



EEF.DEL/47/13
12 September 2013

ENGLISH only

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Leonid Kozhara
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
at the opening ceremony of the Concluding Meeting
of the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
(Prague, 11 September 2013)**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour for me to open the Concluding Meeting of the 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Czech Republic and in particular to H.E. Minister Jan Kohout for their warm hospitality.

My most cordial thanks go to the Office of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE Office in Prague for their efforts in organizing this Forum as well as for their contribution to our common endeavour – improving environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE area.

I warmly welcome all distinguished representatives of the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, high-level officials from ministries and agencies for energy and environment, representatives of international, regional and non-governmental organizations, as well as experts from business sector and academia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world is clearly in a transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy. And Ukraine itself has experienced tangible advantages of developing renewable energy in the latest years. Establishing various legal incentives provided an explosive growth in the output of the green energy in my country.

On the other hand, there is a lot of experience accumulated in the OSCE participating States on how policy support and incentives provide necessary framework conditions for the promotion of renewable energy.

I am extremely glad that the wide participation to the Forum clearly demonstrates that the topic of the 21st OSCE EEF, chosen by the Chairmanship, resonated with the member states.

Discussions held during the First and the Second Preparatory Meetings in Vienna and Kyiv provided us with a number of innovative and exciting approaches to solving some of the many challenges that confront us in these areas.

As a result, the Organization is now better equipped to answer the pressing questions about the role the OSCE can play in further translating the political will of the Member States and other stakeholders in transparent regulatory frameworks.

I am confident that this EEF meeting would bring together the best recommendations from the Preparatory meetings on various issues, including enhancing of the OSCE role as a platform for exchange of best practices and experience on sustainable energy and energy efficiency; strengthening capacity building related to renewable energy, new technologies and technology transfer; promotion of good governance and transparency in the energy sector.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

There is also a clear need for an enhanced contribution of the OSCE to mainstreaming the environmental and energy-related activities within the broader security context.

The discussions of the Informal Working Group of the Helsinki+40 Process devoted to economic and environmental dimension have shown that there is a strong interest to continue fostering strategic approach to the EEF.

Energy security is linked with sustainability which implies energy sustainable production, transport and consumption. We should, therefore, look at feasible ways to diversify sources, routes and technologies of energy production and distribution, as well as to enhance protection of critical energy infrastructures.

These issues, and many others, will be further debated at the High-level International Conference on “Energy Security and Sustainability – the OSCE Perspective,” co-hosted by the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship and the Government of Turkmenistan on 17-18 October 2013 in Ashgabat.

This high-level Conference will bring together policymakers from the OSCE participating States, decision-makers from the energy and foreign policy field, as well as heads of relevant international organizations.

Ukrainian Chairmanship believes this High-level meeting will facilitate enhancement of the OSCE dialogue on energy security and co-operation, which should become an integral part of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security as highlighted in Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010.

**Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Throughout the Forum process this year, the Ukrainian Chairmanship has been actively promoting consensus on the Organization's future engagement in the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

In an era of pressing global economic challenges we need a truly 21st century approach to the Second Dimension – an approach that is centered on pragmatic initiatives to create and support sustainable economic growth as a crucial element of comprehensive peace and security.

I am confident that this Concluding Meeting will provide important inputs for the Kyiv Ministerial Council later this year, as a strong political will is much needed to foster the OSCE mandate on environment and energy.

Ukraine expects that this meeting will strengthen political dialogue within the OSCE, give political incentive to economic and environmental issues and contribute to the elaboration of follow-up activities to address these challenges.

I wish all of us a great success in our common endeavour.