

**27th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
2nd Preparatory Meeting
Bratislava, 27-28 May, 2019**

**SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING
Opening Statement**

Armenia

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to express gratitude to the OSCE Slovak Chairmanship and the OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, as well as their teams for organising the Second Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum. Our thanks go to the distinguished high level panellists for presenting their vision.

We support the Chairmanship's focus on such topics as improvement of environmental footprint of energy related activities, protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters. on information technologies, renewable energy in context of energy efficiency. In discussion of these topics our point of reference will be relevant OSCE Ministerial Decisions, adopted in Kyiv in 2013. The chosen topics continue to remain highly relevant in light of efforts of the governments to promote green energy, reduce the impact of energy activities on the environment and meantime satisfy the growing need of economies for more and more energy resources. We look forward to interesting exchange of views and best practices on how to address this dilemma and its impact on security.

We would like to outline three important elements in regard to the energy and environment.

First, environmental issues related to the energy production or transportation can be addressed through strengthening good governance, transparency and anti-corruption in the energy sphere and involvement of civil society, which is recognized in the relevant Kyiv Ministerial Decision. In the context of involvement of civil society, we would particularly like to highlight the important role of the EITI and its activities.

Second, improving environmental footprint of energy-related activities necessitates regional and sub-regional cooperation.

Third, natural disasters don't recognize borders and therefore protection of energy network from disasters also requires concerted regional approach.

Armenia stands ready for inclusive and mutually beneficial cooperation and confidence building in the outlined areas in the framework of the OSCE.

We took note of some topics, which are shaped to discuss opportunities for fostering energy dialogue in the framework of our Organization. We reiterate our long standing position that from the angle of our security Organization economic cooperation in any field, including energy, should be inclusive. Our point of reference in this regard are principles of economic cooperation, identified in the 2003 Maastricht Strategy, namely equal and non-discriminatory partnership, full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States and minimizing negative impact of actions in the economic field on other participating States. So far the discussions throughout the year are indicating that the opportunities for progress in energy dialogue in the OSCE are limited.

We look forward to interesting exchange and stand ready to make our contribution by bringing Armenia's perspective and good practices in digital economy.

Thank you.