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## Environment and Security: Impacts of Russia`s War against Ukraine and Opportunities for OSCE

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### Guiding Questions

- What role can the FSC play in addressing more effectively the nexus between security and environment?
- In the current context, how can the OSCE best explore and address cross-cutting issues such as protection of the environment during armed conflicts?
- What practical experiences in addressing environmental implications of military activities can be shared by the participating States?

### *Speech focus*

- **Environmental impacts of Russia`s War against Ukraine: Environmental and Climate Security Focus;**
- **Role of OSCE in Military / Defense and Climate Change agenda;**
- **Environmental peacemaking / peacebuilding as the way to review OSCE security functions currently:**
  - **Assessment and responsibility tools for environmental loss and damage – OSCE opportunities;**
  - **Responsibility, Resilience, Adaptability and Transformability as basic principles.**



## **WAR IS THE GREATEST RISK FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Environment as a target and tool of Russia's aggression*

*Because of Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine the world loses the financial opportunities to adopt and mitigate climate change and resolute multiple developmental issues.*



**Civil infrastructure is the main target of Russian hostilities in Ukraine aiming to destroy its industrial and developmental potential.**

Ukraine is replete with chemical plants and storage facilities, oil depots, coal mines, gas lines, critical materials deposits, and other industrial sites, which currently release enormous amounts of pollution after being damaged, mostly of transboundary effects.

