

SEC.GAL/221/06
12 December 2006

ENGLISH only



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and
Environmental Activities**

Vienna, 12 December 2006

To: All OSCE Delegations
Partners for Co-operation
Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Subject: First Preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental
Forum: "Land Degradation and Soil Contamination", Bishkek, 16-17
November 2006

Attached herewith is a document consisting of the Consolidated Summary of the First Preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum: "Land Degradation and Soil Contamination", which took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 16-17 November 2006.



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and Environmental Activities**

Vienna, 12 December 2006

CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY

**FIRST PREPARATORY CONFERENCE TO THE FIFTEENTH OSCE ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM: LAND DEGRADATION AND SOIL CONTAMINATION**

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN, 16-17 NOVEMBER 2006

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The First Preparatory Conference for the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum was held on 16-17 November 2006 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The main focus of the Conference was “Land Degradation and Soil Contamination”.

The next year’s 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum will focus on “Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, Soil Contamination and Water Management”. According to the PC Decision No. 735, the Forum is to be held in two stages - on 22 and 23 January 2007 in Vienna; and from 21 to 23 May 2007 in Prague. A Second Preparatory Conference, focusing mainly on “Water Management” will be organized in Zaragoza, Spain, on 12-13 March 2007.

The Bishkek Conference was organised by the incoming Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) in close co-operation with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. A Background Note was circulated by the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to introduce the topic of the Conference (SEC.GAL/164/06).

The Conference was opened by **H.E. Felix Kulov**, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic. **Ms. Dominique Mineur**, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the OSCE, representing the OSCE Chairmanship, **Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorin**, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, representing the incoming OSCE Chairmanship, **Ambassador Markus Müller**, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities spoke in the opening session.

Over 180 participants, official representatives from OSCE participating States, International and Non-Governmental Organization, Business Community and the Academic Community, as well as OSCE Field Offices attended the Conference and engaged in discussions. Speakers and panellists presented their inside knowledge and their views thereby stimulating the discussion in each session. Throughout the deliberations all the participants freely expressed their views and contributed to formulating concrete suggestions for further consideration by the OSCE Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee and the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

Numerous documents and presentations were circulated. A list of these documents is included as an annex in the Consolidated Summary. The documents will be published on a CD-Rom available upon request from the OCEEA. Further information on the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the Economic and Environmental Forum process can be found on the **OSCE Website**: www.osce.org/eea.

Structure of the Conference

The Conference consisted of both opening and closing plenary sessions and five plenary working sessions and three panel discussions. The plenary sessions and panels were dedicated to the following topics:

Plenary Session I	The challenges of land degradation and soil contamination; ensuring environmental security and sustainable development
Plenary Session II	The impact of hazardous activities on environmental security
Plenary Session III	Forest management
Plenary Session IV	The challenge of environmental migration

Plenary Session V	Sustainable use of land, agriculture and food security
Panel Discussion I	Integrated Watershed Management
Panel Discussion II	Public and private response to meeting the challenges of land degradation and soil contamination
Panel Discussion III	The role of the OSCE and co-operation with other International Organizations

Suggestions

The Bishkek Conference accomplished its main goal of adding more information and knowledge on the land degradation and soil contamination related issues and existing initiatives in the OSCE region and in particular in Central Asia, bringing thus more clarity with regard to the possible role of the OSCE. Many suggestions for the OSCE and its participating States were put forward. The Conference contributed to a better prioritization of issues and areas of activity, to the identification of niches and gaps, which could be tackled by the OSCE, through developing networks with other International Organizations, as well as to the identification of ideas for follow-up activities.

The overviews of the discussions and the suggestions stemming from each session are presented in the **Rapporteurs' Reports** which are included in this Consolidated Summary. It is envisaged that the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee discusses these suggestions, in order to streamline the preparatory process for the Forum.

A list of preliminary ideas and suggestions is presented below, for easy reference.

PLENARY SESSION I – The challenges of land degradation and soil contamination; ensuring environmental security and sustainable development

- Land degradation and soil contamination is becoming more and more a security concern and may have transboundary implications. This has been recognized by the OSCE, and, consequently, the relevance of its environmental pillar should be emphasized in the future.
- Regional co-operation is a key issue in the combat against land degradation
- In the development of national policies for combating land degradation and soil contamination a homogeneous common approach is needed.
- The OSCE should further explore ways of co-operation with the Secretariat of the UNCCD, in the context of the next year's Forum process, and it might also be instrumental in promoting the EU Soil Strategy in non EU countries.

PLENARY SESSION II – The impact of hazardous activities on environmental security

- The OSCE together with other International Organizations and Financial Institutions should consider ways of supporting Kyrgyzstan as well as other Central Asian countries in tackling the legacies of the uranium waste.
- Military legacies, in particular Rocket Fuel components, also known as mélange, pose a threat to environmental security and exemplify the added value of the OSCE as a cross dimensional organization that can tackle problems affecting the environment and livelihoods.
- The international illegal transport of hazardous waste poses a severe security and environmental threat to OSCE participating States. Strengthening the capacities of Border control agencies is necessary and could be another example of cross dimensional activities.
- Mining operations are short term activities with long term consequences. The existence of adequate legal frameworks within which the mining industry is obliged to operate is of utmost importance. It is also necessary to involve local communities to prevent environmental damage.

- Good governance practices and experiences in waste management planning and soil contamination recovery, including in the military sector, should be promoted by the OSCE.

PLENARY SESSION III – Forest management

- The OSCE should encourage participating States to consider in their internal policies that:
 - forests should be a part of the solution rather than a part of the problem;
 - forests are the necessary link between soil and water protection; and
 - forests are an essential part of watershed management;
- A closer co-operation between the OSCE and the Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) might be envisaged. The OSCE can add its contribution from the point of view of security to other international forest related fora;
- The OSCE should recommend participating States to take into account the security related aspects of sustainable forest management;
- The OSCE could assist in the enforcement of forest law and governance through education, training and capacity-building among all levels of stakeholders;
- The OSCE could contribute to the exchange of experiences in the implementation of national forest programmes, in particular concerning their security related consequences;
- Due consideration should be given to non wood forest products and services –as in Kyrgyzstan - in order to facilitate their legal insertion in the market economy.

PLENARY SESSION IV - The challenge of environmental migration

- The OSCE and other international organizations could assist governmental and non-governmental organizations to improve comparable data on environmental migration and undertake targeted research in this field;
- The OSCE could encourage increased attention to and raise awareness of the issue of environmentally induced migration, promote conceptual clarity and international political and legal dialogue on issues such as Environmentally Displaced Persons;
- The OSCE as a forum for political dialogue could address the issue of environmental migration when it comes to long term regional/national policies and stimulate interagency and interstate cooperation;
- The OSCE could promote targeted environmental protection/rehabilitation projects for at-risk populations;
- The OSCE could work on diversifying economic opportunities in degraded areas in order to reduce ‘push’ factors;
- The OSCE in its field missions could assist in monitoring and assessment of environmental migration phenomena.

PLENARY SESSION V – Sustainable use of land, agriculture and food security

- Historical legacies play a significant role with regard to land degradation but some poor agricultural practices are still currently being used, continuing aggravating existing problems.
- The key issue in ensuring sustainable use of land and food security is good governance.
- There is a need for raising the responsibility of land users, a need for drafting national action plans, supporting research and training.
- The OSCE should work closely with other actors, in particular local ones, in order to reach the right goals and address the right needs. Training local community and farmers (for example on accessing loans) as well as improved access to information are needed.
- The OSCE is well placed to promote co-operation and co-ordination at national and regional levels, by linking agriculture, industry, NGOs, media and various governmental agencies.

- The OSCE, being a political organization, could support research in these areas and advocate the importance of linking the results of such research to governmental action.

PANEL DISCUSSION I – Integrated Watershed Management

- Water related issues will be discussed in greater details during the second preparatory Conference but this session was instrumental in identifying priorities and needs, in particular in Central Asia.
- There is a clear relationship between watershed and land management; integration occurs on different levels including global and local ones. The ecosystem approach is important and international agreements must translate into action at local level.
- Cooperation also needs to occur on different levels, including intra-ministerial and finally, in order to have useful cooperation, a uniform approach and harmonisation is essential.

PANEL DISCUSSION II – Public and private response to meeting the challenges of land degradation and soil contamination

- Progress on land degradation requires dialogue with civil society and the private sector; the OSCE can act as a catalyst for such initiatives;
- Economically and environmentally sound approaches to business, win-win scenarios, do exist;
- Enhanced capacity to deal with waste management would reduce environmental insecurity and soil contamination and could help turned waste management into a profitable business;
- It is important to foster grass-roots approaches and mobilize local populations, also in order to harness local knowledge;
- Appropriate legislation on property rights and criminal responsibilities plays a crucial role in land use.

PANEL DISCUSSION III – The role of the OSCE and co-operation with other International Organizations

- Environmental problems can cause internal conflicts, and the OSCE, which has conflict prevention and resolution as one of its main mandate, should be involved in these issues. The ENVSEC initiative is a good example in this regard. The co-ordination between the different partner organizations should be improved;
- The OSCE can provide linkages and political support to local projects. The OSCE should continue to empower local people to support good governance development;
- The OSCE can monitor the local situation through its field presences and through its good governance initiatives can motivate local actors to undertake low technology solutions that are very effective;
- OSCE activities on combating land degradation may include working on cross-border issues, working to support the further development of NGOs, and working through its Aarhus Centre on the creation of appropriate legislation;
- The OSCE and UNIDO could work together on promoting clean technology including the promotion of international standards, conducting joint workshops and seminars on clean production, and the promotion of modern management structures in businesses that would promote clean production;
- The OSCE should consider ways of co-operation with the recently launched Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM), a programme supported by the Asian Development Bank and other organizations;
- The OSCE should also begin a carbon off-set programme by promoting tree planting projects.

Annexes

A number of annexes - *Agenda, List of Participants and List of Distributed Documents* - have been attached to give you a more complete picture of the Bishkek Conference. For further reading, please note that background documents from this conference can be found on the OSCE web site under www.osce.org/eea or requested at the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (gabriel.leonte@osce.org or andrea.gredler@osce.org).

WELCOMING ADDRESS

**by H.E. Felix Kulov,
Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic**

Dear Conference participants,
Ladies and gentlemen!

Above all, on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, let me sincerely welcome you on a hospitable Kyrgyz land. It is a great honor for us for the second time to host a preparatory conference to the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum with the theme "Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, Soil Contamination and Water Management" As you might be aware one of the preparatory workshops to the 12th OSCE Economic Forum was held in March 2004 in Bishkek.

Let me use this opportunity to express my gratitude to the OSCE current and incoming Chairmanships - Belgium and Spain – for supporting the initiative of Kyrgyzstan to conduct the First preparatory conference in Bishkek, and to the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE Center in Bishkek for their assistance in organization of such an important event of regional significance.

I am glad to see esteemed representatives of OSCE participating States and international experts at our meeting. I believe that during their staying with us we will not only be able to discuss the important issues on the conference's agenda but also to get to know closer the capital of our country, the culture, traditions and history of the Kyrgyz people.

Dear participants,

After the people's revolution of 24 March 2005, the new leadership of Kyrgyzstan confirmed its adherence to the OSCE principles and commitments and the importance of cooperation with the OSCE in all three dimensions, to carry out reforms in order to build a democratic and rule of law based state with a market economy. We have already achieved first successful results. For instance, last week there was adopted a new edition of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic.

At the same time, in accordance with the adopted Country Development Strategy till 2010, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic works towards addressing such social and economic objectives as enabling sustainable economic growth, increasing well-being of the population and poverty reduction, combating corruption and money laundering of illegal income. In the field of preservation of the environment we take adequate measures within the framework of international ecological conventions, such as Espoo and Aarhus.

With satisfaction, let me appreciate the practical assistance rendered by the OSCE and in particular the qualitative improvement and quantitative increase of the initiated economic and ecological projects in 2006.

Dear participants,

As you know, the last year Forum was devoted to the role of transport in strengthening regional economic cooperation and stability. In this connection we welcome the decision of the incoming chairmanship of Spain and of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE economic and environmental activities to pay increased attention to problems related to ecological safety and sustainable development in the OSCE area, such as land degradation, soil contamination and water resources management. The topic is timely and vital for all OSCE participating countries, including Kyrgyzstan.

Nowadays our Republic faces a land degradation problem caused by underflooding of territories of settlements and agricultural land on a territory of about 3200 square kilometers due to a raise of underground water. More than 50 years will be required for restoration of degraded land. In this connection the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic developed and started implementing a set of activities to eliminate the causes of underflooding and prevent land degradation. Within this context I would like to address to representatives of Belgium, Spain and other OSCE participating States, international donor organizations and the OSCE Co-ordinator with a proposal to render an additional financial assistance for development and introduction of technical projects together with the OSCE.

Efficient and rational use of water resources is vital for Kyrgyzstan and for all the countries of the Central Asian region. International organizations, including the OSCE and the Special UN program for economies of Central Asia, facilitate addressing this problem. As you remember, the issues of cooperation and sustainable water management within the OSCE context were considered at the 10th OSCE Economic Forum in 2002. One of the Forum outcomes was a joint OSCE, UNDP, UNEP, UNEEC, Regional Ecologic Center and NATO program, which is called the “Environment and Security Initiative in the Fergana valley”, in implementation of which Kyrgyzstan takes the most active part. Thus the OSCE accumulated certain practical experience on the issue, which makes it possible for participating countries to achieve positive results.

In conclusion I would like to express hope that the conference will provide possibilities for participants to share opinions and experience on a broad range of problems related to ecological safety and sustainable development in the OSCE area and develop proposals on the practical implementation of the taken decisions.

Let me wish you all the success!

Thank you for your attention.

WELCOMING ADDRESS

**by Ms. Dominique Mineur,
Permanent Mission of Belgium to the OSCE,
OSCE Chairmanship
on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Christian Meerschman,
Ambassador of Belgium to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan**

Mr Prime Minister
Mr. Minister
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of the OSCE Belgian Chairmanship, I would like to welcome you to the First Preparatory Conference of the Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, which focuses on “Land Degradation and Soil Contamination”.

