



REPORT

"Enhancing security through water diplomacy: The role of the OSCE"

Vienna, 8 July 2014

This report is drawn from the transcript and notes of oral interventions during the OSCE Security Day 'Enhancing security through water diplomacy: The role of the OSCE'. It is not a negotiated document and its contents do not necessarily represent the views of the OSCE, of its participating States, or of the participants in the above OSCE Security Day.



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Overview

On 8 July 2014, the OSCE organized a Security Days event with the theme "**Enhancing security through water diplomacy: The role of the OSCE**". The keynote address was delivered by His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, a keen promoter of water co-operation, until recently Chairman of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, and currently the Chairman of the High Level Forum for the Blue Peace Middle East Plan. The speakers and moderators represented a wide spectrum of stakeholders including Deputy Ministers and other high level government representatives as well as prominent representatives from international and regional organizations, river basin commissions, academia and non-governmental organizations. Several Ambassadors of OSCE participating States and representatives of OSCE field operations including one Head of Mission contributed to the discussions. In total, 145 participants registered for the event. The Security Days Event reached more than 50,000 people through Twitter and almost 60,000 through Facebook.

In his keynote address, HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan touched upon a wide range of issues to show that water is a key issue and resilience demands an existential strategy. HRH stressed the need for inter-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approaches in water management, underlining that this requires not only improving technical knowledge, but also altering the way we look at the world. OSCE had a unique opportunity in establishing a platform for ownership in the water sector. HRH stressed that the focus should be on policy, rather than politics. HRH underlined that the lack of data and a knowledge base is a major challenge, and that public participation and legal empowerment of the poor is needed. (Detailed summary of statements and discussions is provided in the Annex to this report.)

The Security Day discussions reconfirmed the linkages between water and security. It was stressed that water is both a potential source of tensions and conflicts, and a tool for confidence-building and co-operation. The discussions highlighted the importance of water diplomacy as a new entry point for foreign policy to foster bilateral and regional co-operation among States. Speakers confirmed that the OSCE is well placed to address environment and security challenges especially due to its mediation capacities and the experience of its

participating States in managing transboundary water resources, and through its tools and platforms promoting the water topic on foreign and security policy agendas.

Main Conclusions

Water is a common good, and its transboundary management requires mechanisms, norms and agreements. These have to be equitable, adapted to the specific context, and take local traditions and conditions into account. Stakeholders have to be ready to share benefits as well as responsibilities. The OSCE can support the identification of feasible mechanisms of water diplomacy and co-operation including by developing practical guidelines and tool-kits.

Policy instead of politics: In promoting water co-operation, step-by-step approaches, starting with concrete practical issues on a professional level, have proven to be effective and successful. Such policy-oriented approaches keep water away from politics, as it has been in the case of the Spanish hydrographic confederations or the Finnish-Russian co-operation on frontier waters. Similarly, the International Sava River Basin Commission built on a broad framework of co-operation that allowed all riparian countries to enjoy benefits of this co-operation. At the same time, there is a need to put water high on the political agenda, particularly within security and foreign policies, and the OSCE is well placed to facilitate this. If water is a policy priority in itself, then there would be less instrumentalization of the water issue for other political purposes and more commitment to enhance co-operation.

Multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-level approaches are crucial for effective water management. The different aspects of water call for a comprehensive approach which necessitates the active involvement of governmental agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector representing different sectors and usage interests (agriculture, energy, industry, ecosystem maintenance, water supply, etc.). The OSCE can provide platforms to bring different professional communities together. It is also crucial to involve representatives at basin-wide, national and local levels. Local communities have to be included in particular, since water conflicts are most evident at community level, and projects at local level can be a good entry point to initiate co-operation.

Political will and national ownership: The existence of trust, political will, and national ownership are the preconditions for water policies to be effective. For any transboundary water co-operation initiative to be successful, respective countries need to be in the driving seat. Water policies and management solutions should be sensitive to traditions and benefit from local knowledge. In this respect, it is also important to engage civil society organisations and local authorities. The OSCE-supported Aarhus Centres can be instrumental in this respect.

The experience of the OSCE and its participating States: The OSCE, together with its partners within the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), has accumulated experience in promoting water co-operation in several river basins through concrete projects, including for the Chu-Talas, Dniester and Kura river basins. Together with the experiences of

many participating States in jointly managing shared watercourses, this provides a good basis for the OSCE to further contribute to water co-operation. The advanced water management tools developed by the EU, such as the Water Framework Directive or EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues, can be used as references in these efforts.

Data sharing: Comprehensive and accurate knowledge and information on water is another important factor in water management. Despite technological developments that enhance data availability today (remote sensing technologies, etc.), access to data is still a challenge in several parts of the OSCE area. The EU Water Framework Directive offers a good model also with regard to data sharing. The OSCE can provide a framework to share this model with the rest of the participating States and provide platforms to foster data sharing.

Youth and education: Capacity development and education, especially of young people, are of paramount importance. In addition, youth can be an active agent for change in water management to meet future challenges. The OSCE can invest more in educating young generations on how to use water more efficiently, and strengthen its collaboration with youth organisations to support their water-related activities and promote their interaction across borders.

Role of environmental (water-related) issues as non-threatening confidence building measures (CBMs): Environmental issues provide an opportunity for interactions among individuals, organizations and states on non-political issues of joint interest, which in turn contribute to building confidence within and among communities and countries.

Long-term perspective: Fostering water co-operation and investing in water education are long-term endeavours. To this end, it needs not only projects, but a process-oriented approach with a long-term vision.

Global processes: Water continues to be at the centre of ongoing global processes, such as in the post-2015 development agenda and climate change negotiations. The OSCE could consider a more active role in these processes by bringing in the security linkages.

A thorough *elaboration of the concept of water diplomacy* is still needed. The OSCE could engage actively in this debate by contributing a security perspective.

Climate change and water diplomacy are inherently interlinked and should be tackled together. The OSCE is well placed to address the interlinkages of climate change, water conflicts, and security challenges within its comprehensive security approach.

A *gender perspective* is widely lacking in water diplomacy and should be promoted. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) together with the OSCE's Gender Section has already developed a project on this issue, which is ready to start as soon as financing is secured.

