



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**2013 OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension  
Implementation Meeting**

Vienna, 21 – 22 October 2013

**Welcoming Address**

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier  
OSCE Secretary General

Madame Chair,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you to the 2013 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting.

Since the Maastricht Strategy Document was approved in 2003, the Second Dimension has come a long way and continuously strengthened its profile.

This meeting, alongside the regular Economic and Environmental Committee and Forum meetings, is important first and foremost in terms of assessing progress on the implementation of commitments in the Second Dimension.

At the same time, it is also playing an increasingly important role as a welcome opportunity to discussing OSCE capacities and priorities for action in response to very tangible economic and environmental threats to security. I am therefore very encouraged by the growing interest that this meeting is attracting not only inside the closer OSCE community but also from the capitals and field operations, as well as from the business sector, civil society and academia. It is therefore an important tool also for raising the profile of the economic and environmental dimension.

Looking at the topics that have gained further prominence this year, energy and water are the first to come to my mind. Earlier this month I addressed the Budapest Water Summit and only last week I had the opportunity to speak to the Energy Security and Sustainability Conference in Ashgabat. The impact of migration, in its multiple facets, is another topic gaining traction within OSCE fora. Meanwhile, the rise of issues related to climate change appears inexorable. Once you add current economic uncertainty, population growth, and competition over scarce resources to the mix, the implications for security and stability and the need for joint approaches becomes apparent.

Within the OSCE, all of these significant issues and many more are discussed with increasing intensity. These growing challenges could add weight and relevance to the OSCE's economic and environmental activities, if the

participating States chose to grasp the many opportunities for OSCE engagement.

We are all aware that these challenges call for concerted international action. As a security organization, the OSCE seeks to contribute to this effort by acting as a platform for confidence building, dialogue and cooperation. The OSCE executive structures are instruments at the disposal of the participating States. Progress depends to a great extent on the active engagement and willingness of participating States to give direction and support to the OSCE's activities within the context of Second Dimension commitments.

The Office of the Coordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, together with our Officers operating in the field, stand at the forefront of the OSCE Second Dimension effort. They continue to focus on security-related areas where the Organization can act as a catalyst and where its engagement carries added value. In their work, they are guided by a strong focus on good governance as defined by the Dublin Ministerial Declaration on Good Governance - a document in which the participating States recognised that good governance at all levels is fundamental to economic growth, political stability and security. In the Dublin Declaration the participating States further affirmed that good governance is an essential foundation to reduce poverty and

inequality, to increase social integration and opportunities for all, to attract investment and to protect the environment.

On the last point, protection of the environment, let me recall the 2007 Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security which continues to be an important point of reference, focusing environmental activities squarely on areas with security implications.

The programmatic activities of the Secretariat and Field Operations are closely interrelated and mutually complementary. This should be kept in mind also when considering the Secretariat and the Field Operations' components of the Unified Budget Proposal. Improving dialogue and interaction with field operations, especially in recognition of their role in early warning and the detection of economic and environmental threats to security, is regularly put forward as an essential element for strengthening the Second Dimension. In this context, allow me to extend a special welcome to all participants from the field whose work is vital for our ability to produce concrete results where it matters most.

Similarly, let me thank the representatives of our partner organisations for their presence amongst us today. I am delighted that reciprocal participation in each other's meetings has become standard practice. This serves as a good basis for

further strengthening co-operation which we engage in out of necessity but also with strong conviction. I think we are on the right track in this regard. Over the past decade, we have built successful partnerships, notably within the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative with UNEP, UNECE, UNDP, REC and NATO; in particular the long standing close cooperation with the UNECE and the more Action Plan with UNODC and the MoU with UNDP show that good progress is being made.

Madame Chair,

There is wide agreement that the Second Dimension has great potential. Its role for building confidence and enhancing dialogue on economic and environmental aspects of conflict prevention and management needs to be strengthened. Our work on supporting cross-border transport offers great opportunities for confidence-building and trade facilitation. Efforts towards the better management of transboundary natural resources, the potential engagement in natural disaster preparedness and in addressing the consequences climate change can and should be further developed. And there are many more areas I could have listed and which will be discussed at this meeting. Clearly, the potential scope is large, as is the need for prioritisation in view of limited resources.

I believe that this meeting will be a further stepping stone along a promising but challenging path. I invite all of you to engage fully in the discussion, which will benefit from many very distinguished speakers and will help us to further define our expectations for the OSCE's environmental and economic activities in 2014 and beyond. The Helsinki +40 discussions which we are now engaged upon could be one of the processes benefiting from the outcome of your debates. I wholeheartedly welcome that the agenda this year includes more sessions with a forward-looking and more strategic character. This fits well with our continuous efforts to seek new avenues to develop strategic thinking on Second Dimension issues.

Before I close, let me just mention that we are considering to devote a "Security Days" event to economic and environmental issues next year. This could be the first in a series of such events. In terms of location we are looking at Prague and at enlisting the support of the OSCE Office there. It is my expectation that a "Security Days" event, for instance on the topic of promoting economic growth and creating a better investment climate through improvements in good governance, could help stimulate suggestions and recommendations, and perhaps, add some new, out-of-the-box ideas to an already very intense discussion on the future of Second Dimension activities.

But for now, let us focus on the very promising agenda put together for us here today.

Thank you for your attention.

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