I am impressed by the high number of participants, who gathered here today, by the quality of speakers listed in the agenda and by the variety of participation. I can indeed see here representatives of key international organizations active in the area of land degradation and soil contamination, numerous government representatives and experts, many civil society organizations, researchers and academics, as well as OSCE field presences.

First of all, I would like to thank the Government of Kyrgyzstan for hosting us here in Bishkek. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the work done so far by the incoming Spanish Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. I wish them every success in the future and I am confident that this Conference, as well as next year’s Forum, will represent an important contribution toward advancing our common objectives within the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE.

In addition, strong interest in OSCE economic and environmental activities, not only of the OSCE participating States but also of other important actors, is again a proof that the OSCE is more and more being perceived as a relevant actor as far as economic and environmental aspects of security are concerned.

The choice of the new theme for the 2007 Forum can again help bring about a greater balance between the three dimensions in OSCE’s comprehensive approach of security. The economic and environmental dimension is part of that comprehensive approach, but has received less attention than the other dimensions in the course of the past few years, though it is widely accepted that there can be no lasting security and stability without the economic and environmental approaches.

I am particularly pleased to note the high level of participation from the Central Asian participating States. I recall that one year ago, in Dushanbe, when Belgium started the preparatory process for the Fourteenth Economic Forum, which focussed on transport, the involvement of Central Asian countries was also substantial. That Conference in Dushanbe was instrumental not only in offering a detailed picture of various issues, needs and challenges but also in generating concrete ideas for follow-up activities. Many of the proposals made then have already been translated into facts – and I refer here to the pilot project developed with UNECE on promoting the implementation of transport related conventions – or are now on the table of our Ministers, as part of a Draft Decision on Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE that we expect to be adopted by the Ministerial Council in Brussels on 4-5

December. I want to emphasize that the Central Asian participating States have played a leading role in this process. The Belgian Chairmanship is grateful for that. We also strongly encourage you to act in a similar pro active way as far as the next year's Forum is concerned – it is an important opportunity that should not be missed.

The topic of “Land Degradation and Soil Contamination” we are going to discuss today and tomorrow is an important part of the broader theme of next year's Forum, which focuses on key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area. The proposed theme, endorsed by the 56 OSCE participating States is an excellent one for a number of reasons.

First, it is relevant for all the OSCE participating States so therefore can be a good opportunity for exchanging best practices and for strengthening political commitments.

Second, it is high on the agenda of other international organizations and therefore offers the opportunity to establish and strengthen partnerships with other actors and to integrate OSCE activities into other regional or global processes.

Third, it builds upon existing OSCE experiences and activities in the environmental field. Therefore, the next Forum represents an excellent opportunity to further strengthen and streamline the environmental component of OSCE activities.

In this context I would like to mention that the Declaration to be adopted by the upcoming Ministerial Council is expected to make reference to the environmental component of the OSCE work and to call for its further consolidation, as it is an important contribution to developing co-operation and strengthening security in the OSCE region.

Last but not least, the theme of the next year's Forum provides for continuity in the OSCE work and for an integrated approach of economic and environmental aspects. For example, I am pleased to see that the topic of transport of hazardous goods, which was also discussed in the context of this year's Forum, continues to be on the agenda next year as well. This year, while focusing on transport, Belgium tried as well to highlight the relevance of environmental concerns and the possible role the OSCE could play. Numerous aspects related to the promotion of good governance as well as the public-private partnership are also relevant for achieving sustainable development and for an effective management of land and soil resources.

In conclusion, there are favourable conditions now at the start of the Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum process. At the end of the day, the outcome will depend on the active commitment and support of the participating States. I encourage all of you to engage in this process from an early stage, with a view to achieving concrete results.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me finish my intervention by thanking the host country, Kyrgyzstan, represented here by H.E. Prime Minister Felix Kulov, and H.E. Mr. Alimbek Djekshenkulov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, for their hospitality and for the outstanding work done in preparing this Conference.

I thank you and wish you all a successful Conference.

WELCOMING ADDRESS

**by Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorin,
Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Spain/incoming OSCE Chairmanship**

Prime Minister,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome all of you to this first preparatory conference to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum on “Land Degradation and Soil Contamination”.

On behalf of the government of Spain and as the incoming Chairmanship of the OSCE, I would like to thank the Government and people of the Kyrgyz Republic, and especially to H.E. Prime Minister Felix Kulov, H.E. Mr. Alikbek Djekshenkulov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, for their hospitality and for hosting this conference in such beautiful country in the heart of Central Asia. Spain particularly wants to praise the efforts made by the government, institutions, and people of Kyrgyzstan to find, through peaceful dialogue, a common ground from which to keep building a democratic society coherent with our OSCE standards and values. Thanks to a responsive government, responsible parliamentarians, and committed civil society working together, we, as the Spanish upcoming Chair, are more than pleased and proud to witness a large step forward in Kyrgyz democracy.

I also want to express our gratitude to the Belgian Chairmanship for its leadership of the OSCE this year, a task that Belgium has accomplished with great success and effectiveness.

My most sincere ‘thanks’ also to Mr. Bernard Snoy, Coordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, and his staff in Vienna, and to Ambassador Markus Muller and his team at the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, for organizing and preparing this conference. Although we are only at the beginning, I can say that you have already done a wonderful job.

Last but not least, I would like to thank and welcome all the speakers and panelists for accepting to share their knowledge and experience with us. I am also pleased to welcome the representatives of key international organizations, government’s representatives, civil society, and OSCE Field Presences, all of which are necessarily actors for the successful development of our theme.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Indeed, this conference is the first major event and the first step in preparing the Economic and Environmental Forum of 2007 under the Chair of Spain. Today and tomorrow, here in Bishkek we will discuss and work on ‘land degradation and soil contamination’ in the OSCE area.

Spain considers that the chosen topic is relevant to the OSCE because environment and sustainable development are closely interlinked to our common pursuit of prosperity, stability, and, above all, security in the OSCE area. We all want great prosperity and we can and must have it without damaging our environment, which in the end is the basis on which our future development has to be sustained. Therefore, since we firmly believe in this, five Spanish experts have come to Bishkek to actively participate in this conference and help put our topic on the right track.

Land degradation, as you know, is caused by several factors among which: deforestation and loss of vegetative cover, erosion, depletion of soil resources, salinization, and soil contamination. It has adverse effects such as desertification, ground water pollution, agricultural productivity loss, landslides, climate change, natural disasters, etc. What all this really means is that when we talk about land degradation, we must always remember that we are talking about people’s lives, lives of persons just like you and me.

The environment (whether it is land, soil or water) is the foundation for economic activity and livelihoods. It is not a luxury! It is the basis for all life, and the life support system of many people. It is vital that we look at land degradation as a local issue involving the particular circumstances of local people; but, at the same time, one driven by global markets and global environmental and development interests.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Central Asia is one of the most severely damaged ecological zones, not only in the OSCE area, but in the entire world. Many land and soil related problems at the local and national level are common among Central Asian countries. There are transboundary concerns associated with environmentally unsound management of natural resources.

Desertification is a serious problem in Central Asia. Almost one third of the total territory is desert. An estimated 60% of Kyrgyzstan's land is affected by topsoil loss. Areas in the upper Aral Sea watershed have lost nearly 50% of their original forest cover. In Kazakhstan almost 60% of the territory is at risk of desertification.

However, it is not only Central Asian countries that suffer from these problems. In Central and Eastern Europe more than a third of the land is affected by soil degradation linked to agricultural mismanagement and deforestation, in addition to severe soil contamination in many areas. There are around 3000 former military sites, abandoned industrial facilities and storage sites which are probably still contaminating. But even in the rich and prosperous EU region, 16% of the land is affected by soil degradation.

In Spain, my own country, one third of the land is at risk or high risk of suffering desertification. But there are regions, such as the Canary Islands, Murcia, and Valencia, where the risk grows up to 90%. That is almost all their territory!!! Soil erosion and forest fires have contributed to this situation.

All of this is to say that: many of land and soil related problems are global in nature and to tackle them we need a global response. Life has demonstrated more than once that an environmental problem today can become a catastrophe tomorrow. But to deal with the challenges posed by land degradation and soil contamination we must put into place sound economic and sustainable development policies, and to stick to principles of good governance – whether they be land reform, food security and agriculture, forest management or watershed management.

Land degradation is a growing problem that needs imaginative, collaborative and multi-sectoral action. The environmental problems that we will discuss during the next two days - land degradation and soil contamination - must be the basis on which to build a closer cooperation, both East and West of Vienna. This is crucial. Not only because many of the countries in the OSCE area share borders, rivers, and lakes, or form part of the same eco-regions; but also, because many current and future environmental problems and dangers have common roots. Strengthening cooperation means sharing and transferring knowledge, building capacity and stimulating investment, “between states” and “within states”.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today's conference is part of a larger process to promote better understanding, raise awareness and recommend actions on the security implications of land degradation and soil contamination in the OSCE area, that the Spanish Chairmanship wants to lead with your help and contribution. We face a challenging task. We should not move as if we were in different train carriages rolling in different directions waving as we pass by. We need to act together.

I look to you, ladies and gentlemen, to contribute to advancing our common objective of strengthening co-operation, promoting economic development and bringing about security in our common space.

Thank you for your attention.

WELCOMING ADDRESS

**by Ambassador Markus Müller,
Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek**

Your Excellencies,
Dear participants,

The OSCE thanks the Kyrgyz government for hosting this event in Bishkek and committing itself to seeing this event through despite the events of last week and the important decisions facing the country.

This commitment highlights how important the environment is for the Kyrgyz Republic. The OSCE shares this commitment and cooperates on many levels with Kyrgyz authorities to find solutions to environmental hot spots.

Some of the most pressing problems in Kyrgyzstan are related to land degradation and soil contamination. Uranium tailings and their clean-up remain one of the most pressing environmental problems in the region. For many people living in towns with uranium tailing is the equivalent to living under a death sentence. This is due to the effect of radioactivity on their health, social-economic conditions, and the pollution of water supplies.

Together with the Ministry of Emergency Situations the OSCE has worked hard to raise awareness about these issues and to attract donor aid to conduct clean-up operations.

Often solutions to environmental issues are best solved at a grass roots level. The OSCE is supporting new initiatives to spread knowledge across the country about low-cost technologies that can be developed by villagers to improve their soil and water quality. It is important that we continue to support these villagers' efforts in solving their local environmental problems, as they can stem the collective effect that environmental hazards bring when they are neglected and finally require costly clean-up.

Many of these issues are not insolvable, but through collective efforts of the government, donor community and citizens we can and will make a change.

It is my hope that this conference will produce concrete recommendations and realistic proposals for how the OSCE can implement small-scale projects to remedy land degradation and soil contamination. Often the donor community puts on very large-scale expensive events, that lead to no outcomes. It is my sincere hope that this will not be the case for this conference.

WELCOMING ADDRESS

by Mr. Bernard Snoy
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Mr. Prime Minister,
Mr. Minister,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me also join the previous speakers and welcome all of you here in Bishkek, on behalf of the OSCE Secretariat, to this first preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

As Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorriin, Head of the OSCE Task Force of the Spanish incoming OSCE Chairmanship rightly pointed out in his introductory remarks, the topic we are going to discuss today and tomorrow – land degradation and soil contamination - is highly relevant for the OSCE as an organization as well as for all its participating States. The topic of the next Forum provides for continuity in our activities, represents an excellent opportunity to further strengthening the environmental component of our activities, for focusing and better streamlining our actions. At the same time, the topic of the next Forum will provide for an integrated approach of economic and environmental aspects.

I am indeed delighted to see that this Conference is being received with such a wide-spread interest among representatives of various national and local governmental authorities, civil society, the private sector, as well as international organisations from the entire OSCE area and above all from Central Asia. I take this as a sign of both awareness of the importance of this topic and willingness of all of you to be part of a debate and of a process which should generate concrete proposals for action. I am pleased to welcome the representatives of the OSCE Field Presences, who also made an important contribution to the preparation of this Conference and, I am convinced, will play an important role in the follow-up process as well.

Before briefly referring to the substance of the Conference and to the expected outcome, let me extend my warmest thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, represented here by H.E. Prime Minister Felix Kulov and H.E. Minister Alikbek Djekshenkulov, for its hospitality and for the support in preparing this Conference. Excellencies, we are honoured by your presence here.

My thanks also go to the representative of the Belgian Chairmanship, represented here by Ms. Dominique Mineur, for the constant support for the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE.

As well, I want to thank the incoming Spanish Chairmanship, represented here by Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorriin and Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado, to their teams in Madrid and in Vienna, as well as to the Spanish experts from the Ministry of Environment for the excellent co-operation in organizing this event. Dear Ambassadors, let me assure you that my entire team will give you its full support for your Chairmanship in the year to come. We have started the preparations for the next year's Economic and Environmental Forum under good auspices and I am confident that we will have a very successful Forum next year.

And of course a special thank you goes to Ambassador Markus Muller, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, and his excellent staff.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our main task is to identify the most realistic and suitable suggestions for the future engagement of the OSCE with regard to addressing land degradation and soil contamination, with a view to enhancing environmental security and promoting sustainable development in the region. To achieve this objective, we need over the next days an interactive and dynamic exchange of views. We need to learn more about what is already being done and about what is still needed.

My Office, in close co-operation with the incoming Chairmanship, has prepared a background paper which I hope you have all received. I hope you will find it useful. This paper attempts to present a number of relevant issues as well as existing activities and initiatives in the area of land degradation and soil contamination. Many of these issues will be discussed in greater details today and tomorrow. The paper is by no means exhaustive but it might be a good start. We have to add to it your input, i.e. your first hand experiences, knowledge and ideas.

Let me now briefly refer to some topics included on the agenda.

