

**STATEMENT BY ALEXEY LEBEDEV,  
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE CONCLUDING MEETING OF THE 32ND OSCE ECONOMIC AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

**Prague, 10 September 2026**

Mr Chairperson,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express our gratitude to the Swiss Chairpersonship, the OSCE Secretariat and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for organising this meeting, and, of course, to the Czech Republic for its hospitality and responsible approach as the country hosting the concluding meeting of the Forum. We hope that this approach will guide future endeavours.

The OSCE Economic and Environmental dimension has faced serious challenges in recent years. Its work is becoming increasingly politicised as certain participating States are resorting ever more to unilateral restrictive measures, which leads to greater fragmentation of the OSCE economic area and the disruption of long-established technological and trade ties and negatively affects joint efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, protect the environment and adapt to climate change.

New technologies are being developed amid fierce military, political and economic confrontation and a lack of trust.

With the new arms race, particularly in the field of autonomous weapons systems, the contradiction between national security considerations and ethics is getting more and more apparent. Regulatory and moral restrictions are often sacrificed to geopolitical interests.

Western political elites are openly pursuing a policy of technological neo-colonialism, with a small group of countries in possession of advanced technologies striving to impose their terms on the less technologically developed majority.

Innovation is turning into an immutable feature of global politics, shaping technological centres of influence. A country's possession of new technologies is going to determine its standing in the emerging world order.

In these circumstances, the legal framework governing innovation-related processes is becoming increasingly important. We are witnessing technology alliances being formed, which are, in essence, private clubs. Meanwhile, the international community is still far from understanding how to deal with new technologies and what to strive for.

All this confirms the pressing need to develop balanced approaches allowing to reconcile the objectives of ensuring security, promoting technological progress and upholding ethical principles without giving rise to unilateral preferences or global imbalances.

This being said, I would like to note that the Forum's theme proposed by the Swiss Chairpersonship appears to be non-confrontational, unifying and appealing to all participating States. The organisers managed to compile a busy agenda. We commend the organization of the Joint Preparatory Meeting in Vienna. It was marked by interesting presentations along with a professional and, overall, non-politicised dialogue.

The OSCE is currently going through difficult times. Many are questioning the very future of the Organization. However, we still have a chance to ensure that the OSCE remains relevant. It is clear that restoring lost trust and relaunching work based on unifying principles will be extremely difficult. The second basket, nevertheless, has every chance of becoming a driving force for restoring the Organization's reputation and operational capacity. Yesterday, here, in Prague, in the OSCE Documentation Centre, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, together with the Swiss Chairpersonship, presented a vision for breathing new life into the OSCE's second basket. We look forward to further discussion on this issue.

Russia, like other countries, views the strengthening of its technological sovereignty as a top priority. We assume that innovations should be introduced based on the principles of objectivity and ethics and that all states should have non-discriminatory access to new technologies. We are consistently promoting these approaches across various regional forums, in particular by advancing dialogue on the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence within the Eurasian Economic Union and BRICS.

We stand ready to work constructively with all interested parties on various international platforms, including within the OSCE's second basket, based on the principles of equality and mutual respect for national interests.

Thank you.