



**Remarks to open to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee's Special Debate on "Co-operation in enhancing energy security and reducing environmental and economic challenges in the OSCE area"**

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Dear fellow parliamentarians,

The topic of energy security goes to the heart of the modern state's need to balance its independence and duty to protect its citizens, on the one hand, and its interdependence and international obligations, on the other.

I need not remind you all that energy deposits and generation capacity - be they natural or renewable, carbon-based or carbon-neutral - are dispersed across our planet without equity or regard to the political borders that define human geography.

I would like to use my own country as an example. Kyrgyzstan has the third highest hydropower capacity in the CIS region, but has small reserves of fossil fuels. We import around 40% of our energy from neighboring Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The reasons behind this are various.

The Kyrgyz energy sector was formed during the Soviet period through centralized water-energy management across Central Asia. Management through the water-energy complex was carried out from one center and with uniform prices.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the centralized water-energy management system ended. This compromised the usage of hydroelectric sources such as the Naryn River, which flows through Kyrgyz and Uzbek territory. The Kyrgyz energy sector is in need now of around \$180 million in funding.

I hope that today's discussion will provide ample opportunity for delegates to exchange ideas on the role that the OSCE can play in the strengthening of energy security and in the reduction of environmental and economic challenges in the OSCE region.