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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 28th OSCE
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Videoconference, 15 June 2020

Promoting security, stability and economic growth in the OSCE area by preventing and combating corruption through innovation, increased transparency and digitalization

Opening session

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the participants in the Second Preparatory Meeting for the 28th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum and join in thanking the Albanian Chairmanship and the distinguished Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Ambassador Vuk Žugić, and his team for preparing the interesting and full agenda.

We are pleased to see Mr. Li Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and Professor Paola Severino, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption, as keynote speakers at this event.

The issue of preventing and combating corruption is, without a doubt, a priority for all countries in the OSCE area and on a wide international scale. We support the Organization's efforts to promote advanced anti-corruption standards and instruments.

The Russian Federation takes the issue of combating abuse of authority very seriously. The work carried out in this area is monitored constantly by the country's top leadership. We consider digitalization of the public administration system and increasing its transparency to be a powerful factor in countering corruption.

We believe that anti-corruption measures can be made more effective by involving the potential of civil society. Interaction with the business community, which in our country has adopted the Anti-Corruption Charter of Russian Business, also plays a key role. The Charter already has over 1,500 signatories and more and more new companies are adhering to it.

We believe that the impact of anti-corruption measures needs to be constantly monitored. The relevant authorities and public control bodies are called upon to analyse the application of anti-corruption legislation in practice.

It is important to continue developing existing anti-corruption instruments and searching for new ones. The study of the best international practices and the development of innovative solutions in the fight against corruption are facilitated by interdisciplinary research and the organization of applied research conferences.

Expanding international co-operation in the fight against corruption is one of the priorities of Russian foreign policy. Russia is interested in increasing and improving international legal assistance in the anti-corruption sphere. We emphasize the importance of the 2003 United Nations Convention against Corruption, which our country was one of the first to sign and ratify.

At the same time, we consider it unacceptable to politicize multilateral dialogue on anti-corruption issues. We abide by the principles of equality and mutual respect, transparency, impartiality and voluntariness. We are open to honest and productive work in this area. We look forward to continuing constructive dialogue during the forthcoming Anti-Corruption Conference on 6 and 7 July this year.

Thank you for your attention.