

Delegation of Spain

**STATEMENT BY THE AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN AT THE
2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

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**Economic and environmental dimension (EED)
Session 5: Environmental cluster – Ensuring sustainable development and
economic growth through promoting technological innovation and
modernization in the economies, fostering social development,
capacity-building for environmental governance; protecting the
environment; the way forward**

Thirty-five years have already gone by since the founders of the OSCE recognized the environment and the economy as basic factors in promoting security in the OSCE area. However, since then, few political texts have emphasized the relationship that the environment has not only with the prosperity but also with the security of the participating States. Apart from the Helsinki Final Act, the main reference documents in this connection are, in the first place, the Bonn Document, and then the 2003 Maastricht Strategy and the 2007 Madrid Declaration.

Since this is a review conference, it would be appropriate to begin by looking at the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken. For this purpose, I shall use the achievements of Spain as a guide in considering the fulfilment of commitments.

Let us take as a starting point the ratification and implementation of international instruments on the environment and sustainable development, a matter to which we pay great attention. A good example of this, in the OSCE context, is the implementation of the 1998 Aarhus Convention, which fosters improved protection of the environment through public participation in decision-making. Spain submitted its first implementation report in the year 2008, and plans to submit the second one at the meeting of parties that will be held next year in Chisinau.

The Maastricht Strategy also calls on us to develop a national sustainable development strategy (which we did in 2007), and further recommends that this strategy should be based on management at the local level, for which we adopted a specific strategy in 2009, all with the aim of breaking the link between economic growth and pollution and creating instead a model that allows “producing more with less”.

The tangible results of these policies are: a decrease in water consumption per household, a decrease in the overall materials requirement of the Spanish economy and a

lower overall energy consumption. In particular, mention should be made of the development of clean energies in Spain. In 2009, a quarter of the electricity produced came from renewable sources (mainly water and wind), for the first time overtaking the production of electricity by nuclear power plants and its production by coal-fired plants. In addition, clean energies are themselves a source of growth: renewable energy has generated more than 100,000 jobs in Spain in less than ten years.

In all these fields, Spain is interested in sharing its experience with those countries that wish to make progress towards the objectives of the Maastricht Strategy. In recent years, Spain has exchanged experience with experts from countries in the OSCE area in fields including the management of water basins, drought prevention, the technical requirements necessary for the construction and operation of solar power plants and the creation of the legislative and regulatory framework needed for the development of renewable energy sources.

Distinguished delegates,

In 2007, the Ministerial Council in Madrid adopted two documents that should continue to serve as a reference for the work of the OSCE and the participating States. In the first place, the Decision on Water Management has produced some results (particularly within the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) initiative), although much remains to be done in this regard to fulfil the commitments on water management.

In the second place, the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security constituted the first explicit recognition of the link between security and climate change (an area in which the OSCE still has to define its role, as will be considered in more detail at the afternoon session). The Madrid Declaration made the OSCE the first international organization to emphasize that environmental co-operation is a key factor in reducing tensions and preventing conflicts.

In this Declaration, however, the participating States limited themselves to taking note of an action plan proposed by the Spanish Chairmanship which contained a set of possible fields of action for the Organization with regard to sustainability and security. Many of those proposals are still very valid.

Their potential usefulness has become clear in relation to the agenda for the Corfu Process, in the framework of which proposals have been made, for example, for the application by the OSCE of the principles of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative or for the increased use of environmental co-operation as a means of confidence-building. Other recommendations, such as those regarding the strengthening of co-operation on forestry management or the combating of forest fires, continue, unfortunately, to be highly topical, as we saw last year in Greece or this year in Russia, and in other years in the United States of America or Spain. And other suggestions, such as those concerning scientific co-operation and the transfer of technologies for sustainability, continue to deserve more attention from the OSCE and its participating States.

Distinguished delegates,

It must also be remembered that the OSCE does not operate in isolation from other actors. In the next two years, two events will take place in which the OSCE should participate, contributing its approach to security.

The first is the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” to be held in Astana in 2011. The two priorities are water management and the concept of a “green economy”, understood to mean the integration of the environment in economic development.

The second event is the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, which will focus on the implementation of a “green economy” as a way to reconcile economic growth and environmental sustainability, and on a reform of the world institutional structure for sustainable development, with the aim of rationalization and the improvement of institutional efficiency.

These two gatherings provide an opportunity for the OSCE, based on its vision and experience in relation to the environment as a security factor, to help in facing up to the new challenges of sustainable development, such as climate change, the preservation of biodiversity, the combating of desertification, the shortage of water and the prevention and management of natural disasters.

In short, the OSCE should promote the relationship between security and the environment as a factor for peace and co-operation – what we might call “green security”. For this purpose, it would also be very important to promote co-operation with the private sector and civil society.

In conclusion, I should like to reaffirm the need for the OSCE to make an increased effort to identify its potential with regard to the environment and sustainable development. The areas to be explored are known to all. What is needed is to mobilize the necessary political will in order to develop, taking account what is being done (or not being done) in other forums, an OSCE programme for the environment, sustainable development and security, based on a work plan on sustainable development and security.

Ultimately, there can be no “security community” without a high level of environmental security, this being something that has a very direct impact on people’s lives and the balance and stability of communities.