



Background Paper
of the 2014 Swiss OSCE Chairmanship on the
Second Preparatory Meeting of the
22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
“Responding to environmental challenges with a view to
promoting cooperation and security in the OSCE area”
Montreux, 19 - 21 May 2014

I. INTRODUCTION

This Background Paper is intended to provide participants with information for the second Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF), to be held in Montreux on 19-21 May 2014.

For the 22nd Economic and Environmental Forum in 2014 (see Annex 1), the Permanent Council (PC) adopted the theme “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting cooperation and security in the OSCE area” in its *Decision No. 1088 of 25 July 2013* (see Annex 2).

The number of intense **natural hazard triggered disasters** (henceforth referred to as “natural disasters”) has increased since the 1950s in every region of the world, sometimes devastating the lives and livelihoods of entire communities. Reduction of disaster risks will contribute to increased security, safety and stability.

Natural disasters severely affect the security and safety of nations and communities. There is a clear need to foster local, national and international capacities for mitigation and prevention, preparedness, forecasting and early warning for, response to, and recovery from natural disasters. Investing in disaster prevention, developing mechanisms for better assistance coordination, raising awareness of the population and increasing the resilience of nations and communities are topics best dealt with in an integrated, holistic approach to disaster risk management. Hence, the OSCE - with its comprehensive, cross-dimensional security concept - is a good platform to discuss this theme.

The agenda of the 22nd EEF will focus on the impact of the following topics on the comprehensive security of the OSCE area:

- Addressing prevention, preparedness, emergency response and recovery related to environmental challenges
- Promoting partnerships and initiatives covering environment and safety issues for greater preparedness for environmental challenges, in particular by increasing resilience and adaptation to these challenges
- Exchanging good practices relating to preparedness, emergency response and recovery regarding environmental challenges
- Promoting environmental good governance.

The discussions at the Forum will contribute to developing a common view on the role of the OSCE, as a security organization, in the whole disaster risk and crisis management cycle and on how to create synergies with other actors in this field.

The second Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd EEF will be divided into two segments: a conference segment, on 20th of May, and field-visits, on 21st of May.

The **conference-segment of the 2nd Preparatory Meeting** will focus primarily on **coping instruments** to better adapt to climate change and to reduce disaster risks at a **local, national, cross-border and international level**. Furthermore, the possible impacts of natural and man-made disasters in the wider scope of the **OSCE's comprehensive approach to security** will be assessed.

The agenda of the conference-segment of the Meeting takes into account two types of sessions:

1. Sessions with **input presentations** (sessions I and III, max. 15 minutes/speaker) to be followed by discussions among the speakers, OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, OSCE institutions and field missions as well as civil society participants.
2. One **panel debate** session (session II; max.5 minutes/panelist). The main objective of the panel debate is to enable a moderated interactive discussion among the panelists on outstanding questions. The active intervention of OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, OSCE institutions and field missions as well as civil society participants (NGOs, private sector, academia) is strongly encouraged.

For the first time in the history of the Economic and Environmental Forum, a Preparatory Meeting will feature a full day of **field visits**, specifically in the Canton of Valais, a region well-suited to provide on-site insights. This field-segment of the Meeting will focus on integrated disaster risk management (DRM, see Annex 3) with particular emphasis on cross-border cooperation, multi-stakeholder approaches (different administrative levels, different actors from state entities to civil society) and multi-hazard approaches (natural and technical hazards, incl. industrial accidents). Background information on these field visits will be provided in May 2014.

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II. SELECTED ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED.

Conference Segment. Tuesday, 20 May 2014

OPENING SESSION

Welcoming Remarks, Keynote Speeches and Opening Statements

The representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities will open the second Preparatory Meeting and introduce the topic of “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area”. Furthermore, the Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council will shortly review the main results of the first Preparatory Meeting in Vienna.

Two keynote speeches will be delivered that focus on:

- Making cities resilient to disaster and climate risks.
- Nexus between natural disasters and security.

Delegations of OSCE participating States, OSCE Partners for Co-Operation as well as civil society representatives (private sector, NGOs, think tanks, academia) are encouraged to take the floor after the keynote speeches and highlight where they see the main challenges and what the role of the OSCE should be in this regard.

