



Statement of Iceland at 26th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

Mr Chairman.

I would like to thank our Czech hosts for their hospitality, and the Italian Chairmanship for providing us with this forum to discuss vital issues of the work of the OSCE, as well as for the comprehensive **Food-for-Thought Paper**.

We welcome the focus on these matters, since digital transformation will effect our ability to strengthen security in our area, increase web and information security, the security of our financial system and stability and the fight against corruption, terrorist financing and money laundering. It also involves environmental policies, energy policies and the private sector.

Therefore, **Digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution** are issues that every Government and multilateral organization have to come to terms with.

It is of importance to discuss this within the framework of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension, also in the context of the Security Dimension and the Human Dimension. We therefore welcome further elaborations on a Ministerial Declaration on the Security Implications of the Digital Transformation.

These issues are also vital for **Human Capacity Development**, and for the security of our societies, and are closely linked to policies on innovation and public-private initiatives.

The **Policy Declaration of the Government of Iceland** stipulates new action on innovation. Accordingly, a new policy on innovation is being formed for the coming decade. Digitalization features prominently in this matter, as well as the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Icelandic authorities work according to a Policy on Web and Information Security 2015 – 2026.

This is, however, not a matter which stops at borders. Iceland cooperates with its closest partners on digital matters.

The Nordic Council of Ministers has launched an initiative on the digitalization in several field of government and public services. This rests on a Nordic-Baltic Ministerial Declaration on the so-called **Digital North**, which was adopted in April last year.

The digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution will have a profound impact on our societies and economic development and connectivity, and thus on education, learning and training. We welcome a further elaboration on a Ministerial Council decision on Human Capital Development.

We note the paper's contemplations on possible effects on social issues and the labour market, as well as the possibility that such the rapid digital development could cause more divisions in our communities and between developed and developing countries.

It is therefore important to keep in mind the overall guidance of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, such as number nine on building infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, to name but one SDG. Rapid progress in digitalization help us in reaching the SDGs, such as in poverty reduction, better linking of rural communities to the centers of society and the empowerment of disadvantaged groups in the society, such as women, minorities and people living in remote areas.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.