



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
The Secretariat

Vienna, 11 September 2014

## 22<sup>ND</sup> OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

“Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting  
co-operation and security in the OSCE area”

### CONCLUDING MEETING

**Prague, 10 – 12 September 2014**

Venue: Czernin Palace, Loretánské nám. 5, 118 00 Prague

### ANNOTATED AGENDA

**Wednesday, 10 September 2014**

**09:30 – 11:30**      **Opening Plenary Session** (*open to the press*)

**Moderator: Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**, Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**Rapporteur: Ms. Riccarda Caprez**, Scientific Officer, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

**Welcoming remarks:**

- **H.E. Lubomír Zaorálek**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic
- **H.E. Didier Burkhalter**, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, President of the Swiss Confederation, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- **H.E. Lamberto Zannier**, Secretary General, OSCE

**Selected topics:**

- Actual and future trends in disaster risk management
- Influence of climate change on extreme weather & climate hazards, and synergies between disaster risk management and climate change adaptation

### **Keynote speakers:**

- **H.E. Margareta Wahlström**, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
- **Prof. Thomas Stocker**, University of Bern, Co-Chair of Working Group I, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

### **Statements by Delegations / Discussion**

**11:30 – 12:00**            Coffee/Tea break

**12:00 – 13:00**            **Review of the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the field of disaster risk reduction**

#### **Selected topics:**

- Presentation of the UNDP review report
- Forward looking discussion on the Review Report's main findings and recommendations

**Moderator: Ambassador Thomas Greminger**, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, 2014 OSCE Swiss Chairmanship

**Rapporteur: Ms. Nino Malashkhia**, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**10' video-clip** on First and Second Preparatory Meetings in Vienna and Montreux

**Main speaker: Ms. Elena Panova**, Senior Programme Coordinator, Regional Centre for Europe and the CIS, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

There are a number of OSCE commitments already in place pertaining to different aspects of disaster risk reduction. This year, the review of the implementation of the OSCE commitments has been carried out and will be presented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The presentation of the report will be followed up by a forward-looking discussion on the review report's main findings and recommendations.

#### **Questions that could be addressed:**

- To what extent have the OSCE commitments in the area of disaster risk reduction been implemented?
- How could the existing commitments be complemented by additional ones?

- What are the identified gaps in implementing the commitments in disaster risk reduction?
- How can the OSCE further support its participating States in implementing their commitments?

**13:00 – 14:30** Lunch break

**14:30 – 16:00** **Session I: Flooding disaster in South Eastern Europe - Lessons learned and the role of the OSCE**

**Selected topics:**

- Early analysis of the flooding disaster in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia in May 2014 triggered by cyclone Tamara and of associated heavy rainfalls. Lessons learned for prevention, preparedness and response
- Assessment of the regional cross-border response and opportunities for confidence-building measures
- Cascading effects and security challenges associated with flooding
- Role of OSCE Field Operations in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Moderator: Mr. Goran Svilanović**, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council

**Rapporteur: Ms. Aisling Schorderet**, Attaché, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Predrag Maric**, Assistant Minister, Head of the Department for Emergency Management, Ministry of Interior, Serbia
- **Mr. Jan Lueneburg**, Head of Democratization Department, OSCE Mission to Serbia
- **Mr. Samir Rizvo**, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation, Ministry of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr. Ahdin Orahovac**, Deputy Director of Mine Action Centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Dr. Robert Mikac**, Commander of Civil Protection, National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Croatia

This session will reflect on the devastating floods that swept through Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia between 14 and 18 May 2014 and on cross-border co-operation in disaster risk management. The floods were followed by rapid humanitarian aid to meet the immediate needs of the most vulnerable populations. Many states offered assistance and many relief workers were deployed to the affected countries during the emergency operations. The OSCE field operations in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were also involved in the relief operations. These floods were the worst in the region since records began 120 years ago.

### Questions that could be addressed:

- What are the lessons learned so far regarding prevention, preparedness and response after the heavy floods in the Balkans, including from the cross-border cooperation perspective?
- What were the major environmental, technological, industrial and security consequences of the floods?
- What support was provided by the OSCE field operations in the region to the governments concerned?
- How could the OSCE support further flood prevention, preparedness and response (including through the OSCE Self-Assessment Tool)

### Discussion

**16:00 – 16:30** Coffee/Tea break

**16:30 – 18:00** **Session II – Panel Debate – Disaster Risk Reduction on the global agenda: implications for the OSCE area**

#### Selected topics:

- Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and post-2015 Framework for disaster risk reduction
- Post-2015 Development Agenda Sustainable Development Goals process and the role of disaster risk reduction
- Links between climate change, disaster risk reduction and security
- The role and contribution of the OSCE

**Moderator: Dr. Josef Hess**, Vice-Director of Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Head of Forest and Hazard Prevention Divisions, Switzerland

**Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Hickey**, Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Tajikistan

#### Speakers:

- **H.E. Margareta Wahlström**, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
- **H.E. Christian Friis Bach**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- **Mr. Raphael Dang**, Climate Change and Environment Division Negotiator and post-2015 Agenda Task Force Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
- **Mr. Tom Mitchell**, Head of Programme, Climate and Environment, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- **Dr. Michael Staudinger**, Director General, Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics, Austria

This panel debate will explore the role of and implications of the ongoing global processes on disaster risk reduction, sustainable development goals and climate change for the OSCE. It is commonly agreed that there is a strong connection between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change adaptation and that they are all linked to security and stability at all levels and require co-operation among States. The OSCE as a regional security organization, under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and its participating States have an important role to play in bringing a security dimension to these global discussions and in sharing experiences and best practices from the OSCE area.

**Questions that could be addressed:**

- What voluntary commitments could the OSCE and its participating States make in order to support the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction?
- What could be the specific contribution of the OSCE and its participating States in shaping the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, to be adopted at the Third World Conference on DRR in Sendai, Japan (March 2015)?
- How could the OSCE and its participating States contribute to the ongoing post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals process?
- How could the OSCE and its participating States contribute to the global discussions on climate change?

**Discussion**

**18:30**

**Reception hosted by the Swiss 2014 OSCE Chairmanship**

**Thursday, 11 September 2014**

**09:30 – 11:00      Session III – Slow-onset natural disasters as triggers of tensions and opportunities for co-operation**

**Selected topics:**

- The impact of slow-onset natural disasters (drought, climate change, environmental degradation and desertification) on security
- How to best prepare for and deal with multiple events and compound hazards
- Opportunities for co-operation among the OSCE participating States

**Moderator: Ms. Desiree Schweitzer**, Deputy Co-ordinator/Head, Environmental Activities, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**Rapporteur: Mr. Yaroslav Yurtsaba**, National Project Manager, OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Monique Barbut**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- **H.E. Aykhon Sharipova**, Deputy Chairperson, Environment Protection Committee, Tajikistan
- **Prof. Boris Porfiryev**, Deputy Director and Head of the Laboratory for Analysis and Forecasting of Natural and Technological Risks for Economic Development, Institute of Economic Forecasting, Russian Academy of Science, the Russian Federation
- **Mr. Iskandar Abdullaev**, Executive Director, The Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC)

This session will focus on slow-onset disasters and how those may trigger tensions, but – on the other hand – also offer opportunities for co-operation. Slow-onset disasters result from hazards which can take months or years to generate a disaster. Losses and damages that result from slow-onset processes may affect – over a longer period of time – a large portion of the population. Drought, climate change and environmental degradation (soil, water, ecosystems, including forests) are among the major slow-onset events which frequently lead to inadequate and inequitable access to natural resources which in turn have implications on security at local, national and transboundary levels. On the other hand, common problems linked to the use of shared natural resources can also foster co-operation between neighbouring communities and countries, and can improve resource management and disaster risk management across borders, thus preventing conflict through the promotion of mutual understanding and peace. National and regional efforts to improve natural resource management and environmental governance as well as informed decision making are crucial to successfully addressing such issues.

## Questions that could be addressed

- What are the security implications of slow-onset natural events leading to disasters in the OSCE area?
- How can disasters resulting from slow-onset events be prevented?
- What could be the role of the OSCE in prevention, preparing for and responding to the slow-onset disasters, including as part of the confidence-building measures?
- How can the co-operation among the OSCE participating States be further enhanced in this field?

## Discussion

**11:00 – 11:30** Coffee/Tea break

**11:30 – 13:00** **Session IV – A co-operative response to environmental challenges: OSCE experience and lessons learnt for the future**

### Selected topics:

- OSCE experiences in enhancing national capacities in fire management and wildfire disaster risk reduction
- Raising public awareness on environmental challenges through Aarhus Centres
- Role of the OSCE in strengthening exchanges between National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Moderator: Ambassador Andreas Papadakis**, Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE

**Rapporteur: Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk**, Environmental Programme Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

### Speakers:

- **Major-General Nikolay Grigoryan**, National Coordinator of the HFA and Deputy Director of the Rescue Service, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Armenia
- **Colonel Leonid Dedul**, Head of the Department of the State System of Prevention and Liquidation of Emergencies and Civil Protection, Ministry for Emergency Situations, Belarus
- **Prof. Johann G. Goldammer**, Head of the Fire Ecology and Biomass Burning Research Group and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
- **Ms. Olivera Zurovac-Kuzman**, Environmental Adviser, OSCE Mission to Serbia

This session will focus on the experiences of the OSCE and its participating States in implementing projects and activities in the field of disaster risk management and in responding to environmental challenges. It will also provide an overview of the OSCE's co-operation with other organizations in addressing these challenges. The

OSCE's role in enhancing wildfire management capacities in the South Caucasus region and in promoting community-based disaster risk reduction through the Aarhus Centres Network are among the activities that will be discussed in this session. These discussions will also demonstrate the importance of the OSCE's partnership with other international actors, particularly within the framework of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative. This session will also provide an opportunity to hear from participating States on their experiences with the National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and their co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

**Questions that could be addressed:**

- What are the major achievements and lessons learnt in the field of fire management capacity building activities and what are the future prospects?
- How can the Aarhus Centres be further empowered to strengthen community-based disaster risk reduction?
- What are the examples of co-operation among national DRR platforms and how could the OSCE support and facilitate such co-operation and exchange of experiences?
- Could the OSCE play a role in promoting the establishment of stronger national laws that protect at-risk communities from the threats posed by disasters?

**Discussion**

**13:00 – 14:30** Lunch break

**14:30 – 16:00** **Session V – Facilitating disaster preparedness and response through innovation, technology and information, and Public-Private-Partnerships in Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Selected topics:**

- Crisis-mapping software and crowd-sourcing technologies for disaster risk management
- ICT solutions for early-warning and response. The role of space based monitoring and warning systems
- Technology and innovation: data and information management
- Examples of public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction

**Moderator: Ambassador Ol'ga Algayerová**, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the OSCE, Chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee

**Rapporteur: Mr. Emre Gençtuğ**, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE



### **Speakers:**

- **Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi**, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN Office in Geneva and Co-Chair of the Bureau of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Thailand
- **Mr. Juan Carlos Villagrán de León**, Programme Officer, Head of UN-SPIDER, Bonn Office
- **Mr. Ladislav Szakallos**, Senior Advisor, Department for Civil Protection and Crisis Planning, Ministry of Interior, Slovakia
- **Mr. Douglas Bausch**, Senior Physical Scientist, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VIII, Denver Federal Center, the United States of America

Technology can play a crucial role in the prevention of and preparedness for natural hazard triggered disasters. This session will address the technologies, in particular software solutions and public private partnerships which are becoming a central pillar of disaster risk reduction. Crowd-sourced mapping and SMS broadcasting helped save lives in the devastating earthquake which struck Haiti in 2010. ICT technology systems can compile massive amounts of crowd sourced data which can inform decision makers and disaster response teams resulting in a more effective search and rescue process. The information can also be used after the fact to aid preparedness and prevention efforts against future events. This session will provide examples of such technologies available as well as the public private partnerships established for this purpose.

### **Questions that could be addressed:**

- How can participating States make better use of available ICT technologies for DRR?
- How can national DRR platforms take advantage of crowd sourcing in disaster risk management?
- Can the OSCE have a role in facilitating public-private partnerships in DRR?
- What is the responsibility of the private sector in reducing disaster risks?