There is a *need for coherence and co-ordination of actors*. In this respect, the OSCE, as a regional security organisation under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, can support the UN in its lead on water co-operation.

Recommendations

The adoption of “Water governance in the OSCE area – increasing security and stability through co-operation” as the topic for the 23rd Economic and Environmental Forum under the 2015 Serbian OSCE Chairmanship is a good base to further strengthen the OSCE’s portfolio in water diplomacy. The discussions at the Security Days Event brought forward a number of concrete ideas that can be followed up.

(a) Political/programmatic level

Raising the profile of water on the political agenda: The OSCE could continue to encourage pS to give a more prominent role to the water topic on their political agendas, in particular of foreign and security policies, and could consider an active role in the ongoing global processes, including those related to the 7th World Water Forum 2015, the post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to the negotiations on climate change and the post-2015 disaster risk reduction as related to water issues.

Elaborating principles of water diplomacy: The OSCE could engage more strongly in the international discourse on water diplomacy, by being represented at major events and by contributing its own approach to frame “water diplomacy” from a security perspective.

Development of a toolkit for water diplomacy: The OSCE could contribute to existing efforts to develop a toolkit to categorize different types of water conflicts and identify appropriate solutions, strategies and tools.

(b) Project activities

Provided the support of participating States and available resources, concrete project activities of the OCEEA could strengthen the OSCE’s portfolio in water diplomacy already in the course of this year and contribute to greater visibility of the topic, in particular in view of next year’s EEf.

Education and capacity development

(1) *Water trainings at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek:* The OSCE could establish regular regional trainings at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek for national officials and other stakeholders. Given OSCE’s niche, such trainings could particularly focus on providing water experts from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and line ministries with skills for international negotiations, drafting agreements, etc. To this end, collaboration with UNESCO-IHE and the German-Kazakh University could be established.

(2) *Collaboration with the German-Kazakh University in Almaty (DKU):* The OSCE could increase its collaboration with the DKU’s regional master course on Integrated Water Management, through the following joint activities: (a) co-organising a workshop and

handbook on legal aspects of bilateral water relations in Central Asia and its neighbouring countries, (b) issuing a monthly Central Asian water newsletter to be compiled by DKU students with a modest financial contribution

Youth

The OSCE could join forces with the World Youth Parliament for Water, for example by (a) developing a “youth & water” component within the OSCE’s CASE NGO Small Grants Programme, or (b) supporting the realization of the idea of a “river basin citizenship” to create a common identity across borders.

Central Asia

Apart from other projects, the OSCE together with UNECE could engage in a longer-term project, building on its earlier support for the Kyrgyz-Kazakh Chu-Talas Commission. This would respond to the direct request from national counterparts and complement an ongoing GEF (Global Environmental Facility) project. As a first step, a project proposal is currently being developed by the OSCE and UNECE within the framework of the ENVSEC Initiative.

Gender

OCEEA and the Gender Section have developed a new joint project “Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention - Comprehensive Approach to Security” (project number 110 1516) which aims at contributing to conflict prevention and comprehensive security by increasing women's participation in conflict resolution and water management. This will be achieved by supporting gender mainstreaming in water management bodies and policies, and improving women's professional capacities in water management, career development and conflict resolution in Central Asia and Afghanistan. The project is ready to be implemented once the necessary contributions from participating States can be secured.

Engagement of civil society and local communities

The OSCE’s efforts in promoting broad public participation could be enhanced through sub-regional and cross-regional projects. The Aarhus Centres are in particular well suited to be partners in such endeavours and could also link water policies to general environmental policies.



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Detailed summary of the statements and discussions

Opening session

The OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, opened the Security Days Event by characterizing it as a “track 1.5” rather than a pure “track 2” event. Given the increasing pressure on water resources, tensions within societies as well as between countries are increasing. He stressed the impact of climate change, referring to the recent floods in South-Eastern Europe, as well as the impacts of droughts on the economy, displacement of people, and migration. These water-related issues might not directly provoke conflicts, but they lead to a number of challenges that can produce tensions. Therefore, dealing with water is very closely related to conflict prevention and crisis management. The OSCE is dealing with water in many respects, including through the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative, in relation to climate change and security, through the Aarhus Centres which support awareness raising, or in the Dniester River Basin and in Georgia, which show that water co-operation can work even in a conflict setting. The OSCE area provides several good examples of water co-operation, such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River. In identifying avenues for water co-operation, he stressed the need of ownership. While countries have to find the most convenient arrangements that would meet their specific needs, the OSCE could support this process with its toolbox, for example CBMs. In concluding, Ambassador Zannier thanked the Governments of Switzerland, Germany and Serbia for their financial support to the organization of this event.

Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, 2014 OSCE Swiss Chairmanship, referred in his welcoming remarks to John F. Kennedy’s words "Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two Nobel prizes - one for peace and one for science." He stressed that the consequences of the mounting water challenges are multi-fold, including that they can fuel social tensions, weaken fragile states, and exacerbate regional tensions, particularly if water-sharing arrangements are absent, inadequate, or insufficiently implemented. As a consequence, the OSCE, as the largest regional security organisation, can and must address

the challenges of water. He referred to the 25th anniversary of the Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment organized by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) this year and the changes since then, as well as to next year's 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and expressed his hope that the water diplomacy debate will feed into the Helsinki +40 process. Ambassador Greminger also gave examples of how Switzerland has tackled the security issues surrounding water, such as the Blue Peace Initiative, and its own experience in implementing the UNECE Water Convention. He called on the OSCE and its participating States to engage in global processes and events such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the UN Climate Summit in September, the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, and the 7th World Water Forum in April 2015 in Korea. Finally, Ambassador Greminger referred to their joint workplan with the incoming Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE which would ensure a continuation of the focus on water issues and facilitate implementation of the ideas to be generated through this Security Days discussion.

