

25<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Good Governance, Business Partnerships and Economic Participation”

FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING  
Vienna, 23 - 24 January 2017  
Opening statement  
Armenia

EEF.DEL/23/17  
6 February 2017

ENGLISH only

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation has already aligned itself with the statement of Malta delivered on behalf of the EU member states and I will take this opportunity to highlight certain points that we deem important in the context of the 2017 Economic and Environmental Forum.

The economic and environmental good governance requires wide international cooperation and there are number of international and regional organizations and initiatives which shape and lead the international partnerships. We are pleased to note that some of them are participating in this meeting and here I would like to warmly welcome Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Member of the Board for Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission.

While assessing the framework and context of international cooperation on economic and environmental good governance, we should pay particular attention to the areas where OSCE contribution can bring added value.

In our view OSCE involvement should be well-grounded in the OSCE commitments, expertise and comparative advantages.

The OSCE is certainly not a technical standard setting organization in economic and environmental good governance, but it is political standard setting organization in cooperation, including confidence building.

Therefore, in the OSCE we attach to the connectivity first and foremost a political meaning of resolve of the participating states to overcome political differences and obstacles in conducting economic cooperation including in conflict areas.

In doing so we refer to three important decisions: PC decision 1011 on Strengthening Economic and Environmental Dimension in the OSCE, MC Vilnius decision 3/11 on the Conflict Cycle and MC Hamburg decision on Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity.

In all these three documents confidence building in the economic and environmental dimension is discerned as an important element, which cannot be neglected, if we are willing to reverse an emerging trend of creating new dividing lines as was noted by the Secretary General Michael Linhart in his address.

We believe that the OSCE expertise in certain conflict situations along with its relevant field missions give certain advantage that should be pursued through inclusive dialogue and participation.

The Economic and Environmental Forum is well placed to develop such a dialogue and move us forward towards new agreements and commitments.

Thank you.