

24th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
“Strengthening stability and security through co-operation on good governance”

ENGLISH only

Prague, 14-16 September

Opening statement
Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset we would like to thank the German Chairmanship for its swift stewardship through two Preparatory Meetings and the Business Forum and defining the agenda of the Economic and Environmental Forum, which provide opportunity to discuss the highly relevant topic of good governance and its specific aspects in the context of security and stability in the OSCE region. Our thanks go to the Czech authorities for traditional hospitality and political support to the Economic and Environmental Forum.

We thank Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Mr. Lubomir Zaoralek, OSCE Secretary General Mr. Lamberto Zannier and Special Representative of the Government of Germany, Dr. Gernot Erler for their thoughtful remarks.

We approached this final stage with already detailed elaborations on the topic of good governance and its role in different fields, such as public-private partnership, environment, fighting corruption connectivity, trade, migration, to name a few.

Good governance is a high priority for the Republic of Armenia. Reform of regulatory framework is underway, which aims at reducing administrative burden on private sector, reduce corruption risks, strengthen transparency and accountability of public institutions. Sizable progress has already been registered in reform with positive impact on the GDP rate, but there is still a long path to pass in this regard.

We would like to commend the role of OSCE executive structures and the OSCE Office in Yerevan, which have contributed to the regulatory framework reform in Armenia. The regulatory guillotine is the flagship programme of the Office in the second dimension and the progress in implementation of the programme is due to favorable environment and full cooperation of the Armenian authorities.

While assessing the topic of good governance, we should pay particular attention to its link to security. OSCE is well placed to promote good governance at all levels within the concept of comprehensive security.

The key attributes of good governance such as transparency, responsibility, accountability, participation and responsiveness demonstrate that the good governance, security and human rights are mutually reinforcing and thus in the OSCE context good governance has also cross dimensional application.

Good governance is an important factor guaranteeing realization of human rights for all free of abuse and corruption. The human rights based approach to good governance certainly encompasses the right of peoples to development. OSCE and its field missions need to pay more attention to promoting the right of peoples to development, free from reprisals and unilateral coercive measures, in the entire OSCE region.

We attach importance to using the OSCE expertise in conflict cycle in assisting good governance and sustainable development in the conflict areas, which can promote trust and confidence.

In the era of increasing interdependencies or connectivity good governance requires inclusive international and regional cooperation, which will take into due account the economic interests of other participating States and will not contribute to creation of new divisions.

We appreciate that the agenda of the Forum includes also good governance in connectivity and trade facilitation. In our view connectivity in the context of the OSCE values and commitments means removing political barriers, which prevent cross-border cooperation and connecting people divided by conflicts and crises. The connectivity means for us lifting unilateral coercive measures including land blockades.

As we approach Hamburg Ministerial we are looking forward to discussions on the possible MC deliverables. In this regard it is important to reaffirm and build upon our previous commitments, reflected in particular in the Maastricht Strategy, Dublin Declaration on Good Governance and Basel Decision on prevention of corruption.

We are looking forward to constructive and fruitful discussions on how to further enhance cooperation in promoting good governance in the OSCE area.

Thank you.