Keynote address of HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan

HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan drew the attention to the irreversible damage of wars for current and future generations and highlighted the massive number of refugees, which this year, for the first time since the Second World War, reached more than 50 million. He emphasized that this number will increase due to climate change: HRH gave examples of Iran and Egypt (Nile Delta), where the displacement of millions of people can be expected due to droughts. HRH underlined that children are among the worst affected by being refugees as well as by lacking access to clean water and sanitation. The world is far away from achieving true human security. With reference to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the climate change negotiations, HRH stressed the importance of resilience and the need for an inter-disciplinary approach in water management in order to achieve resilience. HRH also emphasized the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in water management and in the management of global commons in general, underlining that this requires not only improving technical knowledge, but also altering the way we look at the world, as was done at the Sofia meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) 25 years ago. HRH stated that such approaches are even more necessary today, when the world seems to be obsessed with the idea of achieving peace solely by military force. Referring to water diplomacy, HRH stressed that it is not yet about negotiating agreements, but rather about building a vision. HRH highlighted the importance of carrying capacity particularly when it comes to putting policies into practice and emphasized that the OSCE has a unique opportunity in establishing a platform for ownership in the water sector. HRH briefed about the experience of the Blue Peace process for the Middle East, supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), where all parties and stakeholders can participate due to the informal nature of the process; any attempts to formalize it would fail due to political reasons. HRH stressed that the focus should be on policy, rather than politics. He stated that thoughts have become imprisoned in old thinking, focussing on economic growth and political power, rather than on furthering human dignity and wellbeing. HRH

underlined the importance of water and emphasized that it can also be an instrument for peace, for instance between India and Pakistan or Israel and Palestinians.

HRH underlined that the lack of data and a knowledge base is a starting point of the water crisis in the Western Asian region. He stated that instead of knowledge, ignorance has most power today, and education has less priority for governments. He called for institutional self-determination of the partners of the region, for example with a regional water and energy council and added that unfortunately the Western Asian region lacks its own vision and idea of inter-regional co-operation and only reacts to initiatives from the outside. He specified that the High Level Panel of the Blue Peace Process includes stakeholders from all sectors and disciplines and its primary aim is to identify and serve the most vulnerable segments of society. HRH suggested considering this region as a 'marine silk route' along which vast amounts of cargo are transported and along which 40% of the world's population live. Referring to his own region, HRH recalled extreme water scarcity and the related security issues, as exemplified by the Syrian uprising, which are exacerbated by the failure of good governance.

HRH pointed to the importance of ignoring political boundaries. He emphasized that in his region the question of whether the countries can ever come together to solve their water problems, remains, and added that this would be a sphere where the OSCE could offer support. He pointed to the role of water in the Israeli-Jordan peace plan back in the 1990s.

With regard to public participation, HRH stressed the need for legal empowerment of the poor. Every player has to be involved to create intersecting circles of co-operation of several countries. Each circle needs to (1) define a common vision, (2) identify priorities to translate this vision into reality, and (3) develop an institutional architecture to follow-up and implement decisions at policy level. HRH also pointed to the importance of preservation of groundwater. He called for more awareness of the value of water.

With reference to the possible role of OSCE, as a conclusion, HRH stressed that water is not at the periphery any more, but a key issue and resilience demands an existential strategy.

The discussion continued in Question & Answer format.

The Moderator, Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, confirmed HRH's appeal for regional policies in tackling climate change and drought-related migration and for preservation of groundwater. He stressed the strong links between security and water, a crucial issue of the OSCE region and beyond.

The Ambassador of Egypt, Mr. Khaled Abdel-Rahman Shamaa, inquired about the current state of water in the Jordan basin, also with regard to groundwater.

Ambassador Zannier asked how water can be mainstreamed in a broader context, e.g. in conflict prevention activities and for HRH's advice on education, awareness raising and civil society

The **Ambassador of Romania, Mr. Cristian Istrate**, referred to the Danube experience as an example for the countries of the Middle East in terms of projects as well as institutional setting.

HRH stressed that due to the conflict situation in the Middle East, countries face serious limitations to meet the water demands of their populations. He called for a supra-national approach in order to overcome the politics-policy equation with non-threatening confidence-building measures to prevent fears that it would affect national sovereignty. He also underlined the importance of a bottom-up approach and the education of policy-makers. Referring to the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), he underlined its model character and the importance of an organic step-by-step process and transparent, effective and good governance in such supra-national institutional arrangements.

The **Deputy Head of the Armenian Delegation, Mr. Davit Knyazyan**, inquired about lessons to be shared from the water co-operation between Israel and Jordan.

The **Ambassador of Lithuania, Mr. Vytautas Nauduzas**, asked whether water stress is the result of a lack of tools or lack of interest. He welcomed the idea of an energy and water community. He called for more attention to water efficiency and water treatment.

Mr. Bart Devos, Youth Parliament for Water, reiterated the importance of education and awareness-raising of young people and called for more recognition and support for youth organisations from governments.

HRH underlined that the water aspect is important for Israeli-Jordanian co-operation, and is strongly related to trust. Pragmatic co-operation on a technical level works well, but involvement of politicians brings problems. The process moves slowly against enormous difficulties. With reference to the possible role of OSCE, he stressed that water is not at the periphery any more, but a key issue. Resilience demands an existential strategy.

Panel 1: A security perspective on water

Panel 1 was moderated by Mr. Hinrich Thielken, Head of Division on Climate and Environmental Foreign Policy, Sustainable Economy, German Federal Foreign Office and included as panelists Mr. Parviz Davlatzoda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan; Mr. Lucas Beck, Partner, Hydrosolutions GmbH; Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Chairperson of the Finnish party of the Joint Finnish-Russian Commission on the Utilization of Frontier Waters; and Mr. Li Lifeng, Director of Freshwater Programme, WWF International.