SESSION I

Adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction at a local level

Selected topics:

- Instruments to reduce disaster and climate change risks at local level: assessing risks, prevention, early warning.
- Nexus between climate change & disaster risk management and the implementation of the UNECE Aarhus convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. Role of the media.
- Past examples of integrated flood risk management: case studies, lessons learned and best practices.

Climate change and the risk of natural disasters are intrinsically linked: it is expected that climate change on the one hand will continue to cause an increase in the frequency and intensity of weather and climatic hazards, and on the other hand will lead to further ecosystem degradation, reduced availability of water and food, and adverse impacts on livelihoods, all of which will reduce the capacities of communities to cope with hazards.

Effective public awareness raising, sharing of information and education on climate change and disaster risks can empower local communities to acquire the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions on how to reduce their vulnerabilities to disasters, enhance their capacity and adapt their livelihoods to withstand current and future risks. The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, known as the Aarhus Convention, and the network of Aarhus centers, supported by the OSCE, could play a role in promoting the access to information on climate change and disaster risks, facilitating public participation in risk management and related natural resource management, and contributing to increased capacities of communities on disaster risk reduction.

According to estimates of the United Nations University (UNU), the number of people living in areas prone to floods will double in the coming fifty years, reaching almost 2 billion people. Economic losses due to flood disasters in the European Union alone are estimated to surge to 23.5 billion Euros by 2050 according to a report by the Institute for Environmental Studies recently published in Nature

Climate Change. Driving factors affecting flood risk in terms of frequency and magnitude are climate change, large-scale change in land use, modification of rivers, urbanization, and deforestation, as well as population growth. The concept of integrated flood risk management aims at minimizing vulnerabilities to floods by recognizing both the opportunities provided by flood-prone areas for socio-economic activities and the associated risks.

This session will focus on coping instruments for disaster risk reduction at a local level.

Questions that could be addressed:

- What are the interlinkages between climate change and natural hazard triggered disasters and what are their implications for security and stability?
- What are the risks and vulnerabilities at local level and what coping and adaptation instruments exist to successfully address climate change and natural disasters at a local level?
- What role can the network of Aarhus Centres and local NGOs play in raising awareness and furthering participation of local communities in addressing climate change and disaster risk challenges?
- What is integrated flood risk management and what structural (dams, floodways, and barriers) and non-structural measures (land use changes, natural resource management, incl. urban planning, restoration of wetlands, public awareness) should be considered for mitigating flood risk in urban and rural environments?
- How can the OSCE address the security challenges associated with the climate change-natural disaster interlinkages?

SESSION II **PANEL DEBATE**

Cross-dimensional impacts of natural and man-made disasters

Selected topics:

- Possible impacts of natural and man-made disasters on public security.
- Population movements in the context of natural disasters.
- Approaches to mitigating these effects.

Natural disasters, by increasing resource scarcity, by causing or revealing acute imbalances and social inequities, or by exposing government indifference or incompetence may exacerbate tensions and pre-existing conflicts. The disruption caused by natural disasters can provide favorable economic grounds for criminal activity, while their socio-economic impact can lead to radicalisation and increased activity of armed groups.. At the same time, rapid-onset large-scale and small-scale disasters can provide a window of opportunity to reduce conflict, build capacity and trust, reduce local tensions, and build peace. Disaster risk reduction activities might be conducive to cooperation between different actors and thereby used to promote social cohesion and to reduce conflicts.

According to the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) over 144 million people were displaced by sudden-onset disasters in more than 120 countries between 2008 and 2012 - a number far greater than the number of refugees and IDPs displaced by persecution and conflict. OSCE participating States have been affected by significant disaster-induced displacements (e.g. the United States, mostly due to hurricane Sandy and forest fires; Russia, mostly due to flood disasters; or Italy, due to earthquakes). However, important normative, institutional and organizational gaps exist with regard to dynamics of displacement in the context of natural disasters, including with regard to cross-border movements, and the protection of the concerned populations. Consolidated findings about the phenomenon as well as a range of adequate tools are urgently needed to protect the rights of people displaced by natural disasters.