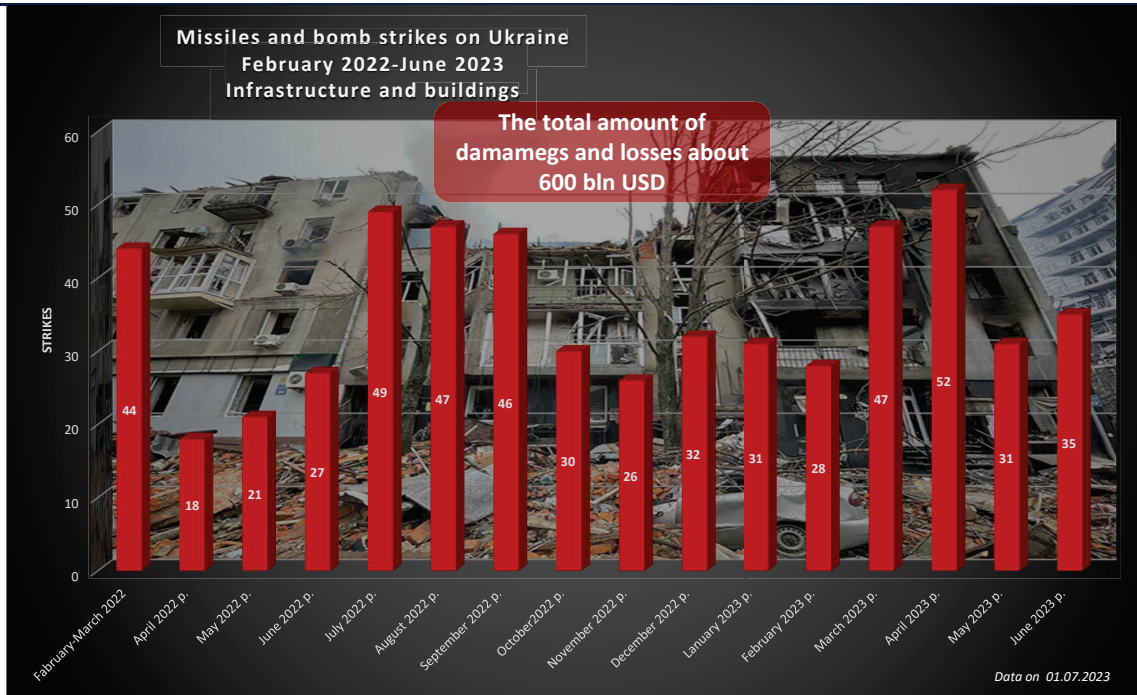


### ***Environmental Impacts of Russia's aggressive invasion of Ukraine***

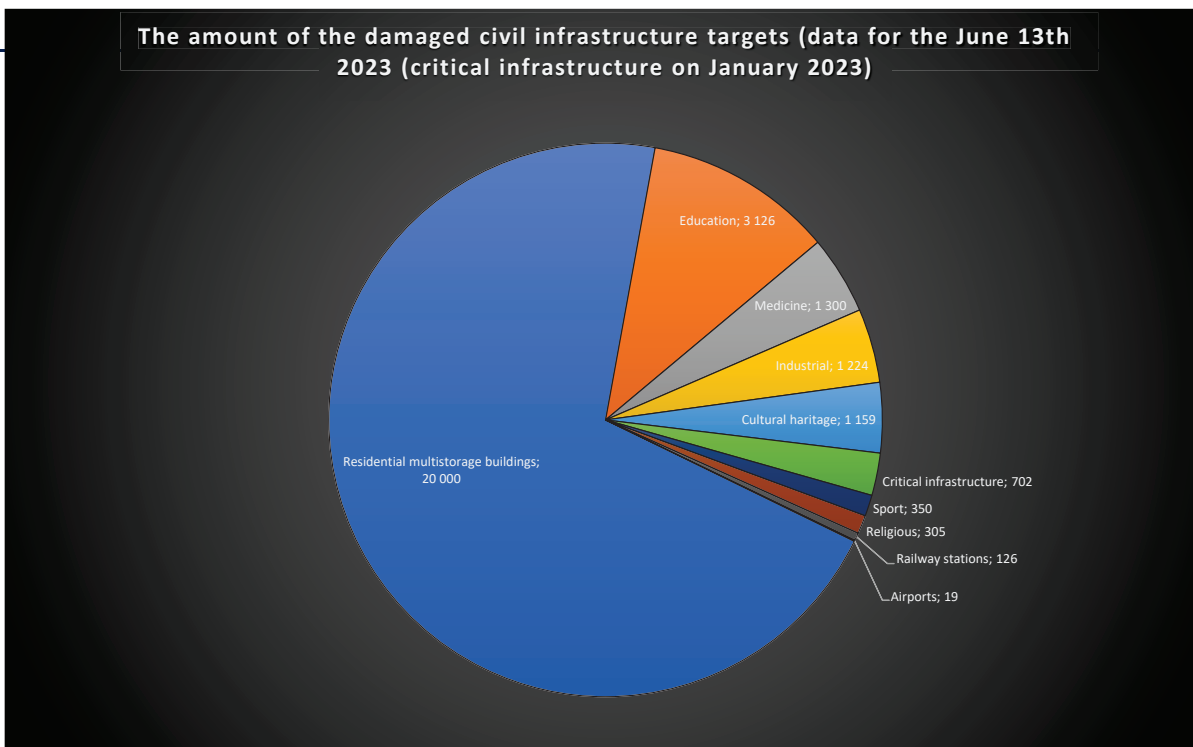
The current Russia's large scale unprovoked invasion of Ukraine demonstrates that the **environment matters, while it is considered a secondary issue during conflicts, and it undermines the contemporary state of affairs in a multifaceted manner:**

