

**Statement by the delegation of Georgia  
At the 25<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum:  
“Greening the Economy and Building Partnerships for Security in the OSCE region”  
SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING  
“Greening the economy for sustainable development, security and stability”**

**Astana, 14-16 June, 2017**

**Opening Session**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Georgian delegation would like to join the words of gratitude and appreciation towards the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the Coordinator of OSCE’s Economic and Environmental Activities, Ambassador Vuk Zugic and his able team for the excellent preparation and organization of the second preparatory meeting of this year’s Economic and Environmental Forum. And of course, we would also like to sincerely thank the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, for the warm welcome and the exceptional hospitality in the beautiful city of Astana. Rakhmet!

Let me also thank the distinguished speakers for being with us this morning and setting the scene for our further discussions today and tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman,

Georgia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU delegation, yet I wish to add few national remarks.

Enhancing resource efficiency and greening the economy, reducing environmental risks and strengthening good environmental governance as well as strengthening energy security through renewable energy are all priority areas for Georgia. Despite the absence of the OSCE field mission in Georgia, which are, in fact, so amply represented today at our discussions, the OSCE together with other international organizations, such as the UNECE, is a valuable partner for Georgia in its efforts to achieve the goals mentioned above. In this context, we very much value the close and fruitful cooperation within the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) on various projects in the field of environment. Georgia also views the

OSCE as an important platform for dialogue and exchange of best practices on various aspects of its comprehensive security approach. It is in this vein that we look forward to the productive discussions and certainly few concrete take-aways on how to improve our national policies over the course of the discussions today and tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman,

We are also very pleased to have had the opportunity to visit the world expo just yesterday. In fact, a clear example of the importance Georgia attaches to the expo and its theme Future Energy, was a visit to the expo2017 of a fairly large high level delegation from Georgia, headed by the President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili just two days ago.

Once again, thank you to all the organizers of these events and the Government of Kazakhstan for so graciously hosting us in Astana.

Thank you.