This panel will explore the impacts of natural and technological disasters on conflicts and population movements, the challenges encountered in protecting populations as well as existing and potential new responses.

Questions that could be addressed:

- How do natural disasters affect criminality and public security? What is the interplay between disasters and (ongoing or potential) interstate or intrastate tensions? What is the role of efficient and swift response, recovery and reconstruction measures after a disaster on the onset of tensions, the rise of poverty and inequality, and the deterioration of public security?
- In what cases and under which conditions do natural disasters increase the risk of tensions and vice-versa, which conditions of conflicts can exacerbate the vulnerabilities to natural hazards? How could effective cross-border disaster risk management build trust and confidence thereby decreasing the risk of tensions and conflicts?
- What are the links between conditions of vulnerability and risks associated with the nexus of natural disasters, conflict and fragility?
- Which population movements can be observed in the context of natural disasters, what protection gaps exist and which responses have been developed so far?
- How can the protection in the context of displacement and natural disasters be strengthened, both internally and with regard to cross-border movements?
- How well is the OSCE prepared to respond to the challenges and how can existing instruments be improved?

SESSION III

Coping measures to reduce disaster risks at international, cross-border and national levels

Selected topics:

- Improving international coordination for environmental emergencies, search and rescue and the use of military and civil defense assets.
- Increasing preparedness for cross-border implications (OSCE Self-Assessment Tool).
- Strengthening the capacity of national coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction in the OSCE region.

Through the many international networks and partnerships for environmental emergencies, search and rescue and the use of military and civil defense assets (e.g. International Search and Rescue Advisory Group - INSARAG, United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination - UNDAC, and others), bilateral and multilateral cooperation has increased, resulting in greater synergies and enhanced quality of preparedness for response and delivery of assistance when disasters happen. These individual networks have produced effective normative guidance. In addition, well recognized and highly utilized preparedness and response tools such as the INSARAG External Classification System (certification of Urban Search and Rescue teams) have been developed. The outputs and impact of these tools demonstrate the added-value of inter-organizational networking around issues of common interest.

A disaster-affected State has the primary responsibility to respond to emergencies and to co-ordinate its assistance. Should a crisis situation exceed national capacities, the affected State should seek international and/or regional assistance to address the needs of the affected persons, and should co-ordinate, regulate and monitor disaster relief and recovery assistance provided by assisting actors on their territory. In 2013, the OSCE published a self-assessment tool for nations to increase preparedness for cross-border implications for crisis. This guide is aimed at national agencies of OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation who would deal with cross-border movements following a crisis.

Strengthened capacities of coordination mechanisms or National Platforms are essential to define policies, plans and programs for disaster risk reduction and to coordinate activities for implementation. This session will assess and seek to define what role the OSCE could play in this vital context. National Platforms are multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral mechanisms that serve as a forum to facilitate the interaction of and coordination between the ministries, disaster risk reduction related institutions, civil society, and academia. They support national consultation and consensus building, the identification of priorities for disaster risk reduction, the formulation of policies and overall monitoring of disaster risk reduction implementation at the national and local levels.

This session will focus on coping instruments for disaster risk reduction at international, cross-border and national levels.

Questions that could be addressed:

- How best to ensure synergy and inter-operability between regional and global networks and partnerships? How could the local, regional and global efforts be coordinated best?
- Is there a role for OSCE in creating effective coordination mechanisms for these networks and partnerships at a regional level?
- How could participating States of the OSCE advocate at the strategic level among resource providers and in policy decision-making fora for better synergy between local, regional and global networks and partnerships for preparedness and response?
- How the self-assessment tool can be best implemented in a cross-border context? What could the role of OSCE-Secretariat be in spreading the OSCE self-assessment tool?
- What possible role could OSCE play in promoting DRR governance? Should the OSCE play a role in increasing preparedness for cross-border implications?
- How could the lack of communication and awareness on the operational, policy and donor level be resolved?
- How should the OSCE and participating States contribute to the preparatory process towards the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai in 2015?

