

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 21st OSCE
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Kyiv, 16 April 2013

**Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of
energy-related activities in the OSCE region**

Opening session

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We join in welcoming the participants in today's session inaugurating the Second Preparatory Meeting for the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum and thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for the excellent organization of the event.

The Russian Federation is a major supplier of energy to world markets and participates in global efforts to reduce the negative environmental impact within the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the G20 and G8 and other international and regional bodies and forums. Moreover, we also safeguard our own energy requirements through large-scale measures to improve the energy efficiency of the economy and diversification of energy sources. With account taken of special national features, basic efforts focus on the introduction of energy-efficient technologies, ensuring access to natural gas in regions of Russia (as a highly efficient source of energy which has less of an impact on the environment than other fossil fuels), the use of water and biological resources and the development of nuclear energy, ensuring the highest safety standards.

Protection of the environment is one of the basic priorities in the work of the State authorities at all levels. The "Basic State Policy for the Environmental Development of the Russian Federation until 2030" was adopted in April 2012. The State programme "Protecting the Environment" for 2012 to 2020 has been launched in the country. One of the subprogrammes, "Regulating the Quality of the Environment", is aimed at reducing the overall anthropogenic impact on nature by introducing "green" technologies in the domestic economy.

The subprogramme “Hydrometeorology and Monitoring of the Environment” is designed to further develop the security system in respect of natural and man-made threats, including dangerous natural climatic phenomena. To this end, the State monitoring and early-warning network is being improved, its technology modernized and the scientific basis for forecasting strengthened. International co-operation in this area is increasing.

A further focus is the organization of environmental education in schools at all levels and the cultivation of a careful and responsible attitude to nature.

We should also like to announce that a presidential decree has declared 2013 the Year of Environmental Protection in Russia.

Reduction of the negative impact on the environment of the fuel and energy sector is one of the priorities of the programmes under way in Russia as regards modernization and introduction of new technologies. A State programme for energy conservation and improving energy efficiency has also been launched and is gaining momentum. In June of last year a commission was set up by the Russian President to study the strategy for the development of the fuel and energy sector and environmental security.

In view of the aforementioned comments, we regard the subject for the Economic and Environmental Forum proposed by the Ukrainian Chairmanship, namely “Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region”, to be extremely relevant. We are looking to the meeting inaugurated today to draw attention to the threats and challenges at the interface of energy and the environment, to provide useful knowledge about best practices and experience in resolving the problems encountered in this area and to enable us to investigate those niches where the OSCE and its field operations can make a meaningful contribution.

We should like to recall the origins of our Organization. The Helsinki Final Act contains an appeal to consider the possibilities for increasing co-operation between participating States regarding new technologies of production, transport and distribution of energy aimed at improving the use of existing fuels and sources of hydroenergy, as well as research in the field of new energy sources, including nuclear, solar and geothermal energy, and also the development of new technologies and equipment designed to reduce energy consumption and minimize or eliminate waste.

It is clear that these words have lost nothing of their relevance today. We are looking forward to an open and substantive discussion that will enable us to make progress in the resolution of the problems facing participating States in this vitally important area.

Thank you for your attention.