The moderator, **Mr. Hinrich Thielken**, recalled that water scarcity might lead to tension and competition. It might as well lead to efficient use of water and water co-operation and commended the OSCE for this timely event as water is moving up on security and foreign policy agendas.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Mr. Parviz Davlatzoda presented on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Sirodjidin Aslov, and recalled recent major events, such as the International Year of Water Co-operation 2013 and the first year of the implementation of the commitments agreed at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20. The speaker emphasised the need for effective mechanisms for scientific data exchange, joint observation and research in taking well balanced decisions in water management. The growing intersectoral competition for water due to the consequences of climate change, population growth and socio-economic developments could lead to escalating conflicts over water resources. Mr. Davlatzoda pointed to the fate of the Aral Sea, which represents a major concern for Central Asia. The speaker also mentioned that despite many projects around the globe, a successful universal formula for water co-operation does not exist. It needs consistent and sustainable efforts of all concerned parties and the engagement of all stakeholders from all levels of society. The nexus approach could facilitate sustainable water management. The speaker noted that gender considerations should be integrated in water management and the role of women should be strengthened. He also pointed to the need for adequate financing and technological investments. He stressed that water co-operation plays a central role in ensuring peace, stability and development. As competition over water is expected to increase and tensions to grow, riparian states should take measures to strengthen dialogue and co-operation for mutually beneficial and sustainable use of transboundary water resources based on recognized norms and principles. He added that transboundary agreements should be specific. Mr. Davlatzoda called for riparian states to support basin-wide monitoring, information sharing and public participation. He stressed that managing water to prevent conflicts and enhance regional security, making full use of existing multilateral tools, should be among the key topics of the OSCE. Water issues might develop to the primary source of interstate conflict in Central Asia, but also in the whole OSCE area tensions might increase. OSCE can provide its capacities in mediation and co-operation, and its experience in transboundary water management. Referring to the potential of civil society, the speaker mentioned the need of the OSCE to continue its efforts in promoting public participation. He reiterated that water security needs to be high on the political agenda. It is crucial to develop mechanisms which would benefit both upstream and downstream countries. Mr. Davlatzoda confirmed that Tajikistan would remain loyal to traditions and friendly co-existence in Central Asia, using diplomatic measures to solve disputed issues such as hydro energy and water management.

Mr. Lucas Beck, Partner, Hydrosolutions GmbH, stated that the risk for water conflict is increasing, especially given the defragmentation of the political landscape, environmental pressures (climate change, increase of population, etc.) as well as socio-economic developments (food requirements in competition with energy needs). However, water also presented opportunities for better co-operation, pointing to the example of the continued meetings of water experts during the Six-Day War between Israel and its neighbours. Mr. Beck also mentioned that nowadays the technological developments offer a wide spectrum of possibilities for data sharing, including remote sensing, that could contribute to increasing co-operation, both at international as well as national levels. The speaker noted the need to address separately demand and supply questions, especially related to how to share demands

and available supplies, also related to individual sovereignty needs. Climate change is another important stressor for water resources in the future. With reference to the last Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, Mr. Beck mentioned that the existing knowledge on climate change is less than initially thought. He noted the need to be more pragmatic in addressing climate change issues and mentioned the need for willingness to take initiative in addressing this topic. As potential areas for action of the OSCE, Mr. Beck underlined that the OSCE could be more practical in providing guidelines and tools for resolving water conflicts, like in “a cook book style” or in a platform to bring together different stakeholders. The speaker also noted that in addressing water issues the OSCE should make good use of its expertise in confidence building measures.

Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Chairperson of the Finnish party of the Joint Finnish-Russian Commission on the Utilization of Frontier Waters started her intervention with a historical perspective, mentioning the 1966 Helsinki Rules of the International Law Association and the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, that was signed in 1992 in Helsinki. The speaker underlined that water issues can be a source of co-operation and diplomacy. She presented the example of transboundary water co-operation between Finland and Russia since the agreement signed in 1964, which ranges from flood risk management to hydro power, from water protection to transport and fisheries and others. The speaker mentioned the pragmatic approach of Finland and Russia in addressing transboundary water related issues. The co-operation of the countries is based on a joint commission. If a general understanding cannot be reached at the commission level, the issue can be presented and debated at the political level. However, in the past 50 years there were no cases that could not be solved at the joint commission level. This shows the good results of policy oriented work, which is able to handle issues in a professional way including under changing geopolitical circumstances. Ms. Husu-Kallio noted that instead of elaborating precise water courses agreements, it might be more important to have a low threshold for initiating discussions and practical collaboration under a joint transboundary co-operation framework. Relating to the experience of Finland, the speaker mentioned that it might be more useful to follow a step-by-step approach and not to address all problems at once. She further highlighted that several decades of discussions and collaboration allowed it to move from practical questions to the discussion of more general principles. The speaker also addressed the theme of climate change. She mentioned that there is still a significant amount of work ahead that can be solved through a pragmatic approach, such as by establishing working groups. In sharing good practices, the co-operation between Finland and Russia could be benchmarked by other countries and regions.

Mr. Li Lifeng, Director Freshwater Programme, WWF International mentioned that water security should not only be discussed from the socio-economic development perspective, but also from the environmental perspective. The speaker made reference to the Rio +20 outcome document, which recognizes the role of ecosystems in maintaining good water quality and quantity, and that water should be integrated in all three dimensions of sustainable development. The speaker mentioned that the WWF has been active to promote

ideas like environmental water requirements and how the environmental dimensions could be fully incorporated into the water management discussions for policy formulation. Reiterating the importance of the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention, the speaker mentioned that the WWF had been promoting the convention since 2007, which now will enter into force. Mr. Lifeng noted the increased awareness of the private sector about water risks. WWF has been active in this area, mostly by engaging the private sector in identifying potential water risks as well as in exploring what the private sector can do to address these issues, e.g. by the development of a tools package that would help private companies reduce water risks. The speaker underlined the need to bring the private sector into discussions on water and the enormous opportunities that their engagement in this area could offer, since water security is a shared responsibility.

The discussion continued in Question & Answer format.

The **Spanish Ambassador to the OSCE, Mr. Jorge Domecq**, thanked the OSCE Secretary General and the current and incoming OSCE Chairmanships for making the water topic a main focus for the second dimension in this and next year. He pointed to the linkages of water and human rights and the respective UN resolutions, which should be also reflected in the OSCE framework. The Ambassador mentioned the example of Spain, where the issue of water management has been solved by engaging all stakeholders in hydrographic confederations. These efforts took the water issue off the political agenda and have provided practical solutions. The Ambassador mentioned the excellent water co-operation between Spain and Portugal, which manages to solve issues at a technical rather than apolitical level. The Ambassador inquired whether, from a security perspective, water scarcity or quality was more important for the OSCE to address. Referring to the intervention of His Royal Highness, he asked whether the OSCE could address the issue of the lack of databases on water issues, also with respect to the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

A **representative of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE** also underlined the fruitful water co-operation with Spain that covers different areas, and asked how the OSCE could play an enhanced role in water diplomacy.