CONCLUDING SESSION

Concluding Discussion / Closing Statements

Selected topics:

- Wrap-up.
- Outlook to the Concluding Meeting of the 22nd Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague.
- Organizational remarks concerning field visits on 21 May 2014.
- Closing Statements.

The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the Chairman of the Permanent Council will make their closing statements, wrap-up the discussion and give a short preview of the agenda of the Concluding Meeting that will take place from 10-12 September 2014 in Prague (Czech Republic). A representative of a think tank will reflect upon the possible role of the OSCE in the areas discussed during the day. An expert from the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment will provide an outlook for the field visits taking place the following day and give some logistical and organizational indications. After the closing statements of the participating states, the meeting will be formally closed.

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III. **SELECTED ISSUES TO BE VIEWED.**

FIELD VISIT SEGMENT. WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2014

FIELD VISIT 1

Cross-border cooperation in applied disaster risk management along the transnational route of the Grand-Saint-Bernard (Italy – Switzerland)



Transit route of the Grand-Saint-Bernard, Swiss side

The route of the Grand-Saint-Bernard over the Alps is a significant transit route linking Italy and Switzerland. It is part of the *Via Francigena* and had been used long before by the Romans as a road to the north. In mediaeval times the *Via Francigena* became an important trade and pilgrimage route. It has been designated a “Major Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”.

Nowadays, the route of the Grand-Saint-Bernard is often affected by a variety of natural hazards. Risk management relates therefore not only to transport safety, but also to a number of Alpine settlements.

Field visit 1 will provide insights into applied integrated disaster risk management, including the Italian-Swiss cooperation, early warning systems related to hazards and risks in a narrow alpine corridor, protection measures against different natural hazards (debris flows, rockfalls, snow avalanches), traffic control and tunnel safety.

FIELD VISIT 2

Management of natural and technical risks (floodplain of the river Rhone)



Floodplain of river Rhone, upper Rhone valley

The first reported natural hazard of Switzerland is the *Tauredunum* landslide on the river Rhone in 563 AD that had produced a wave of up to 16 meters high reaching lake Geneva. Depending the season, the volume of water conducted by the river Rhone varies significantly.

Nowadays, river Rhone is an important economic factor and supplier of energy. The Rhone's plain is endangered by floods from the Rhone and its tributaries, earthquakes (the Canton of Valais is the region with the greatest seismic threat in Switzerland) and also by natural-hazard triggered industrial accidents.

Field visit 2 will provide insights into applied integrated disaster risk management, including the 3rd river Rhone correctional training works, monitoring and warning systems, earthquake retrofitting measures, emergency plans and precautionary measures.

A detailed information brochure on the field visits will be made available to all participants in electronic form in May 2014. Printed versions will be available at the Meeting in Montreux.

Annex 1 BACKGROUND ON THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

The Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) is the main annual meeting within the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE.

It was established by the 1992 OSCE/CSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Prague, and further defined by the 1992 Helsinki Document, Chapter VII, paragraphs 21 to 32.

The EEF's objective is to give political stimulus to the dialogue on economic and environmental issues linked to security and to contribute to the elaboration of specific recommendations and follow-up activities to address these challenges. It also reviews the implementation of the participating States' commitments in the economic and environmental dimension.

Based on Permanent Council Decision 958 of 11 November 2010, the EEF cycle comprises two preparatory meetings and a concluding event.

The annual EEF process brings together representatives from governments of the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, OSCE institutions, OSCE field operations, international organizations.

Moreover, subject to provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of the 1992 Helsinki Document, civil society representatives - including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia – with relevant experience in the area under discussion are also invited to participate at the Forum

The EEF focuses every year on a theme proposed by the Chairmanship and agreed upon by the 57 participating States.

Further readings:

- The documents of the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd Economic and Environmental Forum are available at http://www.osce.org/event/22nd_eef_prep2.
- The consolidated summary of the First Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd Economic and Environmental Forum as well as all documents and speaker's presentations are available at http://www.osce.org/event/22nd_eef_prep1.
- The Document for the Concluding Meeting of the 22nd Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague will be available at http://www.osce.org/event/22nd_eef_2014
- Consolidated summaries of previous Economic and Environmental Forum preparatory meetings are available at <http://www.osce.org/eea/66005> and of previous Economic and Environmental Fora (concluding meetings) at <http://www.osce.org/eea/66004>.
- The OSCE EED factsheet can be accessed at <http://www.osce.org/eea/30348>.
- The OSCE Strategy Document for the EED (2003 Maastricht Document) can be found at <http://www.osce.org/eea/20705>.



