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The OSCE's role, including its field presences, in fostering stability and security and enhancing co-operation and integration in the area of its responsibility through co-operation with other international, regional, subregional organizations and initiatives as well as NGOs and the business community;
The way forward.

STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Austria fully supports the EU Statement, including the condolences expressed to the Russian Federation regarding the act of terrorism in Grosny.

On behalf of the Government of Austria, I would like to complement our discussion by drawing your attention to an event which in many ways that we have discussed earlier today matches the agenda of the OSCE, in particular its Economic and Environmental Dimension.

Next year, the Government of Austria will co-host with the World Economic Forum (WEF) a World Economic Regional Forum on 8/9 June in Vienna. Topics to be discussed include the creation of a stable security environment in Europe and Central Asia - with a focus on the Black Sea countries, the Danube Region and the South Caucasus - as well as energy security and environmental issues. Particular emphasis will be placed on the needs/opportunities to introduce modern technologies in areas like water preservation, sanitation, energy efficiency, and renewables.

The Regional Forum's Draft concept note - which we are happy to share - suggests that the OSCE in its role as a platform for regional and subregional cooperation would be a natural partner for the WEF.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.