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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
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AT THE FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 19TH
MEETING OF THE OSCE ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Vienna, 7 February 2011

**Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the
fields of development of sustainable energy and transport**

Opening session

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We join in welcoming the participants in today's conference, which opens the 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, which is dedicated to the promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport.

In particular, we should like to thank the Lithuanian Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for the excellent organization and the interesting and varied agenda. Indeed, the problem of sustainable energy development is one of the key factors in the socio-economic development of society today. Under current conditions, the question of whether to have a sustainable energy policy is no longer even asked. It is a compulsory goal whose solution concerns all participating States.

In Russia, significant efforts are being made as regards effective energy development within the framework of international environmental standards and more stringent environmental protection requirements. The government's programme "Energy Conservation and the Increasing of Energy Efficiency for the Period until 2020" was adopted in December last year. This goal is included as one of the main areas of modernization of the Russian economy.

We understand that one country cannot achieve the desired breakthroughs in the area of energy. The future of all the OSCE participating States depends on how effectively the energy sector works. It is therefore important not only to develop new energy technologies, but also to disseminate and implement them in every country.

In the interests of future generations we must also work on developing alternative and renewable sources of energy. We must encourage a positive attitude to energy conservation, introduce relevant educational programmes and standards, and shape a new and responsible attitude to energy on the micro level, that is, on the level of individual consumers of energy resources.

Energy development is a global process. And here, too, dialogue is of crucial importance. At present, countries are ever more frequently making greater demands on one another with regard to energy, forgetting about the top priority of developing and approving principles on which partnership in this area must be based.

Given the recent changes in the world energy arena and the emergence of new threats to the stability of the energy markets and energy security, it is becoming increasingly obvious that it is imperative for the existing legal and regulatory framework for co-operation on energy to be significantly improved. For this very reason, Russia has prepared a draft universal legally binding document, a Convention on Ensuring International Energy Security, which embraces all aspects of global energy co-operation and reflects the interests of the countries concerned in a balanced way. We are counting on a lively exchange of views on this document, including within the OSCE forum.

In conclusion, I should like to make the following point. Without wishing to play down the significance of low-carbon development, we nevertheless believe that the concept of energy-efficient growth must be emphasized in the post-crisis period. The elements of this concept must be the issues of conserving energy, reducing price volatility by ensuring trust and mutual dependence between the producers, transit countries and consumers of energy resources, raising the profile of nuclear and modern renewable energy, developing new energy technologies and also improving the legal basis for international co-operation. It is important to bear in mind that the recommendations we are able to develop as a result of today's meeting should not only be appropriate for the current situation but should also take the realities and requirements of the new post-crisis world into account.

During the stage of emerging from the recession, the global economy may be confronted with, among other things, a shortage of traditional energy resources, and be threatened with the "de-energizing" of future growth. Investments in energy conservation and alternative energy sources cannot yet fully compensate for reduced investment in oil and gas production, which could in turn ultimately lead to uncontrolled price increases when the economy improves.

We realize that specialized international organizations such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) have an optimal approach to the exchange of expert opinions and of cutting-edge technical experience in this area. At the same time, we believe that the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum has its advantages and can make a significant contribution, not only to the technical aspects of sustainable energy development, but also to its political and economic aspects. If we succeed in making significant conclusions on the basis of our discussions during the next two days, the OSCE's role as a platform for equal dialogue on all aspects of security will only grow.

We are counting on a serious and productive exchange of opinions so we can create a new basis for the sustainable development of international co-operation in the energy sphere.

We are convinced that the OSCE can make a fitting contribution to solving the problem of increasing energy effectiveness and energy conservation. We remind delegates of our proposal to examine the possibility of developing an appropriate guide which would include examples of cutting-edge experience and the most effective solutions in this field.

Thank you for your attention.