Mr. Volker Frobarth, German Agency for International Co-operation (GIZ), asked the representative of Tajikistan which role Tajikistan attributes to existing regional institutions and what would be the potential of strengthening these institutions to meet the water challenges in Central Asia.

Mr. Lucas Beck in his reply, referred to the European Union Water Framework Directive as a good tool for managing water and sharing related data. The OSCE could connect its participating States to this model.

Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio in her reply agreed that the EU Water Framework Directive represents a good model for collaboration and open data. She also supported the intervention of Mr. Li with regards to the importance of the private sector and civil society. She also

stressed that scientific co-operation is of crucial importance. With reference to human rights aspects, Ms. Husu-Kallio mentioned that water represents a package of many aspects that could have potential security implications, including human rights aspects of food security.

Mr. Parviz Davlatzoda in his response indicated that there are good examples of institutions that address water issues in Central Asia, which can still be improved. He then expressed Tajikistan's readiness to join consultations with and continue dialogue between upstream and downstream countries. Mr. Davlatzoda also highlighted the need to formulate and establish new agreements in the Central Asia region.

Mr. Li Lifeng mentioned existing limitations to data sharing including due to regulations at national level. On the other hand, modern technology makes information easily accessible. Therefore, the role of the OSCE could be rather in the area of data sharing than in building databases. The OSCE could act as a transparent and inclusive platform for discussions on information and data sharing and promoting best practices. Whether quality or quantity issues are more relevant depends on the specifics of the respective regions.

Mr. Thaelken recalled that in the OSCE area, water co-operation ranges from basins with elaborated frameworks and commissions to those which lack such co-operation frameworks, providing a wide field of different experiences that offer a good base to apply water diplomacy. He posed two questions to the panelists received via social media: (1) What should be done at the grassroots level? (2) How can the world's fresh waters be a source for co-operation and not a source of conflict?

Mr. Lucas Beck mentioned that each consumer can contribute to the reduction of the global water footprint through their daily decisions, but the question remains what can really change the game.

Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio agreed that everybody can influence consumption patterns, and further underlined the need for co-operation as water is our common shared responsibility.

Prof. Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, UNESCO-IHE, stated that water diplomacy and climate diplomacy are actually similar considering that climate change and water are closely inter-linked; water diplomacy could enrich the climate change discussions. He stated that in history, water generated co-operation rather than conflicts.

Mr. Li Lifeng, referring to the virtual water concept, mentioned that 80% of the water consumed indirectly through products in Switzerland was 'imported' from other parts of the world, including from water scarce areas. These links should be considered when discussing water security.

Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio stressed the need for adaptation strategies for climate change.

Mr. Lucas Beck warned that climate change should not be taken as a scapegoat for everything. For example, the links between climate change and migration are not as straightforward as often assumed. Climate change should not be referred to as the only origin of conflicts.

Mr. Massimo Cozzone, representative of the Ministry of Environment of Italy and Chair of the UNECE Water Convention, referred to important changes within the next months as two global water conventions will be in force. The efforts of the UNECE Water Convention focus now on considering these two instruments as complimentary tools to be used by countries according to their needs and priorities of each state. The speaker inquired about Mr. Li Lifeng's perspective on the future development and relation of these two legal instruments worldwide.

Mr. Li Lifeng mentioned that both conventions are complementary to each other and their ratification by many countries still needs to be promoted.

Mr. Lucas Beck mentioned that OSCE should focus on quantity issues rather than on quality issues, as the latter is not as conflict-prone as the first.

Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio underlined that the will to co-operate is the determining factor. There are many ways available, including technical equipment and solutions, but governmental acceptance and involvement of civil society are crucial for success.

Mr. Parviz Davlatzoda underlined the potential of the OSCE to work in the water area and expressed his country's willingness to co-operate with the Organization.

Mr. Li Lifeng encouraged the OSCE to raise the water topic on the political agenda through its existing platform for dialogue.

Panel 2: Water, security and the OSCE: taking stock of past experiences and lessons learnt in transboundary co-operation

Panel 2 was moderated by Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Environmental Adviser, UNECE and included as panelists: Mr. Miroslav Jenča, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia; Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission; Mr. Ilya Trombitsky, Eco-TIRAS International Environmental Association of Dniester River Keepers; and Ms. Desiree Schweitzer, Deputy Co-ordinator/Head Environmental Activities, OSCE.

Mr. Bo Libert, Regional Environmental Adviser, UNECE, briefly introduced the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), which was initiated at the 1989 CSCE Sofia Meeting. He noted that since 2013, the Water Convention has become a global convention and is open for accession to countries from non-ECE regions as well. The Convention builds upon 3 pillars: reasonable and equitable utilization, avoiding significant transboundary harm, and cooperation. The Convention obliges its parties to enter into cooperative agreements and establish joint bodies for basin management. He also highlighted the experience of collaborative work of the UNECE and OSCE in several river basins and stressed that the collaboration on water issues allows building cooperative relations not only between the countries but between international organizations and different stakeholders as well. The

moderator also related that the 1997 UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Watercourses (New York Convention) will enter into force in August 2014 and the secretariat of the UNECE Water Convention will support the New York Convention in the promotion of its principles.

