen OSCE co-operation in the second dimension, the economic and environmental dimension.

I should like to thank the Co-ordinator and other colleagues and speakers for their interesting insights.

As we reflected during the opening session, the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has dramatically changed the parameters with which we have been confronted in recent months, forcing us to turn our attention to new topical issues, such as the consequences of the conflict for the environment or energy security, and to review issues that had long been considered priorities, such as climate change, in a new light. The relevance of this Forum in the near future is also linked to the extent to which it succeeds in offering concrete answers to current challenges in the economic and environmental dimension of security and paying due attention to the issues of inclusiveness and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups.

We must not forget that this Forum is also an important showcase for the work of the OSCE and for the concrete impact which this Organization has on the lives of our citizens throughout the OSCE area. I believe that fostering participation and the sharing of experiences by those who have taken part in and benefited from OSCE projects, perhaps in lesser-known regions that we would hardly be aware of in our capitals, is a good practice and should be further encouraged, not least by taking advantage of the possibilities offered by new communication technologies. The role and contribution of the OSCE field operations is fundamental in this regard and should be further highlighted and enhanced.

Thank you.