We will start by trying to define the challenges posed by land degradation and soil contamination. In the first plenary session we invited a number of representatives of international organizations active in this field such as the European Environment Agency, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as well as the European Commission to share with us their views on these issues as well as inform us about their initiatives, policies, current and planned activities. We do hope that we will establish a strong co-operation with these organizations and develop joint activities in the future. This session will also be dedicated to discussing the environmental, economic and security implications of land degradation and contaminated soils, having always in mind the OSCE comprehensive concept of security.

A second session will be dedicated to the impact of hazardous human activities on environmental security. You may concur with me that this topic is extremely relevant for Central Asia. We will attempt to assess the consequences on soil of industrial and military legacies as well as the potential harmful impact of the transport and disposal of hazardous substances and of trafficking in hazardous waste.

Then, after lunch, we will focus on forest management. We will look at the forest resource as a tool to prevent floods and landslides as well as a source of sustainable economic development for many communities. We shall try to identify some good forest management practices that the OSCE could possibly promote.

The last session of today will be dedicated to a topic that has been introduced on the OSCE economic and environmental agenda two years ago, under the Slovenian Chairmanship, namely the environmentally induced migration. This session should once more highlight the link between environmental degradation and migration and should do so in a proactive manner, looking at the way ahead, defining the needs and possible future courses of action.

Tomorrow morning, we will start by focussing on sustainable use of land, agriculture and food security. These are important issues and I want to emphasize that sustainable development is primarily a matter of good governance. We will hear a number of concrete examples of how such problems are dealt with, in particular here in Central Asia, and we shall see what more could be done and how the OSCE could help.

Another important topic on our agenda is the Integrated Watershed Management. We will try to highlight the linkages between land degradation and improper water management. This session is also aimed at generating ideas to be further discussed in the second preparatory Conference, which will deal mainly with water issues.

Tomorrow afternoon, after carefully having discussed, in thematic sessions, a number of relevant topics, we will try to identify solutions. According to the OSCE experience and to the OSCE view, there are two crosscutting issues that are crucial for achieving sustainable results – namely the public private

co-operation and partnership and the increased co-operation among International Organizations. Within this framework we shall define the role of the OSCE.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Conference in Bishkek is an important milestone in the preparatory process for the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. The results of the Conference will be further discussed in Vienna, in the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee, during the first session of the Forum on 22-23 January 2007, as well as in the OSCE Permanent Council.

I strongly encourage you to participate actively in the debates and to engage our speakers and panellists in an open and future oriented dialogue.

I thank you for your attention.

RAPORTEURS' REPORTS

PLENARY SESSION I – The challenges of land degradation and soil contamination; ensuring environmental security and sustainable development

Moderator: Mr. Antonio Callaba, Researcher, Geological Survey of Spain

Rapporteur: Ms. Diana Dragon, Political Officer, United States Mission to the OSCE

The session started with two presentations, by **Mr. Mikhail Outkine**, Officer in Charge for Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and **Ms. Carina Skareby**, Head of Delegation, European Commission Delegation in Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Outkine presented the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which is a tool for sustainable development and has generated already concrete activities. As of today, 191 countries, including the European community are parties to the convention. Its provisions offer an integrated approach that can meet wide ranging needs. They also provide the necessary regional framework for the exchange of experience on land use management. With the application of the Convention, it is evident that its rules and mechanisms can be used for combating land degradation in different geo-climatic regions. The universal dimension of the UNCCD is reflected in its holistic integrated approach, which underlines a unique position between development objectives and environmental concerns within the international community. Because of this position, the UNCCD is recognized as an important tool to address related global challenges such as soil conservation, deforestation, integrated management of water resources, the prevention of conflicts related to land use and the mitigation of draught as a natural disaster.

Ms. Skareby referred to the recently developed European Commission Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection. She started by saying that the EU had so far no comprehensive soil protection strategy and that all of the current provisions to protect soil were spread out. Even when aggregated, they still did not provide full protection from environmental and socioeconomic issues. Therefore, the EC has decided to develop a comprehensive thematic strategy on soil protection. The EC thought that it was necessary to take action to protect soil at EU level, as opposed to a local level due to the fact that:

- The environment does not stop at borders;
- Soil degradation affects air and water quality as well as biodiversity;
- Different conditions for enterprises can distort competition in a market;
- Quality of food products can negatively impact economy and society.

Therefore, the EC has created a four pronged strategy to tackle this difficult problem:

- Prong 1- Directive: On December 22, 2005, a directive was submitted to the Council of Ministers, that will be a framework that the EU states will have a few years to add to national legislation;
- Prong 2- Integration: This framework will be integrated with other policies;
- Prong 3- Soil Research;
- Prong 4- Public Awareness.

Following the presentations a lively discussion started among the participants. The main issues raised are presented bellow.

Typically people think of security with regards to military issues. However, it is imperative that the Participating States and Partner States of the OSCE recognize that security issues encompass an environmental dimension. To have security a country needs to know the quality and quantity of its natural resources, as well as the actual or potential threats to those resources. Looking forward, it is likely that many conflicts around the globe will be related to the scarcity of natural resources.

As a result, policy makers, the public, and the scientific community must work together to combat the threats related to natural resources. One of the important steps in getting closer to global security is to find solutions to stop the process of soil degradation, to mitigate the areas which have already been affected and to reverse the soil degradation process where possible. Attaining these goals will require the global community to cooperate in order to implement the necessary processes.

The reason that soil degradation and security are closely linked is that they have the common goal of stopping the suffering of people. This is because:

- Soil acts as a filter for water;
- Soil also sustains agriculture;
- Soil is the main biodiversity pool in the world;
- Soil is also the primary way that humans interact with the environment.

Currently, there are several initiatives underway to combat threats against natural resources. These include:

- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- The European Union Strategy for Soil Protection
- The United Nations Convention on Biodiversity

As a result of the session, a number of conclusions and recommendations for the OSCE can be drawn:

Linking soil degradation/contamination and security: revisiting the concept of security

- Land degradation and soil contamination are no longer a matter of academic studies. This problem is affecting the lives of the common people and causing pain.
- Land degradation and soil contamination are strongly related to the loss or shortage of vital resources (water, fertile soil). In the mid-term, shortages of such resources could create an atmosphere for local/regional conflicts.
- The prevention of such conflicts demands active environmental policies to eliminate or mitigate land degradation. This has been recognized by the OSCE, and, consequently, the relevance of its environmental pillar should be emphasized in the future.

Integration and regional cooperation is a key issue in the combat against land degradation

- Although soil degradation processes can operate at local level, their related environmental threats can be “experienced” on a broader scale.
- A preventative approach by forecasting and mitigating environmental threats requires cooperation among neighbours.
- The agriculture, infrastructure, industry and other economic sectors, all entail the risk of triggering soil degradation. Conversely, negative consequences should be addressed preventively and corrected where necessary.

The existing legal instruments: what we have, what we need

- Nowadays, UNCCD is the only legally binding international framework to deal with land degradation. Although some criticism has been expressed on its somewhat vague approach, a number of specific actions have been recently adopted. For example, \$700 million will be available for projects over the next decade for use in 5 Central Asian countries.
- However, under the UNCCD umbrella some relevant processes (i.e. soil contamination) are not properly addressed. OSCE Participating States could develop over the next few years specific legislative coverage to deal with such processes.
- In the development of national policies for soil contamination a homogeneous common approach is needed to avoid distortions to competition.
- The European thematic strategy could provide guidance with regards to formulation of OSCE follow-up initiatives on soil protection and land degradation.

PLENARY SESSION II – The impact of hazardous activities on environmental security

Moderator: Mr. Marc Baltes, Senior Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

Rapporteur: Mr. Raul Daussa, Associate Programme Officer, OSCE/OCEEA

The Moderator, Marc Baltes, presented the speakers of the Session and thanked especially the Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan for addressing the audience. Mr. Baltes described the expected outcome of the session and asked the speakers to be concise.

Mr. Almaz Kamchibekov, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, presented the situation of soil contamination and land degradation in Kyrgyzstan, with a special attention to the legacies of the Uranium tailing dams in Mailuu Suu. Support from International Organizations and Financial Institutions such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the UN and the OSCE are essential. The same applies for donor countries which have pledged more than 12 million USD to prevent risks, rehabilitate ponds and monitor landslides. Nevertheless, the total amount needed is close to 37 million USD. The second problem highlighted by the Deputy Minister was the detrimental rise of ground water that affects several areas of Kyrgyzstan and leads to the destruction of agricultural land and infrastructure. The Ministry of Agriculture is the responsible body to implement remediation and prevention measures and has already started a project worth 1.3 million USD to find out the reasons behind the problem of ground water raise.

Lt. Col. Yerhan Kumarbekov explained in detail the consequences of stockpiles of the Rocket Fuel component known as *Mélange*, a corrosive, highly toxic, and reactive substance which represents a serious threat to the environment and public health due to its chemical composition and the progressive deterioration of the storage containers and the active decomposition of *Mélange* itself.

Direct contact with *Mélange* or inhalation of its fumes causes severe cauterization of skin, mucous membranes, respiratory system and eyes. A rupture of a 100 m³ container would kill unprotected humans within a 2-km range and cause severe pollution within 25 km area. Moreover, if leaked to the ground, the highly toxic chemicals could contaminate the environment for decades.

Lt. Col. Kumarbekov, Head of the Special Forces Department, Melange Destruction Programme, Ministry of Defence, Kazakhstan, elaborated on the different activities carried out by the Kazakh Ministry of Defence to destroy the Melange, with especial emphasis on the OSCE-led activities and the ongoing tender process to find a qualified company that will dispose of the Melange in Kazakhstan.

Mr. Lopez de Velasco, Head of Area, Waste Management Section, Ministry of Environment, Spain, explained the Spanish remediation plans of industrial soil contamination and the Environmental commitment of the Armed Forces to improve environmental security in their facilities. Spain developed largely in the sixties of the last century, but it was in 1998, when the Waste Act (transposition of Directive 156/1991/CEE) was approved, that industrial soil contamination was tackled. Since then two Plans to remediate contaminated soils have been developed. The present plan is programmed for 2006-2015 and focuses on military facilities, old railroad sites, harbours and airports. A close collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Defence is ongoing and provides good results. The Spanish model has been considered by several Latin-American countries.

Mr. Vasenko, Director for Science, Ukrainian Research Institute for Environmental Problems, focused on the transboundary problems like the illegal transport of hazardous waste, which pose a security and environmental threat to OSCE participating States. He explained several cases of illegal waste traffic in Ukraine. As an example the general prosecutor of Ukraine is investigating 4,000 cases of dumping of hazardous waste. He concluded by saying that strengthening the capacities of Border control agencies is necessary and the OSCE could provide support.

Mr. Peck, Associate Professor, The International Institute of Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University, Mining & Environment Consultant, UNEP, explained the links between the mining and metals sector and land contamination. He introduced the nexus of mining and associated industrial activities, soil contamination and land degradation, and environmental security. The main idea is that soil

is a natural capital that sustains life by providing agricultural, infrastructure and economical support but at the same time can be a factor of instability if degraded. The soil is affected by industrial activities because of its porous structure, chemical affinity, and because it provides an ideal ‘burial’ material. Mr Peck explained that Mining operations are short term activities with long term consequences. It is necessary to involve local communities and the private sector to prevent environmental damage.

Mr. Arevshatyan, Senior Researcher, Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences, Armenia, introduced the OSCE supported project on assessing mine legacies in Armenia which highlights the importance of research institutions and the relevance of addressing the perceived risks of local population. The project consisted of sampling different water wells and dairy products to find out the levels of heavy metals present in the food chain and recommend actions like the fencing of ponds and forbidding the commercialization of certain products.

During the **discussion** session **Mr. Dmitriy Kolosov** from the Russian delegation noted that foreign investors in Russia did not always follow the environmental legislation and requested the OSCE to provide support in that regard. **Mr. Baltes** replied that the OSCE has a mandate to look into these issues and invited the representative of the Russian delegation to raise the issue through the Russian delegation in Vienna.

Mr. Alvarez, from the Spanish Ministry of Environment, pointed out that the Aznalcollar accident in Spain referred to during Mr. Peck’s presentation was an example of how the administration and the private sector must co-operate in case of an accident, and explained to the audience that the area has nowadays fully recovered.

Some participants were interested in knowing more details of the cost per hectare of land and the total cost of remediation works in Mailuu Suu uranium tailings in Kyrgyzstan. **Mr. Lopez de Velasco** replied that remediation costs depend on the type of soil and degree of pollution, and that an extensive inventory of polluted soil is needed before starting any fundraising efforts. Regarding Mailuu Suu, the costs are of daunting proportion and the participants agreed to unite efforts for fundraising.

A question was raised regarding the best practices of mining in different countries. **Mr. Peck** explained that good governance practices are for instance in place in the USA and the EU, with clear regulations that envisage reserve funds to be used in remediation activities.

A number of conclusions and recommendations for OSCE action emerging from the session are listed below:

- Central Asia faces great challenges of soil contamination and land degradation. As an example, the Maili Suu uranium mining tailing dam is at the origin of a detrimental rise of ground water that affects several areas and leads to the destruction of agricultural land and infrastructure. Remediation activities are expected to require 37 Million USD.
- Military legacies, in particular Rocket Fuel components, also known as mélange, pose a threat to environmental security and exemplify the added value of the OSCE as a cross dimensional organization that can tackle problems affecting the environment and livelihoods.
- The Spanish Ministry of Environment proposes to share its longstanding experience in waste management planning and soil contamination recovery, including in the military sector.
- The international illegal transport of hazardous waste poses a severe security and environmental threat to OSCE participating States. Strengthening the capacities of Border control agencies is necessary and could be another example of cross dimensional activities.
- Mining operations are short term activities with long term consequences. The existence of adequate legal frameworks within which the mining industry is obliged to operate is of utmost importance. It is also necessary to involve local communities to prevent environmental damage. Good governance practices which could serve as examples are for instance in place in the USA and the EU, with clear regulations that envisage reserve funds to be used in remediation activities.
- The OSCE supported project on assessing mine legacies in Armenia highlights the importance of research institutions and the relevance of addressing the perceived risks to the local population.