Mr. Miroslav Jenča, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, stressed that water diplomacy can be a tool to achieve sustainable peace, as water is an area that has serious conflict potential, also with regard to climate change impacts. He highlighted the importance of cooperation on water resources in Central Asia and outlined the main challenges that region is facing in regards to water. The speaker emphasized that regional water cooperation should be based on the historical traditions, long experience and wisdom in Central Asia.. Mr. Jenča also spoke about the importance of international legal instruments referring to the 1992 UNECE Water Convention and 1997 UN Convention, for cooperation in the region, although Central Asian states had differing views on them. He pointed out that the implementation of framework co-operation agreements cannot be effective if specific legal mechanisms reflecting regional particularities do not exist. Such legal mechanisms would provide interpretation of the principles against the existing background in the region. It has been with this understanding that the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia invested in explaining the principles of the UNECE Water Convention and in sharing the experience of other river basins. Mr. Jenca stated that there is a will in Central Asia to find solutions. He saw the main potential of the OSCE and other international actors in investing in education, in order to teach the younger generation about efficient water use and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Mr. Dejan Komatina, Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission, presented the development of the Sava River agreement, which was a response to two major challenges that emerged in 1990s in western Balkans: 1) the need for economic development and at the same time for environmental protection, which called for a balanced approach; and 2) the need for coordination in the basin that once used to be the biggest national river in former Yugoslavia and as a result of geopolitical changes of the 1990s transformed into an international river. The framework agreement on the Sava River was the very first development oriented multi-lateral agreement in the region after the war. The very comprehensive agreement follows the UNECE Water Convention and provides the International Sava River Basin Commission with the broadest scope of work of all international basin commissions in Europe. The Sava Commission deals with issues varying from protection to water use, pollution, development issues, navigation, and tourism. The key elements for its success in contributing to security are (1) permanent cooperation and joint work of political representatives and experts from all countries, (2) definition of priorities, (3) creation of a joint vision and programme for sustainable development of the region, (4) joint implementation of activities.

Mr. Ilya Trombitsky, Eco-TIRAS International Environmental Association of Dniester River Keepers, shared the experience of development of a cooperation agreement between Moldova and Ukraine on the Dniester River and the related establishment of a transboundary

NGO network. As an NGO, they started in 1995 to promote integrated water management, as well as a framework agreement with Ukraine. The Government of Moldova supported the initiative and the process gained significant momentum upon the support of OSCE and the UNECE. The speaker noted that the involvement of the OSCE and the UNECE in this regard has been crucial, especially as they recognized NGOs as important actors in this process. In 1999, NGOs from Moldova, including Transnistria/Moldova, and Ukraine joined together in an association to support and push forward the process. As a result of joint efforts of all parties and stakeholders, the Treaty on Cooperation on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin was signed in the end of 2012. It is already ratified by Moldova and will enter into force following its ratification by Ukraine. The transboundary climate change adaptation project for the Dniester River Basin that is currently being implemented by the OSCE and UNECE in the framework of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative continues this support. Mr. Trombitsky underlined the importance of NGO engagement in transboundary co-operation and outlined the main benefits this engagement offers such as raising ownership and lowering costs, building long lasting interpersonal links between people, and building trust. The speaker also emphasized the important role of the OSCE in building confidence between the two sides of the Dniester/Nistru River. Referring to examples from concrete activities like summer schools, he suggested careful selection of partners, focusing on co-operation in non-political fields, exploiting the interest of local NGOs and authorities in joint infrastructure projects, and keeping long term support to build trust between conflicting parties.

Ms. Desiree Schweitzer, Deputy Co-ordinator/Head Environmental Activities, OSCE, stressed that water is an essential element of national and regional security, and gave a brief overview of the mandate of the OSCE as a security organization in the area of water resources management, in particular the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension and the 2007 Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security. These include the commitment to promote ratification and implementation of the existing international environmental legal instruments related to water management, including the UNECE Water Convention. Ms. Schweitzer explained that the OSCE translates these legislative and policy frameworks into practice at different levels, including through political discussions in Vienna, for example during the Economic and Environmental Forum process, providing a platform for dialogue. At the same time, the OSCE acts as a facilitator of negotiations for bilateral water agreements among countries, for example in the Kura and Dniester basins, in close collaboration with the ENVSEC partners and the respective field operations. She stressed the need for a long term commitment from international organizations and donors in water related projects, since such processes can take many years, so patience is crucial. Ms. Schweitzer stressed the fruitful co-operation that has been established over the years between UNECE and the OSCE in the framework of the ENVSEC partnership. She also underlined the importance of public participation, and pointed to the OSCE's support of Aarhus Centres that facilitate access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. Ms. Schweitzer remarked that the OSCE, through its activities with its

Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and Afghanistan, also supports water diplomacy with its adjacent areas.

Ms. Sharashidze, First Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia addressed participants through a video statement. She stated that good transboundary cooperation is complex and needs to take all aspects of water management into account, but is ultimately about the willingness to share benefits as well as responsibilities. She emphasized the importance of political will and the commitment of countries for establishing cooperation. Ms. Sharashidze thanked the UNECE and OSCE for their support in developing a legal framework for co-operation between Azerbaijan and Georgia in the Kura River basin. The Deputy Minister ensured that Georgia stands ready to take this responsibility and achieve further progress in the negotiation process over the Kura River agreement. Ms. Sharashidze also commended the ENVSEC Initiative and highlighted the strengths of this Initiative that allows six international organizations to work together and join their efforts. Ms. Sharashidze stressed that the OSCE plays an important role in promoting peace and security through regional co-operation through its role in developing common approaches for better management of shared water resources.

The discussion continued in Question & Answer format.

Ambassador Kapinos, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, stressed that given the conflict potential in Central Asia, water diplomacy is needed and should be the priority of the OSCE and other international organizations active in this region. However, he questioned the effectiveness of water diplomacy efforts in the region so far, which can be partially attributed to the existing border disputes, political uncertainties, mutual apprehensions and absence of fully fledged economic co-operation between countries. He mentioned that old mechanisms of co-operation that existed in the past (such as “energy for water swaps”) do not function any more, and attempts to create new instruments or bodies for co-operation have failed to yield any tangible results. He stressed that in light of existing realities on the ground, it would be of utmost importance to complement water diplomacy efforts with the establishment and development of regional co-operation mechanisms in the area of economy, trade, culture, etc. Mr. Kapinos called for a more active engagement by the OSCE on issues related to water management at borders and near border areas and for building alliances with other international organizations active in water diplomacy. The Ambassador also highlighted the importance of developing synergies between the OSCE Field Operations across the regions. He stated that solutions for Central Asia should build on best international practices, and civil society should play a more important role in regional co-operation.

