



## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

### OSCE High-Level Conference on Climate Change

Vienna, 7 July 2023  
Hofburg, Vienna (Ratsaal)

#### Annotated Agenda

09:00 -10:00 Welcome Coffee/Tea

09:30-09:45 Arrival of Ministers and other Heads of Delegations

**10:00-10:15** **Opening remarks** [*live-streamed*]

**H.E. Helga Maria Schmid**, OSCE Secretary General

**H.E. Bujar Osmani**, 2023 OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia

**H.E. Alexander Schallenberg**, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Republic of Austria

**10:15-11:30** **Panel I: Bridging national and global action – Regional co-operation to tackle climate change**

Climate change has serious implications for security, stability and peace. The first panel will discuss how the OSCE can support participating States to identify the challenges, and help develop joint solutions to tackle climate-related security risks. Regional co-operation for preventive action will be a focus of the discussion. The panel will look at what the OSCE is doing politically and practically to address challenges caused by climate change through its comprehensive approach to security. It will explore further ways to strengthen climate resilience and regional stability through a co-ordinated and co-operative approach, making the most of partnering with other key regional and international actors.

Video message by **H.E. Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission

*Panelists in alphabetical order:*

**H.E. Annalena Baerbock**, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany

**H.E. Gordan Grlić Radman**, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Croatia

**H.E. John Kerry**, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States of America

**H.E. Hadja Lahbib**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Federal Cultural Institutions, Kingdom of Belgium

**H.E. Bujar Osmani**, 2023 OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia

**H.E. Zulfija Suleimenova**, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Republic of Kazakhstan

Moderator: **H.E. Helga Maria Schmid**, OSCE Secretary General

*Responders in alphabetical order:*

**H.E. Bahodur SHERALIZODA AHMADJON**, Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection, Republic of Tajikistan

**H.E. Nino Tandilashvili**, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia

11:30-11:45 Coffee Break

**11:45-13:15 Panel II: The war against Ukraine – Impact on climate security and climate action**

Conflicts and wars have a disastrous impact on climate and security in general and also on climate action. After a short introduction by Antony Froggatt, Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow at Chatham House, on the findings of an OSCE commissioned expert analysis, panelists will discuss the implications of the war against Ukraine on climate adaptation, mitigation, governance and finance, in its neighbouring regions and the whole OSCE area. In a broader context, the session will serve to highlight the need for integrating climate-related considerations in crisis response and recovery processes.

*Panelists in alphabetical order:*

**H.E. Simonas GENTVILAS**, Minister of Environment, Republic of Lithuania

**H.E. Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV**, Minister of Environment, Republic of Moldova

**H.E. Livia LEU**, State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

**H.E. Jan MARIAN**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

**H.E. Kai SAUER**, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Finland

**H.E. Ruslan STRILETS**, Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Ukraine

Moderator: **H.E. Helga Maria SCHMID**, OSCE Secretary General

*Responder:*

**Ambassador Catherine STEWART**, Ambassador for Climate Change, Canada

13:15-13:20 **OSCE Secretary General's take-aways from the morning discussion** [*live-streamed*]

13:20-15:00 Light lunch

15:00-16:00 **Spotlight session I:** Nature and security in a changing climate: *Sustainable management of shared ecosystems*

*Bibliotheksaal*

This session will focus on climate-related risks in shared ecosystems and how to turn these risks into opportunities for co-operation. Participants will exchange on policy responses and best practices for sustainable management of shared ecosystems through regional co-operation and active stakeholder participation. They will also explore additional avenues for the OSCE support to these initiatives.

*Contributors:*

**Ambassador Catherine Stewart**, Ambassador for Climate Change, Canada

**Ambassador Gideon Behar**, Special Envoy for Climate Change and Sustainability, Israel

**Mr. Giorgio Grussu**, Project Coordinator, United Nations Mountain Partnership Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

**Ms. Nicole Quijano-Evans**, Deputy Head, Crimes that Affect the Environment Program, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

**Ms. Alina Viehoff**, Consultant, Climate Diplomacy, adelphi

Moderator: **Ambassador Jaume Serra Serra**, Permanent Representative, OSCE Delegation of the Principality of Andorra

**Spotlight session II:** Climate resilience and extreme events: *Regional co-operation for early warning, preparedness and response*

*Room 533*

Climate-induced extreme weather events, sea-level rise, fires and other hazards can create security risks. This session will delve into strategies for ensuring preventive and risk-informed policymaking. Focusing on the benefits of regional and cross-border co-operation for early warning, preparedness and response, participants will explore strategic and practical entry points for the OSCE to foster resilience to climate change.

