

**AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ  
ATƏT YANINDA  
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ**



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE OSCE**

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## **Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

### **27<sup>th</sup> OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

**“Promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through energy cooperation, new technologies, good governance and connectivity in the digital era”**

#### **CONCLUDING MEETING**

#### **Opening Session**

Prague, 11-13 September 2019

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan expresses gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities for organising and hosting Concluding Meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum. We also thank the distinguished keynote speakers Ambassador Richard Morningstar and Dr. Elena Rovenskaya for their valuable contributions.

Azerbaijan welcomes continued focus of the Slovak Chairmanship on energy co-operation and inclusion of this topic into its priorities. OSCE with its comprehensive concept of security and shared commitments in the field of energy is well positioned to serve as a platform for dialogue and co-operation on energy-related matters. Diversified, reliable and sustainable energy supplies and security of energy transportation to the world markets are essential factors for sustainable development. Azerbaijan maintains robust energy security dialogue with many participating States and as an initiator and active participant of regional and trans-regional energy projects contributes to global energy security, including through implementation of the Southern Gas Corridor, as was just mentioned by Ambassador Richard Morningstar in his keynote speech. We also wish to thank OSCE participating States for their support to this project.

Strengthening good environmental governance, improving the environmental footprint, greater use of renewable energy and energy efficiency are vital to ensure environmental sustainability of economic development of participating States and we thank the Slovak Chairmanship for

inclusion of these topics into the agenda of the Forum. We are pleased that Mr. Ali Shahbazov from the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) will present in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Forum the efforts of Azerbaijan in ensuring environmentally friendly energy supply and its contribution to the green growth.

The OSCE extra-budgetary project on “Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea region”, which was launched in June 2019 in Baku, is a practical example of public-private partnership to foster regional co-operation. This project will enhance capacities of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to employ renewable energy, in particular in port operations in the Caspian Sea and will promote regional connectivity through transport and trade facilitation among the ports in the Caspian Sea and the wider region and will contribute to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. We wish to thank OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger and OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities Ambassador Vuk Zugic for skillful and effective implementation of this project and encourage OSCE participating States to extend their support to the project.

We cannot underestimate the impact of digital transformation and new technologies on our economies and societies, and we welcome the focus of the Slovak Chairmanship on the opportunities and challenges the use of digital technologies create for both the public and private sectors.

Offering more effective, accountable and user-centric public services using digital technologies became indispensable tool in strengthening good governance and fighting corruption and we appreciate inclusion of this aspect of digital economy in the agenda of this Forum. Digital technologies are widely used in Azerbaijan for providing facilitated access to public services through ASAN Service – a national brand of an innovative model of public service delivery and we are ready to continue sharing our experience with other participating States.

In conclusion, we once again thank the organisers of the Concluding Meeting and look forward to deliberations.

Thank you.