25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

“Greening the Economy and Building Partnerships for Security in the OSCE Region”

Concluding Meeting

Prague, 6-8 September 2017

Session II: Reducing Environmental Risks and Strengthening Good Environmental Governance

Professor Maia Bitadze, Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia

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Greening the Economy and Building Partnerships for Security in the OSCE Region

Session II: Reducing Environmental Risks and Strengthening Good Environmental Governance

Sustainable Development to ensure peace and stability

- Strengthening good environmental governance
- Reducing environmental risks
- Enhancing cross-border cooperation
Georgia’s priority - Good Environmental Governance

Enhancing good environmental governance through implementation of:

- MEAs
- Environmental Requirements of EU-Georgia AA
- Environmental Dimension of SDGs

Development of comprehensive policy and its effective implementation: to reduce environmental risks, ensure security and thus improve human well-being.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adjust SDGs and its targets to the national goals and priorities

- Coordinated by the Administration of the Government of Georgia
- With participation of all line Ministries and state institutions
- Coordination Council - advance the dialogue on SDGs implementation

National Voluntary Reviews at UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
Green Economy for SDGs

- Endorsed the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy
- Took BIG-E voluntary commitments:
  1. Elaboration of Green Growth Strategy of Georgia
  2. Development and Implementation of Education for Sustainable Development Strategy (ESD) and Action Plan of Georgia
  3. Development of Extended Producer Responsibility policy in Georgia
  4. Promoting greening SMEs and resource efficient production and consumption in Georgia

- Joined OECD Green Growth Declaration
- Elaborated the draft Green Growth Policy Paper
- Started to develop Green Growth Strategy

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Harmonization of National Legislation With EU Acquis

- Environmental Assessment Code
  - has been adopted
  - Enhances environmental governance
  - Ensures higher degree of public participation (in decision-making, planning)
  - Contributes to better implementation of the national and international obligations

- Law on Environmental Liability
  - under development
  - Implies range of responsibilities to polluters

EU-Georgia AA

Will promote the rule of law, good environmental governance and contributes to further enhance stability.
Environmental Education and Awareness Raising

- Covers all levels and forms of education
- Focuses on green development

UNEA Resolution - “Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training” (2016)
- Prepared by Georgia together with Mongolia

Role of OSCE and ENVSEC Initiative for Good Governance and Transboundary Cooperation

Environmental challenges
- Conflict and insecurity
- Political uncertainty

Proper Approach to Minimize Security Problems
- Conservation and rational use of natural resources

OSCE and ENVSEC efforts in:
- Transboundary cooperation
  - Azerbaijan-Georgia water cooperation
- Environmental risk reduction
  - Project on fire management
  - Elaboration of the National Forest Fire Management Policy of Georgia
Maia Bitadze

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