*Contributors:*

**Ambassador Kaja Tael**, Ambassador at Large for Climate and Energy Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

**Ambassador Simone Borg**, Ambassador for Climate Action, Republic of Malta

**Dr. Paul Kearns**, Director, Argonne National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, United States

**Prof. Dr. Johann Georg Goldammer**, Director, Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

**Mr. Antony Froggatt**, Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow, Environment and Society Centre, Chatham House

**Ms. Nana Janashia**, Executive Director, Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)

Moderator: **Ambassador Florian Raunig**, Chair of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Austria to the OSCE

**Spotlight session III:** Involve, engage, empower for climate action: *Multi-stakeholder approaches to climate and security*

**Room 531**

Climate change often has disproportionate effects on the most vulnerable groups, including women and youth. The session will assess barriers that hinder women, youth, and other members of civil society from actively participating in climate action. Participants will explore opportunities for enhancing existing policies to unlock their full potential and foster their inclusion in climate-related decision-making and action. It will also discuss ideas for OSCE's further engagement in these efforts.

*Contributors:*

**Ambassador Benedikt Höskuldsson**, Special Envoy for Climate, Iceland

**Ambassador Smiljana Knez**, Ambassador-at-Large for Climate Diplomacy, Republic of Slovenia

**Ms. Lara Scarpita**, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE

**Mr. Michael Keating**, Executive Director, European Institute of Peace (EIP)

**Mr. Omar Dairov**, Executive Director, Students of Kyrgyzstan for a Green Economy

**Dr. Annysa Bellal**, Executive Director, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

**Dr. Kira Vinke**, Head of Center for Climate and Foreign Policy, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Moderator: **Ambassador Hatun Demirer**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Türkiye to the OSCE

**Spotlight session IV:** Partnerships for climate and security: *Scaling up synergies and co-operation among regional and international organizations*

**Room 532**

This session will look at the organizational and operational approaches of different international organizations to climate-related security risks and discuss the mechanisms to exchange and learn from each other's experiences. Participants will discuss how to scale-up synergies, co-operation and partnership among these organizations to deliver more efficient and targeted actions in tackling climate-related challenges.

*Contributors:*

**Ambassador Rasa Ostrauskaite**, Permanent Representative to the OSCE, European Union Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna

**Mr. Sokol Kondi**, Senior Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS)

**Mr. Knut Kirste**, Head, NATO Liaison Office to the OSCE and International Organizations Multilateral Organizations Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

**Ms. Katrin Lichtenberg**, Head of the Portfolio for Water Environment & Climate, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

**Ms. Esra Buttanri**, Senior Climate Change Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, OSCE

**Ms. Irina Ulmasova-Olive**, Regional Director for Eurasia, International Alert

**Dr. Florian Krampe**, Director, Climate Change and Risk Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

**Mr. Lukas Rüttinger**, Senior Advisor, adelphi

Moderator: **Ambassador Christine Fages**, Permanent Representative of France to the OSCE

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-17:40 **Panel III: Connecting the dots – Advancing OSCE action to address climate-related risks**

**Highlights by Spotlight Session Moderators** [*live-streamed*]

**OSCE Secretary General’s conclusions** [*live-streamed*]

**Address by H.E. Pia Kauma**, President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

*Responders:*

**Ambassador Robert Rydberg**, Ambassador for Climate and Security, Kingdom of Sweden

**H.E. Aziz Abdukhakimov**, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Republic of Uzbekistan

**H.E. Stefano Canti**, Minister for the Territory, Environment, Agriculture and Civil Protection, Republic of San Marino

**H.E. Melis Turgunbaev**, Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, Kyrgyz Republic

**H.E. Imma Tor Faus**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Principality of Andorra

**H.E. Bahodur Sheralizoda Ahmadjon**, Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection, Republic of Tajikistan

**H.E. Charyyar Chetiev**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Turkmenistan

**H.E. Almira Xhembulla**, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment, Republic of Albania

**Mr. Naser Nuredini**, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Climate Change

**Ambassador Benedikt Höskuldsson**, Special Envoy for Climate, Iceland

**Ambassador Kerstin Stendahl**, Special Envoy for Climate Change, Republic of Finland

**Ambassador Gesa Bräutigam**, Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE

Moderator: **Ambassador Igli Hasani**, Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities