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TO THE OSCE, AT THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

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**Economic and environmental dimension (EED)
Session 5: Environmental cluster – Ensuring sustainable development and
economic growth through promoting technological innovation and
modernization in the economies, fostering social development,
capacity-building for environmental governance; protecting the
environment; the way forward**

Distinguished colleagues,

Sustainable development and promoting economic growth and technological progress are high on the list of priorities for the OSCE participating States. National strategies in these areas are based on partnership between the State, the private sector and civil society and are usually of a long-term nature.

The global financial and economic crisis has significantly changed the existing international financial system and has had an impact on virtually all countries. For the first time in many years people have voiced out loud the need for structural reforms not so much in developing economies but primarily in developed countries.

Against this background, economic models, the financial architecture, technologies and social institutions are changing. In this situation it is a matter of fundamental importance that we do not allow new dividing lines in terms of development to emerge in the OSCE area. We need to work together, harmonizing integration interests and developing the collective potential in response to challenges emerging in the economic and environmental field.

In the wake of the financial crisis, most problems facing the OSCE region, and the whole world for that matter, cannot be resolved without employing innovations and advanced technologies. We believe that as a resource the Organization would be entirely appropriate for advancing the concept of alliances for modernization and sustainable economic development, a concept that could be put into practice through multilateral intergovernmental agreements.

Investment activity is one of the driving forces behind innovative development, successful modernization, resolving the problems of economic growth and improving

people's standard of living. The creation of a favourable investment climate is a matter of priority here. We believe that there is promising potential for co-operation in this area between the OSCE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

At the present stage, intangible assets, the most important component of which is human resources, are one of the key sources of economic growth. Education, particularly in economic matters, has a leading role to play here. The OSCE could well provide assistance in expanding co-operation in this sphere between government agencies, universities and business circles.

The exchange of experience in creating innovative enterprises and developing scientific research networks is also of value. Particular importance should be attached to the introduction of advanced information and communication technologies. In our view, more active use could be made of the potential offered by the Economic and Environmental Forums for these purposes.

In short, it is on the basis of the shared need for modernization that a unifying agenda can be established and the necessary prerequisites created for security and stability in the OSCE region.

In recent years terms like green technologies, energy efficiency, energy saving and environmental investment have been heard with increasing frequency. Today it is fashionable to be concerned about these things. In our view, we need to identify the environmental component but we must inevitably identify the economic one as well.

The main role in environmental protection and sustainable development is without a doubt played by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, which are universal mechanisms for the elaboration of agreed decisions and prime sources of international environmental protection law. These instruments include the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme. One of the most important areas of work in our view is co-operation within the framework of key global environmental protection conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

In this context the platform provided by the OSCE should be used solely as a means of assistance for drafting possible collective proposals that could form the basis of relevant decisions by the main international organization.