PLENARY SESSION III – Forest management

Moderator: **Mr. Ignacio Diaz de la Guardia**, Counsellor, OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain/incoming OSCE Chairmanship

Rapporteur: **Ms. Wenche Prebensen**, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE

Mr. Peter Herbst, Consultant on Forestry Law, Austria, in his presentation on Legal Aspects of Sustainable Forest Development, focused on the legal shortcomings and difficulties with regard to the development of forest law, and forest law enforcement and governance.

In the context of legal aspects of forest management the issue of illegal logging was mentioned including illegal commercial activities, poverty driven illegal logging activities, lack of forest governance and the resulting levels of corruption, as well as some underlying causes for illegal logging such as massive unemployment and inaccessible prices of energy to major parts of the population. The need for a forest law, applicable to all forests, was emphasized.

In the work on forest law and governance, Mr. Herbst emphasized that the importance of curbing forest crime today is broadly acknowledged through several international processes, conventions, and agreements. The development of the work on forest law and governance at the international as well as the regional level, since the first Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) in 1990, was examined. An increasing number of actors were now working in partnership to address forest legal issues, including governments, NGOs, private sector and international organizations, and Mr. Herbst especially pointed to the importance of the local level for law compliance and good governance in the forest sector. In summing up, Mr. Herbst emphasized that effective forest law enforcement and good governance were necessary preconditions for sustainable management and efficient preservation of forests.

Mr. José Maria Solano López, Head of Area, Forest Management and Planning Section, Biodiversity Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Spain, presented an overview of the work of the United Nations and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, as well as an outline of the work on sustainable forest management in Spain.

Since the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, a large number of proposals with regard to forest principles had been presented but an international convention on forests was still lacking. In Europe, the MCPFE had promotion of sustainable forest management through participatory and open co-operation as an overall goal. Its political work was based on voluntary co-operation on forest policy issues in Europe, and Mr. Solana López emphasized that the use of MCPFE was a good way of co-ordinating forests related work of organizations in Europe, such as that of the UN and FAO, in order to avoid duplication of work.

When working out the national forest programmes in Spain, the international work on forests was taken into account. Spain wanted multi-functionality in the use of forests, including production, grass for the cattle, timber, and recreational areas, and had identified three kinds of actions related to it in the fields of reforestation, protection and biodiversity conservation, areas of a more horizontal character, as well as planning and co-ordination. 3.8 million hectares of forest land had been lost due to degradation or insufficient forest cover. The aim was restoration in 30 years. A main problem was to have land for forest restoration, as 2/3 of the land was in private ownership and agreements with the owners were needed. Another problem was the number of forest fires which had been increasing until 2006, and the need for more dedicated efforts to prevent forest fires. Forest areas had, however, grown substantially in Spain in the last decade. Mr. Solana López concluded that forests could contribute both to soil and water protection, and that the OSCE could assist in the work on sustainable forest management.

In his presentation, **Mr. Aitkul Burhanov**, Deputy Director of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyz Republic, focused on national forest policy, sustainable management, and the vision of integrated forest management in Kyrgyzstan. Land degradation and soil contamination were one of the largest problems to sustainable development in the country. The authorities devoted a lot of attention to the forests, in order to prevent landslides and avalanches, and to promote biological

diversity. The forest Code of Kyrgyzstan gave the protectional status. Important aspects of the national forest policy were the transfer from consumption to effective management of the forests, preservation of the biodiversity of the forests, the expansion of certain protected forest areas, and the need to change forest management through activation of the population i.e. to attract local communities and local governments to forest management.

Improvement of forest science and education was another objective. Scientific collaboration and public awareness rising were necessary in order to implement the national forest action plan. Kyrgyzstan paid special attention to collaborative forest management through active participation of the local communities both in planning and management, as well as other stakeholders who were directly dependent on forest products as a major source of income, besides the use of forests for recreational purposes. Illegal logging was also a problem, especially in the protected areas along the rivers, which caused widespread risks for mudslides. International organizations might be interested in a collaborative response to problems related to land degradation and soil contamination.

The ensuing discussion focused among other things on the work on restoration of forest areas in Spain, where the expert provided additional information with regard to the government's national forest programme and the need for more forests. The question about a possible role for the OSCE with regard to illegal logging was also raised. The experts were of the opinion that OSCE could make a contribution by supporting international co-operation and enforcement of relevant laws with regard to the combating of illegal logging.

Specific areas for possible OSCE action:

- The OSCE should encourage participating States to consider in their internal policies that:
 - forests should be a part of the solution rather than a part of the problem;
 - forests are the necessary link between soil and water protection; and
 - forests are an essential part of watershed management;
- A closer co-operation between the OSCE and the MCPFE might be envisaged. The OSCE can add its contribution from the point of view of security to other international forest related fora;
- The OSCE should recommend participating States to take into account the security related aspects of sustainable forest management;
- The OSCE could assist in the enforcement of forest law and governance through education, training and capacity-building among all levels of stakeholders;
- The OSCE could contribute to the exchange of experiences in the implementation of national forest programmes, in particular concerning their security related consequences;
- Due consideration should be given to non wood forest products and services –as in Kyrgyzstan - in order to facilitate their legal insertion in the market economy;

PLENARY SESSION IV - The challenge of environmental migration

Moderator: Ms. Blazka Kepic, Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Ms. Madina Ibrasheva, National Project Co-ordinator, OSCE Center in Almaty

Mr. Philip Reuchlin, Economic and Environmental Advisor, OSCE-OCEEA, introduced the connection between environmental degradation and migration phenomena, which was also pointed out during the discussions at the 13th Economic Forum, the ENVSEC Assessments, and by the Panel of Eminent Persons. Changes in the ecosystems systematically affect the lives of human beings. Desertification and soil contamination have as a consequence the loss of ecosystem services, notably in dry areas. Combined with a low GDP, high infant mortality rate and an even faster population growth, this creates conditions for a very strong migratory 'push factor' from these areas to richer areas. This is all the more relevant if rising sea levels, caused by global warming, are considered (estimated 100 million displaced). In many cases this may lead to a security threat, especially when it comes to ethnically different destinations and international borders that have to be crossed. However, despite being apparently a problem, there is a

lack of definition and research on this phenomenon. There exist no environmental refugees under the international law and the issue is also only partially covered by the principle of internally displaced people. Research on environmentally induced or forced migration still misses a methodology to disentangle direct and indirect environmental factors, as well as economic factors on migratory behavior. There is one prominent research project on this subject currently being undertaken, sponsored by the European Commission – Environmental Change and Forced Migration (EACH-FOR). Mr. Reuchlin proposed to undertake targeted environmental rehabilitation projects for at-risk populations, continue work on improving conceptual clarity with regard to various categories of environmentally induced migrants, stimulate political dialogue among participating States on environmentally displaced people and continue the work on best practices in managing migration and the diversification of economic practices in degraded areas.

Mr. Carlos Zaccagnini, Representative of the UNHCR in the Kyrgyz Republic, proposed to approach the problem of environmentally induced migration by promoting the understanding of the link between migration/displacement and environmental degradation and, therefore, put forward the state recognition and ownership of this link as well as prioritize the nexus in Government development plans and strategies. According to Mr. Zaccagnini an assessment of challenges for definition and research on environmental migrants should take place. That will help to identify the environmental migrant as such and avoid confusion with sub-categories of refugee, internally displaced person (IDP) and economic migrant. He also stressed the importance of grass roots education and environmental awareness in addressing risk reduction and environmental degradation. Furthermore, he introduced the concept of ‘clusters’, which is part of the UN reform, and by way of which the UNHCR has taken the lead in the cluster of ‘camp management’ and assisting victims of natural disasters, even though there is no formal recognition of the issue of environmental refugees. He stressed the need for increased aid effectiveness and harmonization, as outlined under the Paris and Monterrey Declaration, to better tackle the problems of environmental refugees at the root and stimulate more research on the phenomenon.

Mr. Anis Bajrektarevic, Professor for International Law and Global Political Studies, IMC FH Krems University, Austria, mentioned that we should achieve sustainable development without compromising the needs of future generation on access to environmental and economic welfare. It was stressed that political risks are playing nowadays a less prominent role while environmental risks are more threatening. On top of that there is an evident lack of attention and interstate cooperation on these issues. Given the implications for security, this is an area where the OSCE could contribute. As a baseline he proposed to estimate the risks for “no go zones” based on environmental risks, which have a negative impact on the valuation of financial assets and therefore on economic stability.

Mr. Andrey Fesenko, UNEP National Committee, Chairperson, underlined that there is a strong correlation between desertification, poverty and environmentally induced migration. He called upon to differentiate environmental and socio-economic causes for environmental migration. From this perspective Mr. Fesenko proposed to introduce special environmental columns in the questionnaire which is being filled by the migrant while crossing the border; to develop the ecological elements in the socio-economic programs; enforce the capacity of present and future outreach activities covering the roots and consequences of environmental migration; and to join the efforts towards developing a monitoring system for migration processes.

A number of participants returned to the issues of research on the interlinkages between environmental migration and land degradation. It was suggested that OSCE field missions could help to monitor and collect information on environmentally induced migrants and look for cooperation with other international organizations and institutions. The Central Asian Research Network (CAARN) was seen as a useful facility for promotion of environmental migration research in the region of Central Asia.

Participants recommended addressing the issue on the status of displaced people and their rehabilitation in more forceful manner. Participants once again stressed the importance of the OSCE involvement in the promotion of a better balance between environment protection and economic development, which could lead to better sustainability and efficient management of environmental migration.

Key suggestions for possible OSCE action:

- The OSCE and other international organizations could assist governmental and non-governmental organizations to improve comparable data on environmental migration and undertake targeted research in this field;
- The OSCE could encourage increased attention to and raise awareness of the issue of environmentally induced migration, promote conceptual clarity and international political and legal dialogue on issues such as Environmentally Displaced Persons;
- The OSCE as a forum for political dialogue could address the issue of environmental migration when it comes to long term regional/national policies and stimulate interagency and interstate cooperation;
- The OSCE could promote targeted environmental protection/rehabilitation projects for at-risk populations;
- The OSCE could work on diversifying economic opportunities in degraded areas in order to reduce 'push' factors;
- The OSCE in its field missions could assist in monitoring and assessment of environmental migration phenomena.

PLENARY SESSION V – Sustainable use of land, agriculture and food security

Moderator: Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: Ms. Saba Nordstrom, Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

The session was opened by Bernard Snoy, with a re-cap of yesterday's sessions and drawing the attention to the background paper for this Preparatory Conference and the FAO figures of global undernourishment.

Mr. Asanbek Ajibekov, Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic, was given the floor and he stated that 90% of Kyrgyzstan is mountainous and over 70% of arable land is using irrigation. The country has limited arable land and soil is one of the main natural resources of the country. In mountainous areas, due to wind erosion, 60% of soils are eroded.

Presently, there is an irrational and anthropogenic use of soil. Erosion is quick, salinization is increasing, pollution is taking place and all this leads to progressive degradation of the land. There is furthermore an irrational use of water and crop rotation is not practised. This monoculture is leading to a decrease in the fertility of soil. On top of this, agricultural machinery is in poor shape. As a result, Kyrgyzstan loses 10 million soms of harvest each year. The country needs to carry out anti erosion systems, crop rotation practices and better irrigation. Cooperative farms produce 50% of agriculture products and they must use the land properly. It is important to enhance the responsibility of land users as well as to improve the national legislation in this direction.

Kyrgyzstan joined the UNCCD in December of 1997 and is now implementing the National Action Plan from December 2000 though amongst others, several investment plans, both from the national budget as well as with international assistance. The Minister stated that most of the international programmes are of good quality.

Mr. Gregory Gleason, Professor of Political Science at the University of New Mexico and the Eurasian National University in Astana, was then given the floor and informed participants of the programme that the Eurasian National University was implementing. Professor Gleason mentioned that knowledge can always be improved but that now, we have sufficient knowledge to make a change. We know what the problems are, the key issue being governance. Another issue is that soil functions need to be addressed by specific projects. He reminded the participants that practises such as irrigation and keeping ground covered were frequently in place during the Soviet rule, but that they were now abandoned.

Professor Gleason mentioned that bringing education institutions closer to practise, holding public discussions, linking agriculture, industry, NGOs, media and government and conducting trainings were what was needed and this was not an agronomic issue, but rather an issue of governance and coordination. As an example he mentioned the Aral Sea and the lack of cooperation leading to the problems of today. Here, he believed OSCE was well placed to promote such work.

Ms. Zulfira Zikrina, Director, NGO Centre for sustainable production and consumption, Kazakhstan, was then given the floor and informed participants of an ADB project in ecological monitoring. Kazakhstan possesses the capacity for ecological tourism but is presently not utilising this. As a comparison, during Soviet times there were 85 points of monitoring but now there are only 49. This particular project provides institutional support to farmers. Presently they have no information on soil, have no access to loans and are not aware of how to access funds. The system of drainage is not adequately used and in the case of the Syr Darya, seasonal and rational use of water is needed. Ms. Zikrina briefly informed participants of some further projects and said that there is a need for exchange of information and that people need the Ministry to exchange such information freely. Training to local community and farmers (for example on accessing loans) is also needed.

The floor was then given to **Ms. Aida Gareeva** Project Coordinator, Water and Soil conservation technologies, Public Foundation CAMP Ala-Too in Bishkek. She informed participants of the changes Kyrgyzstan went through and how 2.8 million people in the rural areas became land owners. As new farmers, they are not aware of appropriate practises. CAMP has developed several tools including awareness raising, research and monitoring of practises, which they have formulated into several proposals for households and government. They focus on villages using an integrated approach and since 2003 they have collected 76 technologies for dissemination. They conduct monitoring and evaluation on both the local and programmatic level. Ms. Gareeva presented several of the technologies they have promoted, including biodraining. She said that farmers themselves are disseminating this information further.

Mr Snoy stated that the OSCE could support such practises, which are also very inspiring.

