



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
The Secretariat**

25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

**“Greening the economy and building partnerships
for security in the OSCE region”**

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING

“Greening the economy for sustainable development, security and stability”

Astana, 14-16 June 2017

Concluding Remarks

Ambassador Vuk Žugić

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Dear Ambassadors, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In concluding the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, please allow me to express my gratitude to all participants for the constructive discussions, the comprehensive presentations, the competent moderations as well as the ideas put forward in the last two days. For us, in the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, listening to all of you is extremely important and I would like to assure you that it will have a direct impact on our future activities.

Before we started with our deliberations we had the chance to visit the EXPO 2017 on Future Energy. This innovative kick-off inspired us in our discussions and provided us with practical insights from the OSCE region and far beyond. We are thankful to our host, the Government of Kazakhstan, for giving us this opportunity.

The keynote speeches by Ms. Muttonen, President of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and the distinguished representative of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mr. Violetti, have provided us with a comprehensive road map touching upon many environmental challenges that our region is facing. Climate change has been underlined as an overarching concern with its implications for environment, economy, prosperity, but, most importantly, for security and stability. They also pointed out the opportunities for enhanced co-operation in addressing these

challenges through making best use of the global and regional processes. The OSCE is well-placed to discuss and agree on collaborative approaches and catalyse joint action in these areas. Green economy, including resource efficiency, provides a promising avenue for reducing environmental risks and achieving sustainable development.

The working group discussions we had today were very encouraging. They gave us an opportunity for informal exchange of views on a number of important topics. Once again it was shown that our Organization is a solid platform for dialogue. The recommendations summarized by our distinguished Ambassadors and the examples presented by our counterparts and field colleagues showed that as the largest regional security organization, the OSCE is already playing an important role in the transition to green economy and resource efficiency. This is materialized through OSCE engagement in a wide spectrum of activities including water governance, climate change, disaster risk reduction, hazardous waste management, renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as environmental good governance.

Transforming these recommendations into action will require your further activities, including blessings in Prague and later in the year. This will also benefit from enhanced partnerships to complement our efforts. We already heard a concrete call for co-operation from the UNFCCC.

Having been hosted in these impressive premises of Nazarbayev University, it is hard not to think about our responsibilities towards future generations and the important role of youth. Successful transition to green economy requires an enabling environment for youth as well as for other stakeholders to be on board and to do their share.

In concluding, I would like to thank the Austrian Chairmanship for their leadership and collaboration in bringing this topic to the OSCE Agenda.

Last but not least, I would like to express my appreciation to Ambassador Sarybay, the Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee, for his dedicated contribution to supporting the Economic and Environmental Dimension throughout the year.

Thank you.