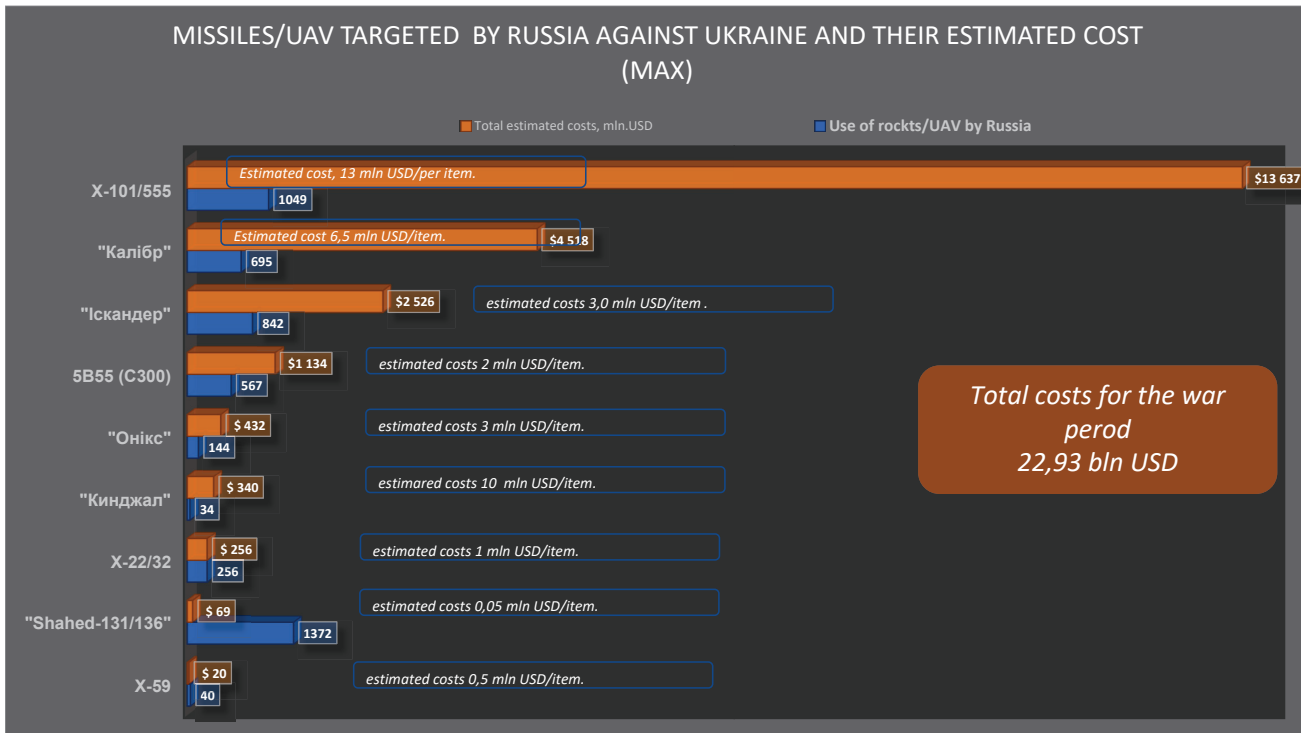
- pollution of air, water, lands, fires, deforestation, and destruction of ecosystems doesn't have the border;
- the wars have long-term environmental impacts including cause economic (energy, food) insecurity,
- social and humanitarian instability,
- healthcare and education disruption and
- challenge for leadership (governance and management).

**The Ukrainian case nowadays is viewed as a global system transformation factor, it has further seen transboundary effects throughout the regions and the world.**



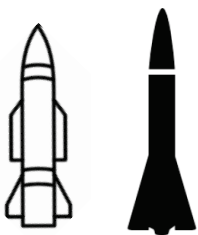
World Bank assessment for Feb2023  
<https://www.worldbank.org/uk/news/press-release/2023/03/23/up-dated-ukraine-recovery-and-reconstruction-needs-assessment>  
 UNDP + WB assessment for 5/04/2023  
<https://www.undp.org/ukraine/publications/ukraine-energy-damage-assessment>  
 KSE Institute. April 2023  
<https://kse.ua/ua/russia-will-pay/>





**Total rockets against Ukraine, March-June 2023**

**1450 rockets**



**Average per month**

**360 rockets**

**Assessment of the Air Defense rockets costs (2 rockets per 1 Russian)**

Kyiv	MUSD 4,0	per 1 Russian rocket
Other regions	MUSD 1,3	per 1 Russian rocket

**Total average costs (per 360 Russian rockets)**

Kyiv	20,70%	298 mln USD
Other regions	79,30%	371 mln USD
<b>Total</b>		<b>669 mln USD</b>

