

24<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Strengthening stability and security through co-operation on good governance”

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING

Vienna, 19 – 20 April 2016

Opening statement

Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

First we would like to thank the German Chairmanship for setting the agenda of the second preparatory meeting of Economic and Environmental Forum by identifying a pertinent theme of good governance in context of cooperation in the OSCE area.

We thank also the keynote speakers for framing our discussions and contextualizing their ideas and experience in the framework of international cooperation.

While assessing this framework of good governance, we should pay particular attention to the areas where OSCE contribution can bring added value.

The key attributes of good governance such as transparency, responsibility, accountability, participation and responsiveness demonstrate that the good governance, security and human rights are mutually reinforcing and thus in the OSCE context good governance has also cross dimensional application.

Good governance is the process whereby public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources and guarantee the realization of human rights of all in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption. The right based approach to good governance certainly encompasses the right of peoples to development.

In the era of increasing interdependencies or connectivity, as it is framed in the title of parallel business conference, good governance requires inclusive international and regional cooperation.

In our view further OSCE involvement should be well-grounded in the OSCE commitments, expertise and comparative advantages.

In this regard, it is important to proceed from our previous commitments undertaken under the Irish and Swiss Chairmanship on addressing good governance and combating corruption.

OSCE institutions and field missions have certainly contributed in promoting good governance through various projects. Coming from our national experience we would like to mention regulatory framework reform or regulatory guillotine which ease administrative burden on businesses and strengthened transparency and accountability of public institutions. In our view, further regulatory efforts can be made in promoting good governance in the area of foreign economic cooperation.

We appreciate the emphasis on good migration governance in this meeting and we are looking forward to good practices that we will be presented here.

Last but not least the OSCE expertise in conflict cycle can be used in assisting good governance projects in the conflict areas which can also contribute towards confidence building.

Thank you.