The next speaker, **Mr. Zairolla Duysenbekov**, Member of the National Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan and Director General of the State Scientific and Production Center of Land Resources and Land Use, informed that 66% of the Kazakhstan's territory is covered by desert and the country is still in transition. Cultural heritage also impacts the economy and the development of the country. His institution is now carrying out work not developed in Soviet times, e.g. strategic use of lands in Kazakhstan and agricultural monitoring which is done in compliance with legislation. Since 1994, they have 52 ecological pilot sites. The next steps are to improve legislation and sub legislation taking into account the rules of the market economy. What is needed is a unified monitoring system with agency/inter agency cooperation, with the ability of implementing innovative technology.

Mr. Nuriddin Zardiev, Deputy Head, State Committee on Environment and Forestry, Special Inspection on Land Protection, Tajikistan, said that his country does not have much arable land and it is thus important to preserve it. He gave a detailed account of the situation in Tajikistan and mentioned some projects that are offering improvement in the area, including from the ADB and the WB.

The Moderator, Mr. Bernard Snoy, then opened the floor for questions. Ms. Wooden, OSCE Economic and Environmental Officer in Osh, raised the issue of the confusion of who is responsible for e.g. collection of fees on violations under the National Action Plan and asked how can one legally address this. Mr. Isabekov answered that although the country had a land code, there remained a lack of clear definition of responsibility. The national wealth lies in the natural pastures, which are still in state ownership and split into adjacent villages. These particular pastures do not have real ownership and the local government, municipalities and state administration are all responsible. Pastures are now overgrazed and this is why the land owners must be made more aware of their responsibilities.

Mr. Snoy then closed the session and suggested to save questions for later sessions. He said this session offered us challenges and hope and noted the need for linking research and governance.

PANEL DISCUSSION I – Integrated Watershed Management

Moderator: **Mr. Sergio Alvarez**, Head of Area, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Environment, Spain

Rapporteur: **Ms. Saba Nordstrom**, Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

The session was opened by the moderator, **Mr. Alvarez** from the Ministry of Environment in Spain, who stated that this panel ties together this first preparatory conference to the forthcoming one on water. He highlighted the use of integrated watershed management as a practical tool based on the idea of the Ecosystem Approach, which is also relevant to correctly define ecosystem goods and services and to tackle the issue of payment for ecosystem services. He noted that all previous sessions were relevant to this session and briefly introduced the participants to the panel sessions.

Mr. Miguel Antolin Martinez, Head of Area, International Affairs Water Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Spain, was first given the floor and he presented the relevant situation of Spain. He noted that irrigation in Spain covers some 80% of the country water use. Some key aspects Mr. Antolin brought forward were: groundwater and its overexploiting effects and the need for planning and control mechanisms; hazardous substances and the need for management and control; land degradation, its direct effect on flow regime, soil and so forth, leading to a need to develop integrated forest/river basin plans.

Mr. Antolin went on to present the 4 tools Spain uses for this work, including a National Plan, a National Action Programme –Programa A.G.U.A.- (also looking at demand), a Water Quality National Plan: Sewage and Treatment and a new Drought Special Programme based on new indicators/actions in advance. He went on to note the importance of public participation, which is important in the terms of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Specific recommendations for OSCE would be to promote experiences, promote integrated river basin management, promote participation and promote capacity building.

Mr. Pulat Umanov, Deputy Director, Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission in Central Asia, then pointed out the importance of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and the need to improve productivity of land. He stated that stable water allocation brings a need to sign bilateral agreements. He then presented IWRM concepts in general.

Mr. Kutzhanov from International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) clearly noted the need for joint efforts in integrated watershed management. In Aral Sea, 5 presidents have agreed on working together, which helped avoid an international conflict. Fees and payments must be based on principles, such as the polluter pays principle. Presently, Kazakhstan makes a loss of 43 million US annually. Compensation of damage must be based on international agreement and contracts. There is a need for political decisions and targeted financing. The ratification of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes is important for all Central Asian countries, not only Kazakhstan, which is the only country in the area that has currently ratified the Convention. The recognition of principles of international laws increases possible funds. As an example, he mentioned Syr Darya and the World Bank project of 85 million USD. The project will now start its 2nd phase (120 million USD).

Mr. Azim Hisoriev, Chief Engineer of the Groundwater and Land Reclamation Agency in Tajikistan, presented groundwater issues related to Tajikistan. He gave a good account on pertinent issues and mentioned that the agricultural productivity decline had a negative impact on underground water, which in turn leads to worsening of soil. Intensive irrigation and poor draining has led to salinization and flooding regularly occurs. Human health related issues, in this respect, are often moisture related. He concluded that a good system of monitoring is needed, for example through aerial photography and GIS. Rehabilitation of wells is also needed as there is an increase in underground water in settlements.

Ms. Aida Nabieva, representing the NGO Bildek, Batken Province, Kyrgyzstan, pointed out that problems in the region are related to irrigation, water relations, water users, inadequate finance policies and inadequate legislation. She stated that what is needed is better regulations and compliance, as well as a more participatory approach.

Mr. Alvarez then led the panel through a discussion and Mr. Antolin was given the opportunity to further explain what Spain is doing, in particular in regards to the participatory approach.

Mr. Alvarez then asked Mr. Umanov, what it was, if anything that is preventing IWRM practises. Mr. Umanov mentioned that a feasibility study was conducted in terms of IWRM and what is now needed is, and he was proposing this to the OSCE, to prepare society for a lack of water; in other words, there is a need for water efficiency. The development of IWRM will support the increase of social welfare of people and must include legislation for associations of water users.

Mr. Kutzhanov was then asked by the moderator to clarify what he meant with political decisions and targeted budgets, and if he was referring to the national budget. He answered that it was the national budget in Kazakhstan he had referred to and mentioned that the country had taken a loan for the work on the Amu-Darya. However, in terms of the Syr-Darya, this had not been done as the river depends more on neighbours.

The floor was then taken by Mr. Daussa, OSCE/OCEEA, who asked if the concept of ecosystems services was applicable here. Mr. Alvarez shortly explained that the concept looks at water as a good and he stated that it could be applicable for Central Asia at least as a theoretical tool that would help to clarify concepts and to correctly establish an adequate price for water, to ensure its sustainable use, management and conservation. Speaking on economical terms, this issue is likely to continue and develop more.

The Russian delegation then took the floor stating that it is not only national law one needs to look at when it comes to land use and water issues. He asked how vital ecological safety aspects are to the EU and the international community.

Mr. Kutzhanov said that CA historically was irrigated and that there are some laws close to basin laws. On Syr-Darya there is a water protected zone of 2-500 m which prohibits construction as well as industry activity.

Ms. Amanda Wooden, OSCE Field Office in Osh, stated that stakeholder engagement is important and mentioned violent disputes on water in Colorado, USA. The agreement included distribution, land management and so forth. In terms of ICWC she asked how can participation and access to information be improved.

Mr. Alvarez summed up the panel by stating that there is a clear relationship between watershed and land management and integration occurs on different scales including global and local ones. The ecosystem approach is in these terms important and international agreements must translate into local level. Cooperation also needs to occur on different levels, including intra-ministerial and finally, in order to have useful cooperation, a uniform approach and harmonisation is essential.

PANEL DISCUSSION II – Public and private response to meeting the challenges of land degradation an soil contamination

Moderator: Mr Philip Peck, Associate Professor, The International Institute of Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University, Mining & Environment Consultant, UNEP, GRID Arendal

Rapporteur: Mr. Philip Reuchlin, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

Mr. Peck introduced the subject. Public actors encompass communities, NGO's, individuals, and of course the public sector such as environmental protection bodies, emergency response bodies, public foundations and intergovernmental organizations. The private sector refers to businesses, entrepreneurs, branch organizations, business lobby groups and international businesses or industrial sector networks. Public and private responses can be an ongoing driver and a reactive force to public sector policy. Private

sector actions may lead the way by setting positive examples, but they may also simply react in a manner sufficient to gain a ‘license to operate’.

The first speaker, **Ms. Vera Mustafina**, introduced the Kazakh Business Council for Sustainable Development. More than 20 large enterprises from Kazakhstan (also from the mining and chemical industries) are members of the KBCSD, which is part of the network of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

She said that land degradation in business practice must be viewed from a life – cycle analysis, i.e. setting up, operating and closing down a business. Because businesses and industries compete with other land users for usable land, there is a need to involve all stakeholders when designing business plans. One way to do this is through environmental and social impact assessments, which is required by Kazakh legislation. The KBCSD has compiled a set of best practices for the private sector when it comes to rehabilitation of lands that have been used or removed when factories are constructed.

The second speaker, **Mr. Kanybek Ysabekov**, from the Osh Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, informed participants about a waste management program that has been started in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, with the assistance of the OSCE field office. In Osh solid waste is a major source of pollution and the current waste deposit covers an area of 68 hectares. Building on a pilot project with a block of houses, the project, having the support of the local government as well as of residents in the neighborhood, managed to separate wastes, thereby reducing the cost and size of un-recyclable waste. Coupled with an active information campaign, other communities joined in the effort and parts of the youth population were mobilized as well.

The third speaker, **Mr. Emil Shukurov**, from the Regional Environmental Center, presented some ecological problems of Central Asia and the importance of ecological resilience. Much research still needs to be done in this area, i.e. to understand the complexity of the biosphere.

The fourth speaker, **Mr. Nazir Abidjanov**, introduced the UNIDO Cleaner Production Centers. The key message was that economic performance and environmental performance need not be mutually exclusive; indeed there are many good examples of win-win situations. The Cleaner Production Centers (CPC), which focus on the entire production cycle, engage in awareness raising and information dissemination, training programs for specific target groups, companies, universities, financial institutions and research institutes. They also provide technical assistance at the plant level, quick scans and in-plant assessments. CPC also offers policy advice, participates in working groups on policy development and strives to integrate cleaner production into the existing regulations. The Uzbekistan Center in particular has accumulated expertise on the reduction of water in industrial processes, as well as re-use of fruit waste for bio-fertilizers, thereby reducing demand for chemical fertilizer.

The fifth speaker, **Ms. Elmira Mavlaynova**, Manager of the Civil Society Support Centre, introduced the concept of civil society support centers in Jalalabad. The centers involve civil society through consultancies and various services. They also provide awareness raising seminars on issues such as pasture use, which if done wrongly can lead to land degradation. They also try to raise awareness on legislation and the reasons behind it. Often, the civilian population does not know about the criminal element involved in illegal logging. Equally, rural civilians in the area do not know about how to rent pastures nor the rental pricing system. The Centers attempt to clarify border issues and property rights in disputed cases. A strong suggestion was made for intergovernmental agreements on cross border grazing of cattle.

The sixth speaker, **Ms. Janyl Kojomuratova**, introduced the GTZ funded UNCCD project in Kyrgyzstan. The program consists of awareness raising and village development programs. Components of the program include soil and water conservation strategies, mobile exhibitions and inter-village experience exchange and a ‘white book’ with a collection of success stories on land management. The speaker stressed the need for the participation of local populations in programs and projects, in order to harness traditional knowledge. She also called for the coordination of various international and donor agencies, stressing the need to disseminate the results of the projects, and building on already done assessments with pilot projects.

Key points:

- Progress on land degradation requires dialogue with civil society and the private sector; the OSCE can act as a catalyst for such initiatives;
- Economically and environmentally sound approaches to business, win-win scenarios, do exist;
- Sufficient capacity to deal with waste management would reduce environmental insecurity, soil contamination and can be turned into a profitable business;
- It is important to foster grass-roots approaches and mobilize local populations, also in order to harness local knowledge;
- Property rights and understanding of legislation and criminal responsibilities play a crucial role in land use.

PANEL DISCUSSION III – The role of the OSCE and co-operation with other International Organizations

Moderator: **Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado**, Permanent Representative of Spain, incoming OSCE Chairmanship to the OSCE

Rapporteur: **Mr. William Hanlon**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Mission to Georgia

The last session of the conference concerned other activities being taken by International Organizations in the realm of land degradation and soil contamination as well as the potential for co-operation with the OSCE. The sharing of information on these activities was instrumental in providing the OSCE with practical ideas for activities as well as possible linkages to other organizations who are also working on this issue.

The first presentation was given by **Ms. Cholpon Mambetova** from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She informed the participants of the conference of the launching of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) on 16 November in Almaty, Kazakhstan. In this programme, five Central Asian countries joined with more than a dozen development partners to launch a US\$1.4 billion program to restore, maintain, and enhance the productivity of degraded land.

Ms. Mambetova further added that ADB would, subject to consideration of its Board, coordinate overall activities of the partnership, which is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). She further added that membership to the programme is open, and that new members to the programme would be welcomed.

Next, **Ms. Inkar Kadyrzhanova** from UNDP spoke about the Environment and Security Initiative that is a joint initiative between OSCE, UNDP, UNEP, REC Central Europe, and UNECE. She described several projects that are being initiated under the ENVSEC programme, including the establishment of Public Environmental Information Centres, the melange (rocket fuel) decontamination project, and the Nagorno-Karabakh environmental fire assessment project. She described the strengths of the ENVSEC programme, which include the use of field missions to support activities, both technically and politically. Furthermore, she stressed that ENVSEC uses co-operation as a bridge to overcome environmental problems and this process helps to prevent and subside conflicts. She indicated that the programme is working well. However, there are some challenges, especially with the co-ordination between the different organizations. However, she indicated that these problems are being addressed and that new processes are being developed between the partners that should alleviate the current challenges.

Next, **Mr. Nazir Abidjanov** spoke about UNIDO Clean Production Centre in Uzbekistan. The Centre's major mission consists in improving the economic effectiveness and environmental situation at the Uzbek industrial enterprises using CP Methodology for the resource- and energy-saving. He stated that the Centre is new, and could serve as a model for other centres in Central Asia. Mr. Abidjanov further added that the OSCE and UNIDO could work together on promoting clean technology including the promotion of international standards, conducting joint workshops and seminars on clean production, and the promotion of modern management structures in businesses that would promote clean production.