**669mln USD**



**Consider:**

- The **green economy** could be worth [\\$10.3 trillion by 2050](#).
- **The Green Climate Fund (GCF)** is the world's largest dedicated climate fund. GCF's mandate is to foster a paradigm shift towards low-emission, climate-resilient development pathways in developing countries. [GCF has a portfolio of USD 12 billion \(over USD 45 billion including co-financing\) delivering transformative climate action in 140 countries](#).
- To achieve the goals set by the European Green Deal, the Commission has pledged to mobilise at least [€1 trillion in sustainable investments](#) over the next decade.
- The total cost of cancer to the global economy will reach [25.2 trillion international dollars between 2020 and 2050](#), according to an analysis of 29 cancers across 204 countries.
- Assuming that there are 815 million people currently experiencing hunger (one of the higher estimates for 2022, based on World Bank calculations). The cost of \$0.43 per meal multiplied by a recommended three meals per day, that would mean \$1.29 per person per day. For 815 million people, that's \$1,051,350,000 — *per day*. In a year, that would be [\\$383,742,750,000](#).



**Consider:**

**Russia's budget for the 2023-2025:**

Financing of all national projects in 2023 decreased generally on 9,8% comparing with 2022 (2.9 trln rub – **32719693656.41 USD**): **32 bln USD**

- Education decrease on 30,1%;
- Culture decrease on 26%;
- Development of science and technologies decrease on 24.6%;
- Digital economy decrease on 31.2%;
- International cooperation and export decrease on 28.5

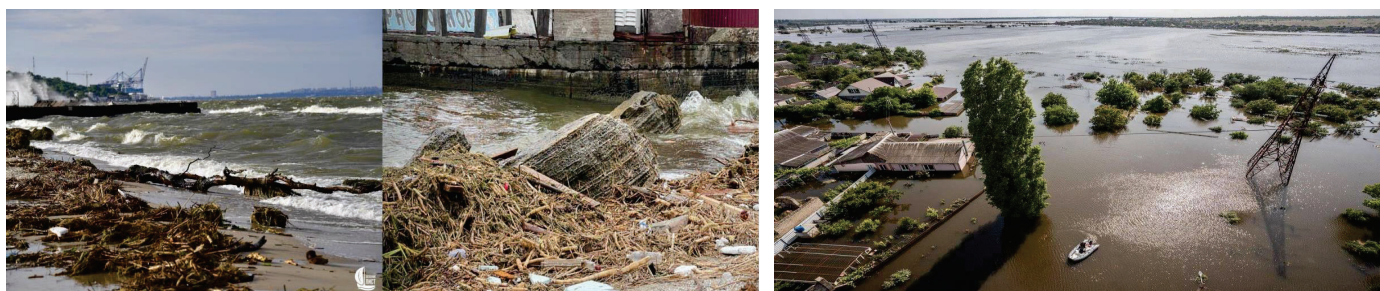


*Russia's intended Kakhovka dam explosion (June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023)*

- The Russian intentional explosion of the Kakhovka dam is the greatest man-made disaster since Russian large-scale invasion and the biggest in Europe for decades.
- The total environmental and humanitarian impact is yet to be determined but what is clear already now is the **flooding of 80 settlements and over 600 km<sup>2</sup> of the land.**
- The [negative consequences](#) of this terrorist attack **on wildlife will be visible over an area of at least 5,000 km<sup>2</sup>, twice the size of Luxemburg.**



- Ukraine has already lost over **6.5 cub kilometers of fresh water which impacts about 70% of Ukrainian population and directly undermine national water security.** Two and a half years of water use in Europe for householdings.
- According to the Minister of Environment Protection [statement](#), 700 000 people on both Ukrainian controlled and Russian occupied territories are restricted to drinking water.
- Agricultural lands of Southern Ukraine are dramatically [damaged](#).
- Some 20% of **global food security** is under threat.
- The disaster has a **transboundary impact** as massive water flows with multiple chemical pollutants and mines from the Russian occupied territories flow into the Black Sea damaging the biodiversity and ecosystem of the Black Sea area and coastal states with recreational potential.



