

# Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Secretariat

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**ENGLISH** only

**Conference Services** 

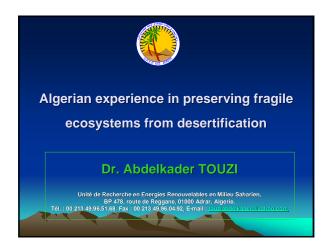
Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum - Part 2: "Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management"

Prague, 21 - 23 May 2007

### Session IV

Challenges to the management of water resources and to countering desertification in the Mediterranean region

Please find attached the presentation by Mr. Abdelkader Touzi, Director, Research on Renewable Energy Unit, Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research, Algeria.



### Introduction:

- There is no doubt, Algeria, like the other south Bank Mediterranean countries, is facing some immense challenges, which in many cases threaten its viability as a nation,
- A great deal of efforts has been put in the modernization and improvement of Algerian economy,
- However, the country still face many difficulties in its fight against the inexorable environment and space of life degradation.

In this regards, Algerian policy makers adopted a set of measures, which in the long run, gave tangible results and a favourable impact on the environment.

## 1. Date palm tree cultivation in braving desertification phenomenon:

The development perspectives projected to horizon 2010 aim to the rehabilitation, the enlargement and the promotion of date palm in order to preserve the oasian ecosystem, against desertification and erosion, by reducing the ill-fated effects of violent winds and intense sunstroke. This is an indispensable condition to maintain life and socio-economical activities and to stabilize millions of people.

- 2. Other major actions taken to secure development sustainability of arid and semi arid zones in Algeria:
- Actions for water protection are of high priority, particularly for ground water,
- Supportive measures for better water economy,
- Waste water treatment programmes in every town,
- Urban solid waste management and control,
- · Appropriate irrigation techniques in agriculture (drip),
- Date palm tree culture enlargement,
- · Oasian patrimony safeguard,
- Sand hill fixing (El Mosrane-Djelfa pilot experience)
- Forest green barrier, which is an immense reforesting program to hinder desert prominence and steppe lands preservation,

- Ecologically adapted tree species for forest reconstitution,
- Land steppe management and preservation,
- Rational and well planned grazing management,
- Extensive pastoralism encouragement,
- · Biodiversity conservation,
- · Conservation of forests and other fragile ecosystems,
- Turning biodiversity into useful tools against environment deterioration,
- Appropriate research centres and universities in charge with specific arid and semi arid aspects,
- Well oriented multidisciplinary research programs, with a select place for renewable energy research and development projects.



# Conclusion: The OSCE participating states should help conduct joint frontline research in desertification and related aspects and support the forum in which policy issues pertaining to the development and dissemination of experiences and know how and solutions are discussed, in order to end at concrete measures susceptible to be translated into future co operations in environment improvement and desertification reducing fields.

The rural people and related socioeconomic aspects, local know how which are a fundamental issue should always be taken into account when planning and implementing land resources management and conservation programmes.