Next, **Dr. Amanda Wooden** from the OSCE Centre in Osh, Kyrgyzstan described why the OSCE can bring value added to address land degradation and soil contamination issues. This is three fold. First, environmental problems can cause internal conflicts, and the OSCE has conflict prevention and resolution as one of its main mandates. Secondly, the OSCE can provide linkages and political support to projects. Finally, the OSCE can monitor the local situation through its field presences and through its good governance initiatives, create motivation with local actors to undertake low technology solutions that are very effective.

Dr. Wooden then outlined several projects that illustrated these points. First she outlined the activities of the Aarhus Centres as venues to support political dialogue and raise environmental awareness for the population that can ultimately put pressure on local authorities. Secondly, she outlined several projects where they are implementing low level technologies to help stem natural disasters and promote agriculture production. Finally, she outlined the Osh garbage project. This she indicated was very successful in that it mobilized the local governments to provide much needed services to the community, and it resulted in the creation of small businesses that are recycling the plastic that is now being collected by the project.

Her final suggestions were that the OSCE should continue to highlight specific concerns and propose specific solutions, and simultaneously build in project assessment mechanisms to capture the information and retain corporate memory of projects. Finally the OSCE should continue to empower local people to support good governance development. The OSCE should also begin a carbon off-set programme by planting trees.

The final presentation came from **Mr. Stoyan Davidov** of the OSCE Field Office in Kurgan-Tube, Tajikistan. He introduced some practical projects his office implemented to battle land degradation and soil contamination. The Field Office has conducted seminars, held conferences with students and faculty in universities and with the general public. It has also conducted a tree planting programme and has helped to create an Association of Water Users.

As a next step, the OSCE in Tajikistan will continue its focus on land degradation by working on cross-border issues, working to support the further development of NGOs, and will work through its Aarhus Centre on the creation of appropriate legislation to battle land degradation and other environmental problems.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

by Mr. Bernard Snoy
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you at the concluding session of the First Preparatory Conference for the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. We have spent together two days of rich and fruitful debate. This conference has been rich in the exchange of information, sharing best practices and highlighting problems and questions. We have also heard a number of concrete suggestions for possible follow-up actions by the OSCE. I believe that we can all be satisfied with the results of this Conference.

My Office, together with the incoming Spanish Chairmanship will carefully analyze all the valuable ideas and suggestions emerging from our meeting. I am confident that many of these ideas will soon be translated into concrete activities by the OSCE, by its participating States, or in co-operation with others.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before attempting to briefly present what are in my opinion the most important conclusions we can draw from this conference, I would like once again to express my warmest thanks to the Government of Kyrgyzstan for their warm hospitality. I would also like to thank the incoming Spanish Chairmanship for very smooth co-operation in preparations for the conference. Dear Ambassador, we had a good start here in Bishkek and I am looking forward to working together with you over the next year.

Let me now turn to the conclusions.

Plenary Session I – The challenges of land degradation and soil contamination; ensuring environmental security and sustainable development

This first session introduced some fundamental concepts and issues and set the stage for the whole Conference. We were again reminded that states and organizations alike should recognize that security encompasses an environmental dimension, that many conflicts between and within states may be related to the scarcity or the mismanagement of natural resources. Land degradation and soil contamination is no longer a matter of academic studies. It is a security concern. Therefore, policy makers, the public, and the scientific community must work together to combat the threats related to natural resources and should strengthen their co-operation in that regard. The OSCE, as a political organization, having a comprehensive approach to security, is very well placed to promote this idea and to act on it. In fact, through our flagship programme – the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative - we are already doing so. We have experience, we have partners and we have a solid basis to build upon.

In this context I want to commend again the incoming Chairmanship for choosing to place this topic- Key Challenges to Ensure Environmental Security and Sustainable Development in the OSCE Area: Land Degradation, Soil Contamination and Water Management – high on the OSCE agenda next year.

Plenary session I also highlighted a number of instruments and activities developed by other organizations. We heard about the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which is a tool for sustainable development and provides the necessary regional framework for the exchange of experience on land use management. We were also informed about the EU's comprehensive thematic strategy on soil protection. The OSCE will further explore ways of co-operation with the Secretariat of the UNCCD, in the context of the next year's Forum process. The EU Soil Strategy can also provide guidance for non EU countries in developing their policies on soil protection and land degradation. The OSCE might be instrumental in promoting this.

Plenary Session II – The impact of hazardous activities on environmental security

This session was a very important one as it highlighted the great challenges many countries in the OSCE region but in particular from Central Asia are confronted with, as a result of industrial and/or military legacies or mismanagement. The costs of remediation are extremely high. As an example the Maili Suu uranium mining tailing dams require 37 Million USD for remediation. Much higher though is the cost of non action.

Military legacies like Rocket Fuel component as well as transboundary problems like the illegal transport of hazardous waste pose an environmental security threat to the OSCE participating States. The added value of the OSCE was exemplified during the session. The OSCE can tackle problems affecting the environment and livelihoods from a cross dimensional perspective. The OSCE “mélange” program is a good example in this regard and can be already considered a “success story”. OSCE involvement in strengthening the capacities of Border control agencies could be another example of cross dimensional activities.

Another issue discussed in this session was the mining industry. Mining operations are short term activities with long term consequences. It is necessary to involve the local communities and the private sector to prevent environmental damage. Good governance practices are in place in USA and EU with clear regulation that envisages reserve funds to be used in remediation activities. The OSCE's supported project on assessing mine legacies in Armenia highlights the importance of research institutions and the relevance of addressing the perceived risks of local population.

While existing problems have to be addressed as soon as possible, prevention should also be a key priority for everybody. The OSCE could be instrumental in sharing best practices in both regards. He heard during this session about some good examples from Spain related to waste management planning and soil contamination recovery, including the military.

Plenary Session III – Forest management

Sustainable Forest Management is essential to preserving soil, preventing erosion and landslides, as well as combating climate change. Forests also have an economic importance that is not to be neglected. Besides sustainable timber, they also provide vital protective and regulatory functions within the larger context of ecosystems services. Sustainable Forest Management requires sound legislation, based on international definitions of what actually constitutes a forest. Forest governance and law enforcement is an essential component of sustainable forest management. Environmental crimes such as illegal logging on a commercial scale need to be stopped. Adequate energy, at reasonable prices, constitutes part of the solution to avoiding illegal deforestation. There might be some room for increasing the economic importance of forests, if forests are included in the next round of the Climate Change convention.

The OSCE should encourage its participating States to consider these issues when developing their national policies. Forests should be seen as part of the solution rather than a part of the problem, as they represent the necessary link between soil and water protection, and an essential part of watershed management. Due consideration should also be given to non wood forest products and services – as our host country, Kyrgyzstan, is doing already.

The OSCE should also encourage its participating States to take into account the security related aspects of sustainable forest management. The OSCE can also add its contribution from the point of view of security to other international forest related fora. A closer cooperation between OSCE and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) was suggested in this context.

In more concrete terms, the OSCE could assist forest law enforcement and governance through education, training and capacity building among all levels of stakeholders and can further contribute to the exchange of experiences in the implementation of national forest programmes, in particular concerning their security related consequences.

Plenary Session IV – The challenge of environmental migration

Environmentally induced migration is likely to be a major issue affecting the OSCE area in future years. A lack of definition of the phenomenon, resulting from inadequate understanding of the link between environment and migration has however hampered development of policies and legislation to address this issue. Environmental refugees are currently not recognized under international law, despite their growing number.

The UN is in part addressing this issue through the development of cluster programs, whereby the UNHCR has the lead for internally displaced people and camp development, even in the case of natural disasters. There is a gap however when it comes to internationally displaced people because of creeping disasters, such as sea level rises or desertification.

The OSCE, having a strong human rights background combined with the environmental dimension, could be the right political platform on which the issue of environmental refugees is discussed among various agencies and actors.

The OSCE could also facilitate targeted research into this area through its research networks, which are an outcome of the 12th Economic Forum. It could also develop strategic environmental projects designed to protect populations at risk of being displaced. On the migration side, the OSCE should continue to improve information for potential migrants. Finally, in order to retain jobs in degraded areas and thereby reduce migratory push pressure, the OSCE could catalyze alternative economic development, for example through the promotion of solar energy in desertified areas.

Plenary Session V - Sustainable use of land, agriculture and food security

In plenary V, which I moderated this morning, we heard of the vast problems related to sustainable land use, agriculture and food security. Some possible solutions were mentioned. The historical legacies of the region still play a role in the life today and, as an example we heard from our speakers that large areas of land are under irrigated, people are using outdated farming equipment and poor agricultural practices are still currently being used. All of this leads to land and soil degradation as well as to loss of revenue to the farmers and their countries.

As I mentioned in the plenary, this session offered us great challenges as well as hope. The OSCE, being a political organization, could support research and consequently link it to governmental action. For this, it is important that we work together with other actors, in particular local ones, in order to reach the right goals and address the right needs.

Participants in the session concurred that there is a need for raising the responsibility of land users, a need for drafting national action plans, supporting research and training. Above all, addressing problems of governance was identified as a key issue.

Panel I – Integrated Watershed Management

Water related issues will be discussed in greater details during the second preparatory Conference but this session was instrumental in identifying priorities and needs, in particular in Central Asia.

This panel introduced various issues related to water management. Panelists, from Spain as well as from Central Asia, presented some examples of dealing with water related problems. Integrated water resource management concepts, groundwater, international agreements and regulations were discussed. The EU framework Directive on Water and its participatory approach was noted as was the need for political decisions and targeted budgets.

The concept of payment for ecosystems services was raised and it was suggested this was an issue we are likely to continue to encounter in the future, also in Central Asia. It was emphasized that there is a strong relationship between watershed management and land management and that international agreements need to be translated into local level actions.

The OSCE is well placed to promote cooperation, both at the international level as well as at the national level. We currently work with other organizations, such as the UNECE, on water agreements between riparian states. From today's panel, we can see we are on the right path and that there is a clear need to continue this work. It is not a coincidence that the participating States of the OSCE have, twice, chosen the OSCE to deepen the dialogue on water, in 2002 and next year in 2007. I am sure the incoming Spanish Chairmanship will lead us further down this important road.

Panel II - Public and private response to meeting the challenges of land degradation and soil contamination

In the Panel II, we were exposed to some of the most crucial issues when it comes to preventing land degradation and soil contamination, namely the role of the public and private sector. Indeed, true attention to these problems will only be successful if there is a constructive dialogue with industry, businesses and the public at large.

We heard of two organizations doing excellent work in this area, the Kazakh Business Council for Sustainable Development and the UNIDO Cleaner Production Centers. The key message was that economic performance and environmental performance need not be mutually exclusive. Indeed there are many good examples of win-win situations.

As we heard already during last years Economic Forum, we were reminded again of the fundamental role of Environmental impact assessments for new industrial investments. What was new, was the suggestion I heard for the development of environmental impact assessments for the agricultural sector.

I was also very glad to hear about the successful initiative in Osh with regard to waste management and how the local community was involved. Small community projects like these are something I believe the OSCE should continue to support, given the direct link with human health, economic development and environmental degradation.

This point of involving the local communities is of vital significance and cannot be repeated enough. The mobilization of local populations through grassroots movements, bottom up approaches and awareness raising is perhaps one of the most powerful tools we can use to prevent land degradation. Local knowledge is a vast reservoir of insights into local ecosystems and should not be forgotten when designing and adapting legislation. Finally we heard of the key role property rights and land reform play in ecosystem improvement or degradation. This is also something the OSCE has been addressing, although it was not mentioned here today.

Panel III – The role of the OSCE and co-operation with other International Organizations

In the last panel we heard about a number of local projects initiated and carried out by the OSCE Field Missions as well as about initiatives of international organizations such as the ADB supported Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management and UNIDO's Cleaner Production Programme. The ENVSEC Initiative was also discussed, with a view to further develop and streamline our activities.

I want to use this opportunity and commend the OSCE Economic and Environmental Officers for their dedicated work. We had two of them in the panel and many others took the floor. The activities they develop at local level do improve the life of many people. Their activities empower communities, civil society, youth, and government officials to better tackle problems and identify solutions. Such projects as the ones presented to us today should continue and we should all support them.

The UNIDO representative indicated the interest in developing cooperation among the existing networks of OSCE offices and UNIDO Cleaner Production Centres in Sustainable Industrial Development activities. OSCE and UNIDO could work together in promoting environmentally sound technologies, environmental management systems, corporate social responsibility, etc.. We could jointly promote and develop Cleaner Production Centres in the region, organize training workshops and/or expert group meetings. We will continue to explore this avenue of co-operation with our colleagues from UNIDO in Vienna.

These are my final remarks and the main conclusion I draw from this conference. The list is not exhaustive and we will carefully analyze the rapporteurs' reports. We are also looking forward to receiving further feed-back from you, the participants in this meeting.

Before concluding I want to thank the moderators, the stimulating speakers and panelists and the rapporteurs. Special words of thanks go also to the interpreters and to the logistic team and as well as to the team from our OSCE Center in Bishkek. In addition I want to mention all the efforts made by the staff of my office, in particular Ms. Andrea Gredler.

Dear participants,

Our deliberations would not have been possible without your active involvement in the discussions. I would like to thank you all for your support and contributions - all the OSCE Delegations taking part, the International Organizations, NGOs and Academics, business representatives, OSCE Economic and Environmental Officers, thank you very much.

It was an honor and a great pleasure to be with you in Bishkek these two days. I am looking forward to our continued co-operation. We will expect you in Vienna, on 22-23 January, at the first part of the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

I wish all of you a safe journey home.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

**by Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado,
Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE,
incoming OSCE Chairmanship**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Firstly let me express my deepest gratitude to the Kyrgyz's authorities for their warm welcoming. We were extremely honoured by the presence of his H.E. Mr. Felix Kulov, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and his H.E. Mr. Alikbek Djekshenkulov, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The attendance of such distinguished guests illustrates the relevance of our topics and the strong commitment of the Kyrgyz authorities as participating State of the OSCE to the launching of the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum.