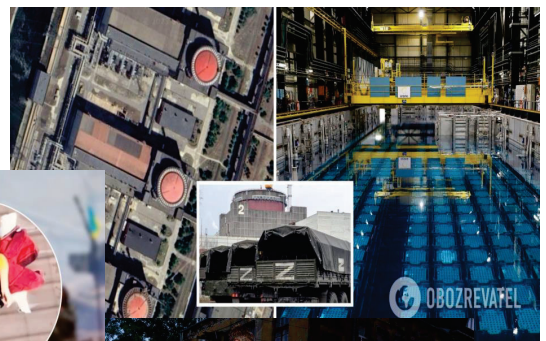


- Thirty per cent of southern Ukrainian national parks are under risk of disappearance, 160 thousand birds and 20 thousand wild animals are under threat of death.
- The Kakhovka water reservoir has disappeared - desertification with warming of climate in European and Black Sea area;
- The economic activity of multiple regional enterprises under risks - unemployment rise.



### Alarms and risks

- The evacuation of the population from the territories under Russian occupation is **impeded due to shootings by Russian troops**. Access of international missions are under threat.
- **Nuclear safety**: risks for the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (cooling reservoirs loss of water);
- The lack of a functioning global response to the biggest technogenic catastrophe since decades in Europe demonstrates one thing: **the world has no response mechanisms to ecological terrorism** and to the use of the environmental factor in modern warfare.
- The world seems to be failing yet another crash test proving its resilience and emergency response capabilities very weak.





## *Impacts on international relations, global security and sustainable development*

- In the path to the search for responses to the abovementioned issues, **the year 2022 demonstrates the other great challenge for the world as Russian brutal aggression against Ukraine and the current appeared to illustrate the crisis within the concept of sustainability, neglecting long-lasting environmental consequences of any conflicts and military actions as within Ukraine as wider for the European and global development agenda.**
- The war against Ukraine is a case of Russia attempting to position itself geopolitically and express readiness to use massive destruction weapons (nuclear, chemical, biological) with total environmental damage of transboundary targeted effects, which resulted in a **dramatic and massive impact on the total global environment.**
- Weaponization of energy security;
- Weaponization of food security.

**NEED IN REVISION OF TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO SECURITY WITH INBUILDING CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA INTO MILITARY AND DEFENCE.**



### *Proposal 1.*

[The OSCE provides a platform for political dialogue on risks associated with climate change.](#)

[The OSCE's environmental activities strengthen co-operation on environmental issues to prevent conflict, build confidence and promote neighbourly relations.](#)

### ***OSCE, Climate Security and Resilience: impact on OSCE Security Agenda***

#### **Adaptation and mitigation strategy on Green Security strategy:**

- **Dialogue on climate and security** within the OSCE area and wider for **communication** and exchange of ideas and **coordination** of policies: how OSCE can defend and deter against security threats
  - ✓ Adjust the culture / political institutions focus on the interaction of climate change and military activities / **green defense language**;
  - ✓ **To bring together national and international** commitments to different climate and environmental fora, agreements and conventions;
  - ✓ **Standardization** of military and defense activities / emissions methodology / standardization agreements for resilient equipment, supply chains and infrastructure;
  - ✓ **Innovation technological cooperation** platforms.
- Military emissions gap: about 50% on defense and military activity, decrease of GHG emissions from military activities and installations;
- **Credibility** raise through fostering greater collaboration on climate change as the component of the defense strategies: how to implement climate resilience into planning, decision-making and operational process.
  - ✓ **Geopolitically: new partnerships, cooperation among different geopolitical groupings.**
- What are the **security risks and implications of resources and technologies scarcity and competition** caused by climate change and implication for the OSCE area partner state communication.