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DECISION No. 1088
THEME, AGENDA AND MODALITIES FOR THE
TWENTY-SECOND ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

The Permanent Council,

Pursuant to Chapter VII, paragraphs 21 to 32, of the Helsinki Document 1992; Chapter IX, paragraph 20, of the Budapest Document 1994; Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/04 of 7 December 2004; Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/06 of 26 July 2006; Permanent Council Decision No. 743 of 19 October 2006; Permanent Council Decision No. 958 of 11 November 2010; and Permanent Council Decision No. 1011 of 7 December 2011,

Relying on the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (MC(11).JOUR/2) and Ministerial Council decisions related to the environment, energy and water management,

Building on the outcomes of past Economic and Environmental Forums, as well as on the results of relevant OSCE activities, including follow-up activities,

Decides that:

1. The theme of the Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum will be: "Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting cooperation and security in the OSCE area";
2. The Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum will consist of three meetings, including two preparatory meetings, one of which will take place outside of Vienna. The concluding meeting will be held from 10 to 12 September 2014 in Prague. These arrangements shall not set a precedent for future meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forums. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, under the guidance of the OSCE Chairmanship for 2014, will organize the above-mentioned meetings;
3. The agenda of the Forum will focus on the impact of the following topics on the comprehensive security of the OSCE area:

PCOEW5277

- Addressing preparedness, emergency response and recovery related to environmental challenges;
 - Promoting partnerships and initiatives covering environment and security issues for greater preparedness for, resilience and adaptation to environmental challenges;
 - Exchanging best practices relating to preparedness, emergency response and recovery regarding environmental challenges;
 - Promoting environmental good governance;
4. The agendas of the Forum meetings, including timetables and themes of the working sessions, will be proposed and determined by the OSCE Chairmanship for 2014, after being agreed upon by the participating States in the Economic and Environmental Committee;
5. Moreover, having a view to its tasks, the Economic and Environmental Forum will review the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension. The review, to be integrated into the agenda of the Forum, will address OSCE commitments relevant to the theme of the Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum;
6. The discussions at the Forum should benefit from cross-dimensional input provided by other OSCE bodies and relevant meetings organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, under the guidance of the OSCE Chairmanship for 2014, and from deliberations in various international organizations;
7. Moreover, having a view to its tasks, the Economic and Environmental Forum will discuss current and future activities for the economic and environmental dimension, in particular the work in implementation of the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension;
8. The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level by senior officials responsible for shaping international economic and environmental policy in the OSCE area. Participation in their delegations of representatives from the business and scientific communities and of other relevant actors of civil society would be welcome;
9. As in previous years, the format of the Economic and Environmental Forum should provide for the active involvement of relevant international organizations and encourage open discussions;
10. The following international organizations, international organs, regional groupings and conferences of States are invited to participate in the Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum: Asian Development Bank; Barents Euro-Arctic Council; Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation; Central European Initiative; Collective Security Treaty Organization; Commonwealth of Independent States; Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia; Council of Europe; Council of the Baltic Sea States; Economic Cooperation Organization; Energy Community; Eurasian Economic Commission; Eurasian Economic Community; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; European Environment Agency; European Investment Bank; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Green Cross International; Global Fire Monitoring

Center; European Investment Bank; International Atomic Energy Agency; International Energy Agency; International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA); International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea; International Maritime Organisation; International Monetary Fund; International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; International Committee of the Red Cross; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM; Organisation of Islamic Cooperation; Regional Cooperation Council; Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; Southeast European Cooperative Initiative; Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees; UN Women; United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia; World Bank Group; World Health Organization; World Meteorological Organization; World Trade Organization; Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies; Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit; International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; United Nations Children's Fund; Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI); United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination; International Civil Defense Organization; World Food Programme; Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery; Inter-Parliamentary Union, and other relevant organizations;

11. The OSCE Partners for Co-operation are invited to participate in the Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum;

12. Upon request by a delegation of an OSCE participating State, regional groupings or expert academics and business representatives may also be invited, as appropriate, to participate in the Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum;

13. Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of the Helsinki Document 1992, the representatives of non-governmental organizations with relevant experience in the area under discussion are also invited to participate in the Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum;

14. In line with the practices established over past years with regard to meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum and their preparatory process, the Chairperson of the Twenty-Second Economic and Environmental Forum will present summary conclusions and policy recommendations drawn from the preparatory discussions. The Economic and Environmental Committee will further include the conclusions of the Chairperson and the reports of the rapporteurs in its discussions so that the Permanent Council can take the decisions required for appropriate policy translation and follow-up activities.

Annex 3

INTEGRATED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Mitigation and prevention is a long term commitment that means *inter alia* strengthening institutions, human resources, and infrastructure in order to anticipate and reduce the potential risks. Disaster losses can be mitigated – and in some instances even prevented – through integrated disaster risk management.

Preparedness is key to ensuring an effective response to disasters and entails forecasting, early warning and alert systems as well as emergency management procedures (e.g. temporary evacuation of people and property from threatened locations).

The response delivered in the wake of a disaster concerns the short term management of the after effects (basic needs such as food, shelter, and water sanitation). Coordination of response units (e.g. between civilian and military actors, between different government levels, between international and national emergency relief organizations) is of crucial importance for a rapid and effective response to natural disasters.

Recovery and rehabilitation entails the reconstruction or replacement of severely damaged physical structures incl. the natural environment, the restoration of the (local) economy and the restoration of institutional and social structures. It makes sense to introduce disaster-risk-reduction measures during the recovery phase so as to limit possible losses in the future. These measures take into account the lessons learned from past events. Both recovery and reconstruction efforts should avoid creating new risks. Special protection from future damage should be given e.g. when reconstructing critical infrastructures. Recovery and reconstruction measures are thus again preventive measures, completing the circle of integrated risk management.

The concept of resilience addresses the ability of a system (individual, household, community, state) to resist, absorb, accommodate to, and recover from the effects of shocks and stresses in a timely and efficient manner while undergoing necessary changes. DRR in the frame of resilience building explicitly tackles the root causes of disasters and disaster losses. These include the management of natural resources, land use and land management considerations, maintaining and protection of critical infrastructures or financial assets. The reduction of environmental, social and economic vulnerabilities contributes to the overall resilience of societies. The concept of 'resilience' has achieved significant attention on international agendas over the last few years because of a growing recognition that different types of risks and their negative impacts (e.g. climate change, natural disasters; health, violence and conflict) are inter-connected.

The term adaptation denotes the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. Adaptation can occur in autonomous fashion, for example through market changes, or as a result of intentional adaptation policies and plans. Many disaster risk reduction measures can directly contribute to better adaptation.

Fundamental to the whole integrated risk management cycle are comprehensive risk assessments and evaluations.

Annex 4

OSCE DOCUMENTS AND EVENTS ABOUT DISASTERS

The topic of natural disasters/accidents has been emphasized several times in documents by OSCE participating States, *inter alia*:

- In the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 under Chapter 4 (Science and Technology), the “*study and forecasting of earthquakes and associated geological changes; development and research of technology of seism-resisting construction*”, as well as “*human adaptation to climatic extremes*” is agreed as a topic of co-operation.
- At the Meeting on the Protection of the Environment of the CSCE in Sofia in 1989, participating States stressed the need to prevent and control the transboundary effects of industrial accidents and recommended “*consultation and exchange of information on the prevention and control of industrial accidents and their transboundary effects*”, the “*mutual assistance, co-operation and co-ordination including emergency response for the implementation of measures to control the effects of industrial accidents*” and to enhance the scientific and technological co-operation for “*emergency response, including criteria for the monitoring and assessment of transboundary damage*”.
- At the Helsinki Summit in 1992, the ministers agreed that “*the participating States will work towards the development of policies aimed at increasing environmental awareness and educating citizens to reduce the risks of natural and technological disasters, as well as preparing appropriate actions when such disasters occur*”. Furthermore, participating States encouraged exchange of information “*on early warning and assistance in environmental emergencies*”, to designate national “*task forces, which could co-ordinate the dissemination of relevant information on expertise and equipment to countries facing emergencies*” and to connect the UN Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance to the “*CSCE communications network, which could serve as a supplementary information system in emergency situations*”.
- At the Ministerial Council of Budapest in 1995, MC decision 2/95 on “A Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the Twenty-first Century- A New Concept for a New Security” participating States decided that the Chairman-in-Office will organize the work *inter alia* by “*co-operation in solving environmental problems and managing disasters*” (Annex to MC Dec. 2/95).
- At the Istanbul Summit, in 1999, participating States declared that given “*the major impact of natural disasters (...) we need to strengthen the international community’s ability to respond to such events, by improving the co-ordination of the efforts of participating States, international organizations and NGOs*”.
- At the Ministerial Council in Porto, in 2002, the Ministerial Declaration (MC(10).JOUR/2) referred to the catastrophe caused by the loss of the oil tanker Prestige and called “*on participating States, the International Maritime Organization and other relevant international organizations to enhance their efforts to ensure the protection of the marine environment against such disasters by strengthening co-operation on the prevention, reduction and control of pollution by oil on the basis of full respect for international law*”.
- The OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted at the Maastricht Ministerial Council, in 2003, noted that “*ecological disasters resulting from natural causes, economic activities or terrorist acts may also pose a serious threat to stability and security*” and demanded that “*(...) environmental threats, including risks of natural and manmade disasters (...) should be identified in a timely fashion and tackled by the common efforts of the participating States*”.
- Equally in the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century, adopted at the Maastricht Ministerial Council, in 2003, the participating States affirmed that “*environmental degradation, unsustainable use of natural resources, mismanagement of wastes and pollution affect ecological systems and have a substantial negative impact on the health, welfare, stability and security of States. Ecological disasters may also have such effects*”.

- At the Ministerial Council in Sofia in 2004, MC decision 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, the OSCE referred to the *"possibility to exchange views on how Civil Military Emergency Planning (CMEP) activities could serve as a confidence- and security-building measure with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-Operation"*.
- In the Ministerial Declaration on the 20th anniversary of the Disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant (MC.DOC/3/05) in Ljubljana in 2005, the participating States stressed *"how important it is for the international community to develop and apply commonly agreed policies and strategies to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the prevention of, and response to, technological accidents and their consequences for human beings and the environment"*.
- In the 2005 MC Decision 02/05 on Border Security and Management Concept the *"facilitation of cross-border co-operation in case of natural disasters or serious accidents in border zones"* is being encouraged.
- The OSCE Forum for Security Co-Operation (FSC) called in FSC Decision 16, 2007 on Extended Dialogue with the OSCE Partners for Cooperation in Civil-Military emergency preparedness *"upon the participating States to remain seized of this matter and continue to engage OSCE Partners for Co-operation in dialogue on a bilateral basis on co-operation in activities relating to Civil Military Emergency Planning (CMEP)"*
- In the 2007 Declaration on Environment and Security adopted at the Madrid Ministerial Meeting the participating States referred to *"the environmental risks, notably those related to land degradation, soil contamination, desertification and water management, and the environmental impact of natural and man-made disasters, such as the Chernobyl accident, which may have a substantial impact on security in the OSCE region and which might be more effectively addressed within the framework of multilateral co-operation"* and highlighted that *"environmental degradation, including both natural and man-made disasters, and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be a potential additional contributor to conflict. Climate change may magnify these environmental challenges"*. They noted that *"the OSCE could raise awareness on the potential impact on security of environmental challenges, by using its forum for dialogue and exchange of experiences and best practices and also by integrating these considerations into its activities"*.
- At the Ministerial Council in Helsinki, in 2008, MC decision No. 9/08 on the Follow-up to the 16. Economic and Environmental Forum on Maritime and Inland Waterways Co-Operation, participating States recognized the *"need to step up regional, subregional and inter-regional efforts, in particular in addressing the challenges and opportunities related to (...) emergency situations and the need for joint emergency responses"*.
- At the Ministerial Council in Athens, in 2009, MC decision No. 5/09 on Migration Management, the Ministers recognized that *"the problems of refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the OSCE area, including resulting from conflicts, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters, requires enhanced co-operation of all participating States and concerted action"*.
- At the 2011 Ministerial Council in Vilnius, MC decision 03/11 on Elements of the Conflict Cycle, the Ministers noted within the "Elements of the Conflict Cycle" that *"threats to environmental security, including environmental degradation, natural and man-made disasters and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be potential contributors to conflict"*.
- At the 2013 Ministerial Council in Kyiv, on MC decision 5/13, on "Improving the Environmental Footprint of Energy-related Activities in the OSCE Region" tasked *"the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to further follow the cross dimensional aspects of the environmental impact of energy-related activities when exacerbated by natural or man-made disasters, and to assist participating States upon their request in making best use of the OSCE as a platform for a broad dialogue, co-operation, exchange of information and sharing of best practices on these aspects"*.
- At the same Ministerial Council, MC decision 6/13 on "Protection of Energy Networks from Natural and Man-made Disasters" decided to protect energy networks from natural and man-made disasters thereby encouraging participating States *"to consider necessary measures, including the identification and assessment of risks, countermeasures and relevant procedures, at the national and local level, to increase protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters"* and *"States, in the context of attaining sustainable development, to implement integrated*

environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster preparedness and risk reduction, in order to obviate adverse effects on energy networks” and tasking the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities “to identify opportunities for co-operation with international organizations and regional organizations and agencies in the field of protection of energy networks against natural and man-made disasters and to facilitate discussions on possible areas for co-operation“ and “to facilitate the exchange of good practices, technological innovations and the sharing of information on effective preparedness for, and responses to, disaster risks to energy networks without duplicating activities already carried out by other relevant international organizations”.

A series **of events in the field of natural and man-made disasters** have taken place in the past years under OSCE guidance, *inter alia*:

- An OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission to fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region in October 2006, in order to assess the short-term and long-term impact of the fires on the environment in the fire-affected territories;
- A seminar on “New Challenges and Crisis Management: Demobilization, Disarmament, Rehabilitation, Disasters and Disruption – EU and OSCE response” in November 2006 in Vienna, in co-operation *inter alia* with the Austrian Institute for International Affairs and the Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management;
- A joint OSCE/UNEP Environmental Assessment Mission to Georgia in October 2008, investigating *inter alia* the impacts of forest fires around the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park and the oil spills in the port of Poti;
- A Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship Event in May 2011 in Vienna called “V to V Ambassadorial Meeting on Challenges posed by Natural and Man-made Disasters and the Coordinated Response of the International Community”, addressing the activities of the OSCE in disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction and response, multilateral environmental agreements and their role in disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction and response in the OSCE area, good practices in disaster relief, and safety of sensitive infrastructure from disasters;
- A workshop organized by the OCEEA on “International Response to Major Natural and Man-made Disasters: The Role of the OSCE” in September 2012 in Vienna with the aim to facilitate the exchange of best practices in the area of national and multilateral international civil emergency response to major disasters, to review the activities of existing multilateral and regional structures in the sphere of natural and manmade disasters civil emergency response, and address major challenges to the international civil emergency response to natural and man-made disasters;
- In March 2013 the OSCE Centre in Astana together with UNISDR organized a “Regional Conference on Reducing Disaster Risks” in Almaty in the context of the post-2015 disaster risk reduction Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA);
- The Border Management Unit of the OSCE TNT Department organized in June 2013 a Seminar on the “Development of a Self-assessment Guide for Nations to increase Preparedness for Cross-Borders Implications of Natural Disasters and Crisis”. The guide contributes to overall response preparedness by promoting existing tools and pointing national authorities to international and regional assistance frameworks. The document compiles expertise from various organizations working on different aspects of disaster response, and thus offers States a comprehensive overview of relevant aspects when preparing for cross-border implications of natural disasters and crises.