Mr. Richard Mueller, Global Water Partnership (GWP), asked how to balance national interests with transboundary co-operation. He also underlined the importance of engaging Ministries of Foreign Affairs in water discussions and called on the OSCE to work on water diplomacy in close co-ordination with other organizations.

Mr. Miroslav Jenca, in his response, indicated that he did not agree that water diplomacy is lacking in Central Asia, but underlined that co-operation between Central Asian countries is

ongoing at technical level. The experience of 2008, as an extremely dry year, showed that in the presence of stress factors, the presidents of all five Central Asian countries are ready to address looming crises and can find solutions. However, the response was on an ad-hoc basis and did not offer a sustainable solution for the future. It is apparent that regional legal mechanisms, including for dispute resolution, are necessary. This process is ongoing and international organizations need to see when countries are ready. He also stressed the importance of partnerships between organizations.

Mr. Dejan Komatina noted that in the Sava river basin, even after the war there was a considerable level of mutual trust that was an important precondition for co-operation in the water area. Meanwhile, this trust is also expressed in various concrete projects, where it is no longer important which country has the lead and receives which grants.

Ambassador Kapinos in his second intervention referred to the threat to security due to disputes regarding water and gas supply between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. He also proposed to create a regional platform to exchange expert views. This would be especially important in the context of new infrastructure projects that Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan plan to implement (referring to the Roghun and Kambarata Hydro Power Plants).

Bo Libert referred to good examples of promotion of regional dialogue in Central Asia, e.g. by the GIZ in the framework of the Berlin Process, or UNECE's activities on dam safety, which bring together experts at a technical level.

Mr. Hinrich Thielken, Federal Foreign Office of Germany, called for an exact definition of water diplomacy. He mentioned the necessity to separate water diplomacy from technical water projects. Referring to Germany's "Berlin Process" on fostering water co-operation in Central Asia, he suggested "water diplomacy" be understood as the application of the full force of foreign and security policy mechanisms, tools, institutions and agenda in order to bring forward regional co-operation and security in general by dealing with water issues. If we judge whether water diplomacy has failed in the past, we should be clear about the objectives – preventive diplomacy, regional stability, or really only technical water efficiency and projects. Mr. Thielken also mentioned that water diplomacy is a relatively new subject and foreign policy must be given a chance to work on water and see what kind of additional value it can bring to advancing foreign policy goals.

Ms. Schweitzer referred to the work of the Aarhus Centres as a mechanism to empower people to be part of the solution. She also referred to the water project that the OSCE implemented in Georgia on both sides of the conflict lines as a concrete confidence-building measure.

A question from social media concerned the successful examples of basin-wide co-operative approaches to water allocation in the OSCE area. The moderator mentioned the example of Spain and Portugal that managed to set quotas for water allocation and the example of co-operation between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on the Chu and Talas Rivers on joint utilization of infrastructure.

In concluding remarks **Mr. Trombitsky** emphasized the importance of trust and of the involvement of all stakeholders including civil society in confidence-building for transboundary co-operation. Transboundary interpersonal links are the best conflict prevention. **Ms. Schweitzer** pointed to the role of women in water management and the water discussions have to be put in the context of global developments, such as the post-2015 Hyogo framework and post-2015 development agenda. **Mr. Jenca** underlined that although international organizations can facilitate dialogue between countries and can provide advice, it is up to the countries themselves to take decisions that are sustainable and honored by all parties; they have to be in the driving seat. **Mr. Komatina** stressed that co-operation is possible even after a political conflict, but it is important to create a broad framework for co-operation that would respond to the needs of all parties.

Concluding Panel: The future role of the OSCE in water and security

The Concluding Panel was moderated by OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and included as panelists: Mr. Daniel Guyader, Head of Global Issues and Counter-Terrorism Division, European External Action Service; Mr. Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, Rector, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Co-Chair of the Political Process Commission of the 7th World Water Forum 2015; Mr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC); and Mr. Bart Devos, President, World Youth Parliament for Water.

Mr. Daniel Guyader, Head of Global Issues and Counter-Terrorism Division, European External Action Service, presented the EU Council Conclusions on Water Diplomacy adopted last year and reiterated the EU's commitment to reducing tension and conflict over shared water resources. He mentioned that water is a global challenge and a global good, and it needs to be protected. Water had different aspects of usage with different production cycles and therefore there are also different perspectives on how it should be managed. He also underlined that water management is linked to climate change. He noted that the water issue should be tackled with a foreign policy approach, on which there is considerable experience in Europe. The EU Council Conclusions went one step further. By definition, water management requires a long-term perspective, as opposed to the short-term cycle of Foreign Ministries and therefore is not easy to achieve. It requires a change of mind, a change of cycles, and of timeframes. The EU supports the 1992 UNECE and 1997 UN Water Conventions. This is part of the EU's rule of law values. Also human rights and gender aspects are important European values in this respect. He noted that it is important to set priorities. Therefore, the EU's activities in water management are mainly concentrated in Central Asia and in the Nile Basin. Central Asia is at the core of its activities. The EU has much experience to share since 60% of its territory belongs to transboundary basins. Therefore, he invited the OSCE to join forces with the EU and pointed out the need to develop a global co-operative approach towards water management. Among others, he suggested to start educating youth of Central Asia on water management as the majority of the population of the region is young and it would be beneficial for the region in the longer-

term. He stressed that the role of international actors should not be to replace the countries' own engagement but to support them.

Ambassador Zannier remarked that the EU is well placed to use the OSCE in its efforts to implement its Central Asia Strategy. He underlined that gender mainstreaming in water management needs more attention and a gender perspective would be very important in tackling water challenges.

Prof. Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, Rector, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, presented the activities of his Institute, which included the PCCP programme ('From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential') to address possible future water conflicts. He proposed to join forces with the OSCE in two fields. (1) In the sphere of education, he quoted the axiom that investing in water means investing in peace, but underlined that this takes time. Education programmes need to be maintained for a long time. (2) In resolving the data secrecy issue in transboundary basins and aquifers, he underlined that with modern satellite technologies, hydrological data are more easily accessible than 20 years ago, and data secrecy cannot any longer be used as a tool in negotiations. Therefore, he proposed to develop a joint programme on water for peace that would bring together the different professional communities, based on already ongoing activities. In UNESCO-IHE's master's programme, they try to develop joint visions, which is the basis for any transboundary co-operation. With regard to the UN 1997 Water Convention, he recalled that it took many years to reach an agreement, and it does not cover groundwater, which is even more complex. He also underlined that there is a need to increase storage potential to meet future water challenges and increase resilience to climate change, and these will have transboundary effects. Finally, he pointed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that the lack of progress in reaching the sanitation goal of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) could be a source of conflict. The OSCE could consider how it could contribute to water and sanitation having an adequate recognition and place in the SDGs.