*Wider OSCE area of cooperation and partnerships networks of crucial importance:*  
**COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION.**

- ✓ NATO approach on [climate change and security impact assessment](#) and [Green Defense strategy](#).
  - ✓ [EU Climate change and Defense Roadmaps](#)
  - ✓ Great Britain [Sustainable MOD Annual Reports](#) and [Ministry of Defense and Sustainability Strategic Approach](#) commitments.
  - ✓ Sweden: [Military responses to Climate Change](#) with Defense Material Administration (FMV) cooperation.
- **Energy and water efficiency**, supply chains and smart energy approach: fuels standards and amounts, green technologies of dual as military as civil use.
  - **Standards** ([STANAG 2895](#)) for the military and weapon materials, utilization of military equipment;
  - **Green standards** ([ISO 14 001](#)) for the military and defense activities.
    - Decarbonization of Air Forces:
    - Environmental technologies:
    - Use of environmental-friendly and re-used materials etc.



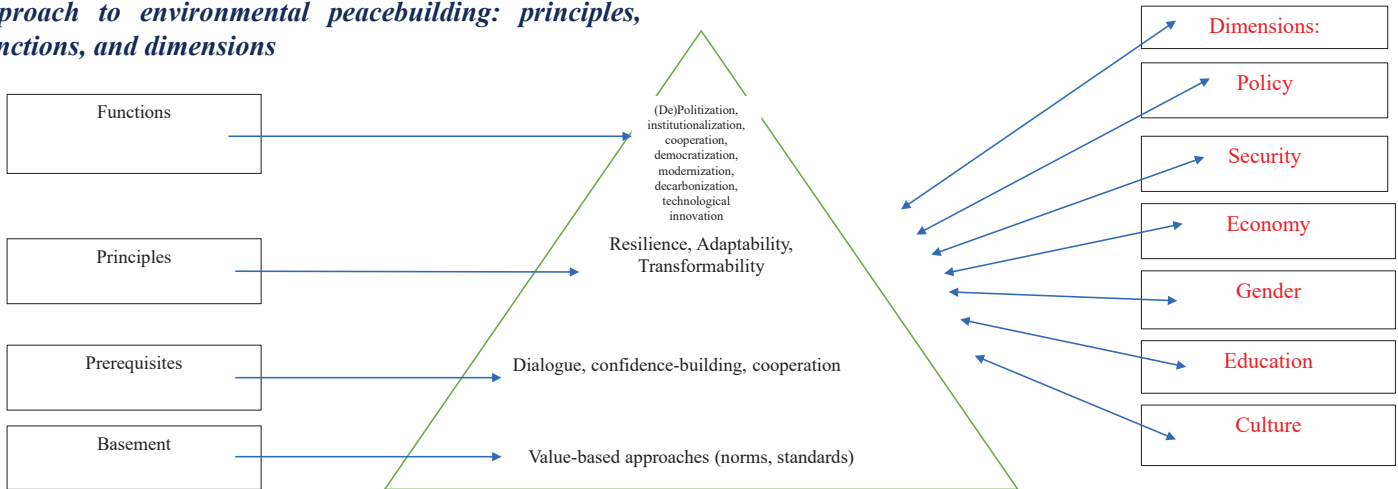
***Proposal 2.***

***War and Environmental Security: Sustainable Resilience and Adaptability through Environmental Peacemaking / Peacebuilding***

- **Environment peacebuilding as a concept for long-term sustainable security development in OSCE area and wider.**
- **The current war against Ukraine transforms the traditional approaches to environmental peacebuilding as a set of activities after finalizing the violent phase of the hostilities by means of the predominant political-security-economic model.**
- **Ukraine demonstrates efforts in environmental peacebuilding **during the war with a focus on cooperation and communication** not with the invader state but through partnering with the international community to reconstruct, restore and provide benefits within Ukrainian territory and **faces the value-based approach as the priority prerequisite for environmental peacemaking** with the aggressor state based on **resilience, adaptability, and transformability principles.****



*War against Ukraine case for a new comprehensive approach to environmental peacebuilding: principles, functions, and dimensions*



Environmental peacebuilding has undergone dramatic changes as a result of the current Russian-Ukrainian war.

Ukraine faces a twofold task of containing Russia as an aggressor, struggling for independence, restoration of sovereignty, and right for democratic development.

