



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement at Opening of 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum: *Development of Sustainable Energy*

As delivered by Charge d'Affaires Carol Fuller
Vienna, February 7, 2011

We wish to welcome Mr. Vice Minister Meilunas to this meeting and for his opening remarks.

We thank our distinguished speakers for their comprehensive reports and welcome all of today's participants, especially those from various NGOs who have come to the Economic and Environmental Forum in order to join the debate on sustainable energy.

The United States is committed to enhancing the cooperation among participating states in the area of sustainable energy as we see this as key to the OSCE's goal of establishing a real platform for energy security in the region. We support a focus on identifying renewable energy sources and we hope that at the end of this new EEF cycle, we will have concrete deliverables upon which to move forward to our ultimate goal of comprehensive energy security.

We must renew efforts to increase transparency, combat corruption and establish agreed upon principles of good governance. Without these key elements, sustainable energy is simply not feasible. In that respect, we continue to believe that the OSCE, joining with other international bodies that have already done so, can play a constructive role in fostering the wide-spread adoption of good governance principles and real transparency.

In another area, we have already had good discussions in the OSCE on the need for comprehensive energy infrastructure security, but there is much more that can be done, and the US stands ready to support those efforts.

As we saw in Vilnius, the Vienna Review Conference, and the Astana Summit, the OSCE does have a role to play in the field of energy security. We appreciate the SG's report which has helped guide us in our considerations of this role. The OSCE's comprehensive concept of security necessarily includes energy security. It is the OSCE's traditional role as a platform for dialogue and sharing of best practices, the unique field presences, that allows the OSCE to have a direct impact in the lives of people who can benefit from this expertise.

We may disagree on what "energy security" means; each state will view its energy needs through the lens of its own vital national interests. Nevertheless, it is important to keep the dialogue going and find common ground, which is precisely why we are here. The United States will work to develop meaningful conclusions and practical, concrete outcomes to the meeting that will guide the OSCE's current and future efforts on strengthening energy security throughout our area.

Thank you, Chair.