Ambassador Zannier noted that the education element in water diplomacy is very important. He mentioned that the OSCE Academy in Bishkek could include water in its curriculum and could look for synergies with the UNESCO-IHE's courses. Regarding the issue of data secrecy in water management, he raised the question of whether international monitoring of river flows could be a tool of confidence building. With respect to the SDGs, he referred to the recent Security Days event "The OSCE and Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter: Confronting Emerging Security Challenges in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Space" that discussed how regional security organisations can better support the global UN agenda.

Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), mentioned that currently the OSCE Centre in Astana is a member of the CAREC board and that OSCE is supporting CAREC's water leadership programme. He underlined that for solving transboundary river issues in Central Asia, economic development and co-operation should also be taken into account. Regional economic co-operation could

transform water co-operation from a zero-sum to a win-win game. Another key for sustainable success is the role of civil society in water co-operation in the region as well as for developing national water reforms. There is still a need to integrate the needs of local communities and invest in awareness-raising. Ownership of reform efforts and knowledge is also crucial. Many interventions still lack ownership and are perceived as externally imposed, and therefore lack sustainability. Co-operation not only has to be supported at regional level, but also at national and local levels, so that all issues can be tackled appropriately. In this sense, he referred to the German 'Berlin Process' as a good model that supported regional co-operation but also supported capacities of basin organisations and at local level. Given the environmental problems of the region, he mentioned the efforts to shift to a green economy as a promising sign. However, the region is still not actively engaged in global processes like the post-2015 development agenda. He suggested establishing water and environmental policy dialogues to shape Central Asia's input to the global debate and also to benefit from global processes. The OSCE could support economic co-operation in the water sector, enhance civil society engagement in environmental water governance - as it does with the Aarhus Centres -, and establish a platform for ownership in water sector reforms.

Mr. Bart Devos, President, World Youth Parliament for Water, welcomed the inclusion of young people in OSCE activities. Since most of water conflicts occur at local level, the OSCE could focus on building up local capacities rather than only addressing these issues at interstate level. He introduced the idea of a formal river basin citizenship that would create a common feeling of belonging to the same basin beyond political borders. The OSCE could also play a role in bringing together young people, youth NGOs, and researchers across a basin, where the Youth Parliament has already experience that it would be ready share with the OSCE region as well. Mr. Devos stressed that water diplomacy is a sustainable solution only if it leads to fair and equitable agreements, otherwise it might even lead to increased conflict potential in the long term. He underlined that it is important to invest in the development of legally binding tools now, as these will be even more difficult to achieve in the future, when water tensions are expected to be even higher. He pointed out three possible roles for youth in OSCE activities beyond education: (1) youth and children as a target group to ensure safe access to water; (2) youth as stakeholders with the full right to participate; (3) youth as an active agent in society that can contribute to meet water challenges. In this regard, he noted that the OSCE CASE NGO Small Grants Programme could be interesting and attractive for youth NGOs for water related projects. Finally, he called for support to a SDG dedicated to water as this is of utmost importance for young people, and expressed their readiness to help the OSCE to integrate a gender perspective in the water process.

The discussion continued in Question & Answer format.

Volker Frobarth, GIZ Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme, mentioned that there is sufficient capacity to identify the specific roles of various international organizations engaged in water management. He stated that if water policy is only a function of other policies, then it usually leads to bad governance and can be a source of conflicts. When water is given its own priority as water policy itself, then it

indeed leads to more co-operation with neighbours. In this respect, water policy is also an indicator of governance quality. Water co-operation between different sectors within one country can be as challenging as water co-operation between water ministries of different countries. In this respect, the EU-funded National Policy Dialogues (implemented by UNECE) are a good tool that could be enlarged to nexus-dialogues. He also underlined the excellent work of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and referred to a regional master's course in integrated water management at the German-Kazakh University in Almaty, and suggested co-operation between these two institutes and the UNESCO-IHE.

The delegation of the United States of America stressed that water security is a very important topic for the United States and a key focus of Secretary of State John Kerry. In this regard, the summary of the 1st Ocean Conference on sustainable fishing, marine pollution and ocean certification was highlighted.

Mr. Devos reiterated his readiness to elaborate further the idea of a blue passport of river basin citizenship designated for people living in the same river basin.

Mr. Abdullayev welcomed the idea of transforming water dialogues into broader nexus dialogues including environmental issues. He stressed again the importance of co-ordination of donor activities by the receiving countries and partners, and suggested thinking about strategies for future development rather than about projects.

Mr. Szöllösi-Nagy noted that, while the global availability of satellite data has increased, the availability of ground data has decreased tremendously, especially in developing countries, and poses problems for the calibration of data. He welcomed the idea of co-operation with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the German-Kazakh University.

Mr. Guyader stressed the importance of properly managed transboundary underground water, which has not yet received enough attention globally. Water is a global issue and the EU is developing a preventive diplomacy with a long-term perspective.

Ambassador Zannier closed the panel by summarizing some of the main conclusions of the day's discussions. He stressed that there is need for less politics and more policy. Water resources have to be regarded as a common good that requires mechanisms, norms and agreement and a multi-disciplinary approach. Water diplomacy as a concept needs to be thought through, including in its relation to conflict, co-operation, and trust. Some starting points for concrete activities are in the fields of youth, education, and awareness-raising. He also underlined the need for coherence and co-ordination of actors, and shared strategies. In this respect, Ambassador Zannier saw the UN in the lead, with the OSCE following it as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. He mentioned that this Security Days debate identified many perspectives that are relevant for the OSCE and raised a number of useful ideas that can be translated into concrete policies.