I also want to acknowledge and congratulate the Coordinator, Bernard Snoy and his staff, and Ambassador Markus Muller and his team at the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, for their dedication and support that has contributed to a very successful conference.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the Belgian Chairmanship for its leadership of the OSCE this year, a task that Belgium has accomplished with great success.

Finally, I would like to thank the speakers, panelist, representatives of international organizations, government's representatives, civil society, and OSCE Field Presences for their motivating contributions.

During the last two days, we have successfully revisited the concept of environmental security, by linking security with environmental threats like land degradation, soil contamination, deforestation, watershed management, etc. These topics are no longer a matter of academic studies or theoretical conversations. Environmental problems are currently affecting the lives of common people causing health, economic, and migration problems, among others. An example is that land degradation and soil contamination are strongly related to the loss and shortages and/or mismanagement of vital resources (like water, soil and food). In the mid-term, it is likely that if this situation persists, it could lead to local and regional conflicts. The prevention of such conflicts demands active policies to eliminate or mitigate the environmental problems. Unfortunately, these problems transcend borders and can not be solved by one country acting alone. Therefore, cooperation is pivotal. Our work must attempt to counter these subjects by working together.

In fact, it is the OSCE's responsibility - as the largest regional security organization- to take leadership addressing them.

Now, allow me to describe briefly how the Participating States working together can help mitigate these problems that are beyond the reach of any one country working alone. As a result of this seminar, the incoming Spanish Chairmanship suggests the consideration of several general themes to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum. Among which we can mention: environmental security, environmental governance, social effects of environmental problems, and environment and economic development.

We have seen how the mismanagement of the environment can lead to local/regional conflicts. Now, we should explore how, for example, the ENVSEC initiative can provide us with a tool to assess, monitor and prevent tensions over natural resources.

Our valuable speakers stressed that there is an urgent need to link environment and good governance. This was highlighted in a variety of fields including deforestation, bad agricultural practices, and environmental dangers of *mélange*, among others. All of these situations can lead to land degradation, soil contamination, water pollution, health problems, economic costs, and the loss of livelihoods. The OSCE and especially its field presences are well positioned to support the OSCE participating States in implementing good governance practices.

Environmentally induced migration could be a concern of the OSCE. It is now our task to examine the exact role the OSCE could play in raising awareness of this problem and in promoting cooperation to tackle it as soon as possible.

Finally, it is clear that environment and economic development play a key role in environmental security. The best businesses recognize that they can maximize their long term returns by minimizing their negative environmental impact. Through responsible action, businesses will become more competitive, not less. We look forward to the active involvement of the business community and the financial institutions, and encourage their assistance to OSCE participating States in developing sustainable business practices.

These themes, among other topics, can set the basis for our future work in the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum. At this point, I will like to announce that the Second Preparatory conference in Zaragoza (Spain) will take place on 12 and 13 March, 2007.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me conclude by saying that most people will not measure the quality of their life based on wealth accumulation or opportunity, if they are living with environmental issues that make it impossible to satisfy basic needs of human beings, like food and health. In this vein, we can not expect our success to be measured by the number of documents or attendance at conferences such as this. It will be measured in terms of whether our children will have the opportunity to satisfy their basic needs. And here is where the OSCE can and must play an important role in advancing our common objective of strengthening cooperation, promoting economic development, and bringing about security in our common space. Thus, our success will be assessed on the successful development and implementation of your/our ideas and suggestions during these past two days. At the end of the day, the outcome will depend on the active commitment and support of the Participating States.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You, as experts, have presented us with some ideas for concrete ways of action and Spain looks forward to working with you into transforming some of these issues into practical and accessible solutions.

Of course, to see all opportunities and smart solutions that can be developed takes time, but innovation requires willingness to take the first step, this is what we have done here. I am confident that our work these past two days has set our subject in the right track and paved the way for a positive and successful 15th Economic and Environmental Forum.

I thank you for your attention, and to finish and on behalf of all you, I want to express my most sincere thanks to the interpreters who have certainly done an outstanding job, and to the conference staff that have managed very efficiently to keep this facilities properly running throughout the entire conference.

Thank you.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities

Bishkek, 17 November 2006

First Preparatory Conference to the Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

“Land Degradation and Soil Contamination”

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 16-17 November 2006

Hyatt Regency Bishkek, Sovetskaya str., 191

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Wednesday, 15 November

- 17.00 – 19.00 Accreditation - Hyatt Regency Bishkek
- 19.30 Welcoming Cocktail - Hyatt Regency Bishkek

Thursday, 16 November

- 08.00 Accreditation - Hyatt Regency Bishkek
- 09.00 - 09.30 **Opening Plenary Session** (open to Press)

Welcoming remarks by:

- **H.E. Mr. Felix Kulov**, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **H.E. Mr. Alikbek Djekshenkulov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Ms. Dominique Mineur**, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the OSCE, OSCE Chairmanship
- **Ambassador Jose Angel López-Jorrián**, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, incoming OSCE Chairmanship
- **Ambassador Markus Müller**, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek
- **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

- 09.30 - 11.00 **Plenary Session I – The challenges of land degradation and soil contamination; ensuring environmental security and sustainable development**

Moderator: **Mr. Antonio Callaba**, Researcher, Geological Survey of Spain
Rapporteur: **Ms. Diana Dragon**, Political Officer, United States Mission to the OSCE

Keynote speeches followed by Discussion:

- **Mr. Mikhail Outkine**, Officer in Charge for Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- **Ms. Carina Skareby**, Head of Delegation, European Commission Delegation in Kyrgyzstan

Topics:

- Environmental, economic and security implications of land degradation and contaminated soils
- Trends and policies in the OSCE area

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00 **Plenary Session II – The impact of hazardous activities on environmental security**

Moderator: Mr. Marc Baltes, Senior Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

Rapporteur: Mr. Raul Daussa, Associate Programme Officer, OSCE/OCEEA

- **Mr. Almaz Kamchibekov**, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Lt. Col. Yerzhan Kumarbekov**, Head of the Special Forces Department, Melange Destruction Programme, Ministry of Defence, Kazakhstan
- **Mr. José Lopez de Velasco**, Head of Area, Waste Management Section, Ministry of Environment, Spain
- **Mr. Oleksander Vasenko**, Director for Science, Ukrainian Research Institute for Environmental Problems, Ministry of Environment, Ukraine
- **Mr Philip Peck**, Associate Professor, The International Institute of Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University, Mining & Environment Consultant, UNEP, GRID Arendal
- **Mr. Sergey H. Arevshatyan**, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia

Topics:

- Soil contamination from industrial and military legacies
- Transport and disposal of hazardous substances and trafficking on hazardous waste

Discussion

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 16.00 **Plenary Session III – Forest management**

Moderator: Mr. Ignacio Diaz de la Guardia, Counsellor, OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain/incoming OSCE Chairmanship

Rapporteur: Ms. Wenche Prebensen, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE

- **Mr. Peter Herbst**, Consultant on Forestry Law, Austria
- **Mr. José María Solano López**, Head of Area, Forest Management and Planning Section, Biodiversity Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Spain
- **Mr. Aitkul Burhanov**, Deputy Director of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyz Republic

Topics:

- Forest management as a tool to prevent floods and landslides
- Economic importance of forest resources, sustainable harvesting
- Forest related legislation and good forest management practices

Discussion

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.00 **Plenary Session IV – The challenge of environmental migration**

Moderator: Ms. **Blazka Kepic**, Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Ms. **Madina Ibrasheva**, National Project Co-ordinator, OSCE Center in Almaty

- **Mr. Philip Reuchlin**, Economic and Environmental Advisor, OSCE - OCEEA
- **Mr. Anis Bajrektarevic**, Professor for International Law and Global Political Studies, IMC FH Krems University, Austria
- **Mr. Carlos Zaccagnini**, Representative of the UNHCR in the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Mr. Andrey W. Fesenko**, Director of Public Funds for Environmental Initiatives, UNDP Environmental Program

Topics

- Understanding the link between environmental degradation and migration
- Assessing the challenges of definition and research on environmental migrants
- Possible way ahead

Discussion

19.00 **Reception and Kyrgyz Cultural Evening – State Residence of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic - Ala-Archa** (transport will be provided)

Friday, 17 November

09.00 – 10.30 **Plenary Session V - Sustainable use of land, agriculture and food security**

Moderator: Mr. **Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: Ms. **Saba Nordstrom**, Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

- **Mr. Asanbek Ajibekov**, Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Dr. Gregory Gleason**, Professor of Political Science, University of New Mexico, Eurasian National University in Astana
- **Ms. Zulfira Zikrina**, NGO - Centre for sustainable production and consumption, Kazakhstan
- **Ms. Aida Gareeva**, Project Coordinator, Water and Soil conservation technologies, Public Foundation CAMP Ala-Too, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
- **Mr. Zairolla Duysenbekov**, Director General Member of the National Academy of Sciences, State Scientific and Production Center of Land Resources and Land Use, Kazakhstan
- **Mr. Nuriddin Zardiev**, Deputy Head, State Committee on Environment and Forestry, Special Inspection on Land Protection, Tajikistan

Topics:

- Understanding the links between land degradation, unsustainable agriculture and food security
- Good governance issues; strategic planning/thinking

Discussion

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30

Panel I – Integrated Watershed Management

Moderator: Mr. Sergio Alvarez, Head of Area, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Environment, Spain

Rapporteur: Ms. Saba Nordstrom, Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

Panellists' Introductory remarks followed by Discussion:

- **Mr. Miguel Antolín Martínez**, Head of Area, International Affairs Water Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Spain
- **Mr. Pulat Umarov**, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission in Central Asia
- **Mr. Abdumanap Kutzhanov**, Member of the Executive Board, International Foundation for the Aral Sea
- **Mr. Azim Hisoriev**, Chief Engineer, Groundwater and Land Reclamation Agency, Tajikistan
- **Ms. Aida Nabieva**, Director, NGO "Bilek", Isfana, Batken Province, Kyrgyz Republic

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 16.00

Panel II - Public and private response to meeting the challenges of land degradation an soil contamination

Moderator: Mr Philip Peck, Associate Professor, The International Institute of Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University, Mining & Environment Consultant, UNEP, GRID Arendal

Rapporteur: Mr. Philip Reuchlin, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA

- **Ms. Vera Mustafina**, Chief Manager, Kazakh Business Council for Sustainable Development
- **Mr. Kanybek Isabaev**, Manager of Monitoring Department, Osh Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyz Republic
- **Mr. Emil Shukurov**, Manager of Ecosystem Management Programme, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
- **Mr. Nazir Abidjanov**, Director, National Cleaner Production Center in Uzbekistan, UNIDO Cleaner Production Programme
- **Ms. Elmira Mavlaynova**, Manager, Civil Society Support Centre, Jalalabad, Kyrgyz Republic
- **Ms. Janyl Kojomuratova**, Project Coordinator, GTZ CCD Project in Kyrgyzstan, Public Foundation CAMP Ala-Too, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Discussion

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.00

Panel III – The role of the OSCE and co-operation with other International Organizations

Moderator: Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE, incoming OSCE Chairmanship

Rapporteur: Mr. William Hanlon, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Mission to Georgia

- **Ms. Cholpon Mambetova**, Project Implementation Officer, Asian Development Bank, Kyrgyzstan
- **Ms. Inkar Kadyrzhanova**, ENVSEC Regional Desk Officer for Central Asia, UNDP Kazakhstan
- **Mr. Nazir Abidjanov**, Director, National Cleaner Production Center in Uzbekistan, UNIDO Cleaner Production Programme

- **Dr. Amanda Wooden**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Osh Field Office, Asst. Professor of Environmental Politics and Policy, Bucknell University
- **Mr. Stoyan Davidov**, Field Officer, OSCE Field Office in Kurgan-Tube, Tajikistan

Discussion

18.00 – 18.30 **Conclusions and Closing** (open to Press)

- **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- **Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado**, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE, incoming OSCE Chairmanship
- **Mr. Aitkul Burhanov**, Deputy Director of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyz Republic
- **Ambassador Markus Müller**, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek



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Vienna, 17 November 2006

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Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 16-17 November 2006

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LOG OF CONTRIBUTIONS

FOR THE FIRST PREPARATORY CONFERENCE TO THE FIFTEENTH OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM: LAND DEGRADATION AND SOIL CONTAMINATION

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN, 16-17 NOVEMBER 2006

Path/File	Date	Originator	Title/Content	Link
I. OPENING PLENARY SESSION				
D:\1PC15EEF\Opening\				
1	16.11.06	Kyrgyzstan	H.E. Felix Kulov, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic. <i>Welcoming remarks.</i>	<u>Russian</u>
2	16.11.06	Belgium/OSCE Chairmanship	Ms Dominique Mineur, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the OSCE, on behalf of Ambassador Christian Meerschman, Embassy of Belgium to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Belgian OSCE Chairmanship. <i>Welcoming remarks.</i>	English
3	16.11.06	Spain/incoming OSCE Chairmanship	Ambassador Jose Angel Lopez-Jorin, Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. <i>Welcoming remarks.</i>	English
4	16.11.06	OSCE Centre in Bishkek	Ambassador Markus Muller, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. <i>Welcoming remarks.</i>	English
5	16.11.06	OSCE OCEEA	Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. <i>Welcoming remarks</i>	English
II. CLOSING PLENARY SESSION				
D:\1PC15EEF\Closing\				
SEC.GAL/209/06	16.11.06	OSCE OCEEA	Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. <i>Concluding remarks.</i>	English
2	16.11.06	Spain/incoming OSCE Chairmanship	Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE, Spain/incoming OSCE Chairmanship. <i>Concluding remarks.</i>	English
III. PLENARY SESSION I				
THE CHALLENGES OF LAND DEGRADATION AND SOIL CONTAMINATION; ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				