### **Discussion**

**16:00 – 16:30**            Coffee/Tea break

**16:30 - 18:00**            **Session VI – *Panel Debate* – How to achieve resilience in the OSCE area?**

#### **Selected topics:**

- Goals of resilience: who and what should become “resilient”: engineering, psychological, economic, ecological and community resiliencies
- Contribution of civil society
- Investment in resilience and disaster risk reduction – incentives and opportunities for risk-sensitive investment

**Moderator: Dr. Timothy Prior**, Head, Risk and Resilience Research Team, Center for Security Studies, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

**Rapporteur: Ms. Nana Baramidze**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Ashgabat

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Mario Aymerich**, Director, Environment and Regional Development Department, European Investment Bank
- **Ms. Rachel Scott**, Senior Humanitarian Advisor, Resilience Group, OECD
- **Mr. Daniel Kull**, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, The World Bank
- **Ms. Caterine Ebah-Moussa**, Policy Officer, Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Policy and Implementation Frameworks, European Commission

UNISDR defines resilience as “the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions”. Resilience is a result of factors that deeply rely on culture and society. Therefore, there can only be tailor-made strategies that individuals, communities and states have to develop to influence the factors for resilience. Resilience cannot be seen as a task for a community or a state only: it implies the interaction of all relevant stakeholders, at local, regional, national and international level. Climate change adds another risk that needs to be considered when working on the resilience factors and disaster risk reduction. This panel debate will contribute to a common understanding of resilience, highlight the importance of resilience and better define the role of different stakeholders as well as the role of the OSCE.

**Questions that could be addressed:**

- What is the role of different stakeholders (governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector) in enhancing resilience?
- How can climate change be factored into resilience enhancing efforts?
- What efforts can be undertaken by the OSCE in order to make participating States more resilient?
- Which kind of incentives could be put in place to increase investment in resilience and disaster risk reduction?

**Discussion**

**18:30 Reception hosted by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

**Friday, 12 September 2014**

**09:00 – 10:30**      **Session VII – *Panel Debate* – The Role of the OSCE in responding to environmental challenges**

**Selected topics:**

- The role of the OSCE in disaster risk prevention and preparedness, including awareness raising on disaster risk reduction
- The OSCE as a platform for knowledge-sharing and implementation
- Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction within the OSCE agenda
- Cross-border environmental emergency preparedness in the OSCE area

**Moderator: Ambassador Manuel Bessler**, Delegate for Humanitarian Aid and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit, Switzerland

**Rapporteur: Ms. Jenniver Sehring**, Environmental Affairs Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Dorin Dusciac**, Deputy Minister of Environment, Republic of Moldova
- **H.E. Diana Bejko**, Deputy Minister of Environment, Albania
- **H.E. Teimuraz Murgulia**, First Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia
- **H.E. Nurbek Sydygaliev**, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations, Kyrgyzstan
- **Ms. Desiree Schweitzer**, Deputy Co-ordinator/Head, Environmental Activities, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- **Prof. Johann Goldammer**, Head of the Fire Ecology and Biomass Burning Research Group and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

This panel discussion will focus on how the role of the OSCE could be strengthened in responding to environmental challenges, taking also into consideration the relevant outcomes of the first and second Economic and Environmental Forum Preparatory Meetings

**Questions that could be addressed:**

- How can the OSCE's role be further strengthened in addressing environment and security challenges, including those related to DRR and climate change, and in promoting co-operation among stakeholders within and across boundaries?
- How can the OSCE's partnership with other major actors active in the environmental and DRR field be further strengthened including within the framework of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative?

- How can disaster risk reduction and its implications for security be mainstreamed into the work of the OSCE?
- How can the security aspects of environmental and natural disaster challenges be demonstrated and promoted within the framework of the ongoing global processes related to DRR, sustainable development and climate change?

## Discussion

**10:30 – 11:00** Coffee/Tea break

**11:00 – 12:30** **Concluding Plenary Session – Follow-up to the 22<sup>nd</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum**

**Moderator: Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**Rapporteur: Mr. Uros Milanovic**, Attaché, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE

### Speakers:

- **Ambassador Thomas Greminger**, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, 2014 OSCE Swiss Chairmanship
- **Ambassador Vuk Žugić**, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE, incoming 2015 OSCE Serbian Chairmanship

Representatives of the 2014 OSCE Swiss Chairmanship and the incoming 2015 OSCE Serbian Chairmanship will make their closing statements. They will wrap-up the discussions of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Environmental and Economic Forum and provide a short preview of the next Economic and Environmental Forum.

- General discussion
- Closing statements