



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**High-Level Event
Climate, Peace and Security: Time for Action**

Brussels, 22 June 2018

Intervention by H.E. Thomas Greminger, OSCE Secretary General

- I would love to tell you that in the OSCE, the world’s largest regional security organisation, the climate/security nexus is already a mainstreamed topic. It is not yet so, and there is still quite a lot of scepticism. The good news is that awareness is constantly rising and today’s event will certainly contribute to that.

- **Climate change** is a major global threat to sustainable development, peace and stability. Related challenges are best addressed **by a broad coalition of actors**.
- What is true on the international level is also valid at the national level.
- Given the inherent complexity, a **“whole-of-government”** approach is essential.
- Equally important is a **“whole- of -society”** approach –an enabling environment for **civil society, businesses, the research community and others** to engage and contribute.
- The current discourse on **“resilience”** can provide an umbrella to integrate different policy fields into a more joined-up effort.

- What can the OSCE do then to enhance awareness and joint action? The OSCE **offers a platform for raising awareness, fostering dialogue and building political commitment** to address climate change related security issues. We also implement **concrete activities on the ground**, making full use of our broad

network of field operations in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

- Let me tell you about a recently concluded project which assessed potential security risks stemming from climate change in **Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus**.
- Over **500 national stakeholders, including the security actors**, from **11 countries** engaged in the project. As a result, over **30 geographical hotspots** where climate change and security issues converge were identified. And on some we have already developed responses, for example, the transboundary climate change adaptation strategy for the Dniester River Basin, developed with OSCE support and endorsed by Moldova and Ukraine in 2015.
- The project was implemented together with our partners in the **Environment and Security Initiative - ENVSEC** and funded by the EU.
- **Climate change co-operation and climate diplomacy** can be good entry points for **preventing conflicts and strengthening trust**.
- So joint climate action can be **an effective confidence building catalyst for co-operation and facilitating good neighbourly relations**.

- As a regional security organization, the OSCE can provide **a link between national and global efforts**.
- We are well placed to do so because the **nexus between peace, security and development** which underlies the UN's **2030 Agenda** is also at the core of the **OSCE's concept of comprehensive security**.

Thank you.