Path/File	Date	Originator	Title/Content	Link
D:\1PC15EEF\Plenary I\				
<i>Excerpt of the Consolidated Summary</i>	16.11.06	Rapporteur	Report of the Plenary session I The challenges of land degradation and soil contamination; ensuring environmental security and sustainable development Rapporteur: Ms. Diana Dragon, Political Officer, United States Mission to the OSCE	English
1	16.11.06	Spain	Mr. Antonio Callaba, Researcher, Geological Survey of Spain. <i>Land degradation and soil contamination - ensuring environmental security and sustainable development.</i>	English
4	16.11.06	European Commission Delegation in Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Carina Skareby, Head of Delegation, European Commission Delegation in Kyrgyzstan. <i>Land Degradation and Soil Contamination.</i>	English
IV. PLENARY SESSION II				
THE IMPACT OF HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY				
D:\1PC15EEF\Plenary II\				
<i>Excerpt of the Consolidated Summary</i>	16.11.06	Rapporteur	Report of the Plenary session II The impact of hazardous activities on environmental security Rapporteur: Mr. Raul Daussa, Associate Programme Officer, OSCE/OCEEA	English
1	16.11.06	Kyrgyzstan	H.E. Mr. Janysh Rustanbekov, Minister of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic. <i>Welcoming remarks.</i>	Russian
1a	16.11.06	Kyrgyzstan	H.E. Mr. Janysh Rustanbekov, Minister of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic. <i>Problems of Mining Wastes in the Kyrgyz Republic.</i>	Russian
2	16.11.06	Kazakhstan	Lt. Col. Yerzhan Kumarbekov, Head of the Special Forces Department, Melange Destruction Programme, Ministry of Defense, Kazakhstan. <i>Presentation.</i>	Russian
3	16.11.06	Spain	Mr. José Lopez de Velasco, Head of Area, Waste Management Section, Ministry of Environment, Spain. <i>The Remediation of Industrial Soil Contamination. Environmental Commitment of the Armed Forces to Improve Security in their Facilities.</i>	English
4	16.11.06	Ukraine	Mr. Oleksander Vasenko, Director for Science, Ukrainian Research Institute for Environmental Problems, Ministry of Environment, Ukraine. <i>Basel's Convention on Monitoring Transportation of Hazardous Wastes and Their Utilization.</i>	Russian
4a	16.11.06	Ukraine	Mr. Oleksander Vasenko, Director for Science, Ukrainian Research Institute for Environmental Problems, Ministry of Environment, Ukraine. <i>Dniepr River Situation in the Ukraine</i>	Russian

Path/File	Date	Originator	Title/Content	Link
			<i>Territory</i>	
4b	16.11.06	Ukraine	Mr. Oleksander Vasenko, Director for Science, Ukrainian Research Institute for Environmental Problems, Ministry of Environment, Ukraine. <i>Basel Convention on the Control of Transborder Movement of Hazardous Waste and Their Disposal.</i>	Russian
4c	16.11.06	Ukraine	Mr. Oleksander Vasenko, Director for Science, Ukrainian Research Institute for Environmental Problems, Ministry of Environment, Ukraine. <i>Transborder Problems of Large Ukrainian Rivers.</i>	Russian
5	16.11.06	UNEP, GRID Arendal	Mr Philip Peck, Associate Professor, The International Institute of Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University, Mining & Environment Consultant, UNEP, GRID Arendal. <i>The mining and metals sector & soil contamination.</i>	English
6a	16.11.06	Armenia	Mr. Sergey H. Arevshatyan, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia. <i>Assessing the Environmental Impact of Ore-Mining Production and Revealing Risk Groups Among Children.</i>	English Russian
6b	16.11.06	Armenia	Mr. Sergey H. Arevshatyan, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia. <i>Presentation.</i>	Russian

V. PLENARY SESSION III

FOREST MANAGEMENT

D:\IPC15EEF\ Plenary III\

<i>Excerpt of the Consolidated Summary</i>	16.11.06	Rapporteur	Report of the Plenary session III Forest Management Rapporteur: Ms. Wenche Prebensen, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE	English
1	16.11.06	Austria	Mr. Peter Herbst, Consultant on Forestry Law, Austria. <i>Legal Aspects of Sustainable Forest Development.</i>	English
2	16.11.06	Spain	Mr. José María Solano López, Head of Area, Forest Management and Planning Section, Biodiversity Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Spain. <i>Sustainable forest management in Spain.</i>	English
3	16.11.06	Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Aitkul Burhanov, State Agency for Nature Protection and Forestry Management, Kyrgyz Republic. <i>Presentation.</i>	Russian

VI. PLENARY SESSION IV

THE CHALLENGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION

D:\IPC15EEF\ Plenary IV\

Path/File	Date	Originator	Title/Content	Link
<i>Excerpt of the Consolidated Summary</i>	16.11.06	Rapporteur	Report of the Plenary session IV The challenge of environmental migration Rapporteur: Ms. Madina Ibrasheva, National Project Co-ordinator, OSCE Center in Almaty	English
1	16.11.06	OSCE - OCEEA	Mr. Philip Reuchlin, Economic and Environmental Advisor, OSCE – OCEEA. <i>Environment and Migration.</i>	English
2	16.11.06	Austria	Mr. Anis Bajrektarevic, Professor for International Law and Global Political Studies, IMC FH Krems University, Austria. <i>Assessing the current and future potentials of environmentally conditioned migrations in Central Asia – three-dimensional challenge for the OSCE.</i>	English
2a –Annex A	16.11.06	Austria	Mr. Anis Bajrektarevic, Professor for International Law and Global Political Studies, IMC FH Krems University, Austria. <i>Assessing the current and future potentials of environmentally conditioned migrations in Central Asia – three-dimensional challenge for the OSCE.</i>	English
2 b –Annex B	16.11.06	Austria	Mr. Anis Bajrektarevic, Professor for International Law and Global Political Studies, IMC FH Krems University, Austria. <i>Assessing the current and future potentials of environmentally conditioned migrations in Central Asia – three-dimensional challenge for the OSCE.</i>	English
3	16.11.06	UNHCR - Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Carlos Zaccagnini, Representative of the UNHCR in the Kyrgyz Republic. <i>Land Degradation And Soil Contamination.</i>	English
4	16.11.06	UNDP Environment Program - Kyrgyzstan	Mr. A.Fesenko, Director of Public Funds for Environmental Initiative. <i>Land Degradation and Soil Contamination.</i>	Russian
<p>VII. PLENARY SESSION V</p> <p>SUSTAINABLE USE OF LAND, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY</p> <p>D:\1PC15EEF\ Plenary V\</p>				
<i>Excerpt of the Consolidated Summary</i>	17.11.06	Rapporteur	Report of the Plenary session V Sustainable use of land, agriculture and food security Rapporteur: Ms. Saba Nordstrom, Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA	English

Path/File	Date	Originator	Title/Content	Link
1	16.11.06	Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Asanbek Ajibekov, Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture.	Russian
2	16.11.06	Kazakhstan	Dr. Gregory Gleason, Professor of Political Science, University of New Mexico, Eurasian National University in Astana <i>Environmental Security: Land</i>	English
2a	16.11.06	Kazakhstan	Dr. Gregory Gleason, Professor of Political Science, University of New Mexico, Eurasian National University in Astana. <i>Land Degradation and Soil Contamination.</i>	English
3	16.11.06	Kazakhstan	Ms. Zulfira Zikrina, NGO - Centre for sustainable production and consumption, Kazakhstan. <i>Ecological problems in use of land: Practice of the Southern Kazakhstan.</i>	Russian
4	16.11.06	Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Aida Gareyeva, Project Coordinator, Water and Soil conservation technologies, Public foundation CAMP Ala-Too, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. <i>Water and Soil Conservation Practices.</i>	English
6	16.11.06	Tajikistan	Mr. Nuriddin Zardiev, Deputy Head, State Committee on Environment and Forestry, Special Inspection on Land Protection.	Russian

VIII. PANEL I

INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

D:\IPC15EEF\ Panel I\

<i>Excerpt of the Consolidated Summary</i>	17.11.06	Rapporteur	Report of the Panel I Integrated Watershed Management Rapporteur: Ms. Saba Nordstrom, Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA	English
1	16.11.06	Spain	Mr. Miguel Antolín Martínez, Head of Area, International Affairs Water Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Spain. <i>Integrated Resources Management: Water And Land.</i>	English
1a	16.11.06	Spain	Mr. Miguel Antolín Martínez, Head of Area, International Affairs Water Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Spain. <i>Integrated Resources Management: Water And Land.</i>	English
2	16.11.06	Interstate Coordination Water Commission in	Mr. Pulat Umarov, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission in Central Asia, <i>IWRM in Central Asia for combat desertification of lands.</i>	English

Path/File	Date	Originator	Title/Content	Link
		Central Asia		
3	16.11.06	International Foundation for the Aral Sea	Mr. Abdumanap Kutzhanov, Member of the Executive Board, International Foundation for the Aral Sea.	Russian
4	16.11.06	Tajikistan	Mr. Azim Hisoriev, Chief Engineer, Groundwater and Land Reclamation Agency, Tajikistan, <i>Ecosystem of Tajikistan: the changes the irrigation system.</i>	Russian
5	16.11.06	Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Aida Nabieva, Director, NGO "Bilek", Isfana, Batken Province, Kyrgyz Republic. <i>Solving the problem of water by joint efforts.</i>	Russian

IX. PANEL II

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESPONSE TO MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF LAND DEGRADATION AND SOIL CONTAMINATION

D:\IPC15EEF\Panel II\

<i>Excerpt of the Consolidated Summary</i>	17.11.06	Rapporteur	Report of the Panel II Public and private response to meeting the challenges of land degradation and soil contamination Rapporteur: Mr. Philip Reuchlin, Economic and Environmental Adviser, OSCE/OCEEA.	English
1	16.11.06	Kazakhstan	Ms. Vera Mustafina, Executive Director, Kazakh Business Council for Sustainable Development. <i>Land Protection: Experience of Kazakhstan.</i>	Russian
2	16.11.06	Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Kanybek Isabaev, Manager of Monitoring Department, Osh Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyz Republic. <i>Presentation.</i>	Russian
3	16.11.06	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia	Mr. Emil Shukurov, Manager of Ecosystem Management Programme, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia. <i>Presentation.</i>	Russian
4	16.11.06	UNIDO Cleaner Production Programme	Mr Nazir Abidjanov, Director, National Cleaner Production Center in Uzbekistan. <i>UNIDO Cleaner Production Programme, UNIDO – Part .1</i>	English
4a	16.11.06	UNIDO Cleaner Production Programme	Mr Nazir Abidjanov, Director, National Cleaner Production Center in Uzbekistan. <i>Uzbek Cleaner Production Centre.</i>	English

Path/File	Date	Originator	Title/Content	Link
5	16.11.06	Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Elmira Mavlyanova, Manager, "Civil Society Support Centre, Jalalabad, Kyrgyz Republic. <i>Problems of Land Degradation in the Southern region of the Kyrgyz Republic.</i>	Russian
6	16.11.06	Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Janyl Kojomuratova, Project Coordinator, GTZ CCD Project in Kyrgyzstan, Public foundation CAMP Ala-Too, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. <i>Contribution.</i>	English

X. PANEL III

THE ROLE OF THE OSCE AND CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

D:\IPC15EEF\Panel III\

<i>Excerpt of the Consolidated Summary</i>	17.11.06	Rapporteur	Report of the Panel III The role of the OSCE and co-operation with other International Organizations Rapporteur: Mr. William Hanlon, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Mission to Georgia.	English
1	16.11.06	Asian Development Bank	Ms. Cholpon Mambetova, Asian Development Bank - Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management.	English
2	16.11.06	UNDP Kazakhstan	Ms. Inkar Kadyrzhanova, ENVSEC Regional Desk Officer for Central Asia, UNDP Kazakhstan.	English
3	16.11.06	UNIDO	Ms. Nazir Abidjanov, Director, National Cleaner Production Center in Uzbekistan. <i>UNIDO Cleaner Production Programme.</i>	English
4a	16.11.06	OSCE Osh Field Office	Dr. Amanda Wooden, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Osh Field Office. <i>A Piece of Plastic Lasts More than a Hundred Years...</i>	English
5	16.11.06	OSCE Field Office in Kurgan-Tube, Tajikistan	Mr. Stoyan Davidov, Field Officer, OSCE Field Office in Kurgan-Tube, Tajikistan. <i>Degradation of Ecosystem leads to the reduction of living space.</i>	English

XI. GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

D:\IPC15EEF\General contributions\

1	16.11.06	OSCE OCEEA	Agenda.	English
2	16.11.06	OSCE OCEEA	List of Participants.	English

Path/File	Date	Originator	Title/Content	Link
3	16.11.06	Kazakhstan	Ms. Farida Kozybaeva, Uspanov Soil Institute, Kazakhstan. <i>Soil Ecology in Kazakhstan.</i>	Russian
4	16.11.06	Kazakhstan	Ms. Gulnar Bekturova, Mr. W. Levin, Mr. I. Alimaev, PF <i>„Kazakhstan farmers“, Sustainable use o pastures: current problems in Kazakhstan.</i>	Russian
5	16.11.06	Kazakhstan	Mr. Torgyn Kaskataeva, Ministry for Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan. <i>Problems of Land Degradation and Land Contamination: Ensuring Environment Security and Sustainable Development.</i>	Russian
SEC.GAL/164/06	16.10.06	OSCE OCEEA	Background Paper for the First Preparatory Conference to the 15 th OSCE Economic Forum.	English Russian
6	16.11.06	Tajikistan	Mr. Nusratullo Nozaninov, State Committee for Land Management, Department of external relations and information, Head. <i>Problem of Land Degradation in the Republic of Tajikistan.</i>	Russian
7	May 2005/06	OSCE OCEEA	OSCE OCEEA Activity Report June 2005 - May 2006.	English Russian
8	2004	OSCE OCEEA	OCEEA Fact Sheet on the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension.	English Russian
9	2005	OSCE OCEEA	Fact Sheet on the Aarhus Center Model - Supporting people's rights in environmental matters.	English Russian
10	2005	OSCE OCEEA	Fact Sheet on the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension & the Private Sector – Market expand with peace and security.	English