Simultaneously, demonstrating the capability to implement state functions effectively in governance, health care, education, energy, and other social and public sectors based on EU membership principles and standards.

- *Value of nature during the war, degradation of nature as a part of the aggressor's strategy. Ukraine as a forward-thinking democracy in the current war reminds the rest of the world about nature as a value and in times of global climate sensibilities defending itself, Europe, and worldwide against fossil-fuel dictatorship with disrespect to nature, people, statehood, and sovereignty of its neighbors.*
- *Prioritization of approaches. Prior to any peace efforts, Ukraine is focused on the prioritization of a value-based approach to any peace negotiations and peacebuilding during the war, including environmental, concerning responsibility, reparations, and contributions.*



- *During the war, approaching value-based sustainable peace.* Any environmental cooperative projects tend to be initiated at times of **low conflict intensity or after violent phases**. Russia does not demonstrate an eagerness to stop military offensive operations on Ukrainian territory and massive bombing of civil critical infrastructure targets and population and moves its army behind the sovereign borders of Ukraine of 1991. **A number of activities is underway currently for the incorporation of environmental restoration into the post-war recovery:** wider environmental cooperation project with partner states on multilateral and bilateral bases are viewed as a part of environmental peacebuilding efforts and is working over.
- **BUT**
  - **ASSESSMENT of environmental impacts and crimes** – lack of unilateral comprehensive approach to environmental impacts assessment and data base,
  - provide information and communication while stressing on the gaps in international environmental law approaches for the **RESPONSIBILITY** for environmental crimes and ecocide.



## ***ASSESSMENT for RESPONSIBILITY: as the preventive tool for any aggressor***

*Aggression is expensive in monetary and moral costs*

*We need functional mechanism for responsibility implementation.*

**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** currently for any further court applications

- any international organization (UNEP or OSCE, WB) **has NO mandate to assess environmental damages and losses** in monetary equivalent;
- the establishment of **the independent investigation commission** with functions in not only assessing damages and losses and identification of the source and guilty in damages, but **to provide the evaluation in monetary equivalent;**
- **NEED IN COMPREHENSIVE AND UNIFIED METHODIC OF ENVIRONMENTAL LOSS AND DAMAGE!**



*Prerequisites* of environmental peacebuilding are important:

➤ *Dialogue - confidence-building - cooperation: Environmental responsibility before environmental peacebuilding.*

- ✓ trust through dialogue;
- ✓ the nature of regimes and values that share cooperative parties: Russian narratives about the struggle for a multipolar world order based on international law principles brutally contradict its real aggressive policy against the Ukrainian state, society, people, and nature. This means that any effective dialogue for cooperation projects needs to be based **on the joint vision of nature and climate change and security agenda as a value and common principle of sustainable development implementation.**
- ✓ without responsibility recognition of multiple crimes, regime change and repentance of the Russian state and population, readiness for reparations and contributions, as well as awareness of goodwill approach in Ukraine's reconstruction for the transboundary positive effects regionally and globally there is hardly possible to move to any justice and reconstruction.



➤ *Resilience, adaptability, and transformability as basic principles for EP: opportunities for OSCE*

**CASCADING APPROACH:**

**SEGMENTATION OF ENERGY, WATER, FOOD SECURITY ETC, DEALING WITH CONTENTIOUS ISSUES THAT POTENTIALLY COULD LEAD TO THE CONFLICT**

- ✓ The unprovoked war in Ukraine poses a serious threat to global environmental governance, particularly regarding environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. In the face of fragmentation and uncertainty, many state and business leaders are responding by intensifying their focus **on resilience.**
- ✓ Resilience in this context of war in Ukraine should be backgrounded on the **adaptability and transformability principles.** Management approaches need to focus on the ability to deal with adversity, withstand shocks and continuously adapt and accelerate as disruptions and crises arise over time. This means not only reacting to the disruption in time and recovering quickly, the wider sustainable approach to adaptation and transformation strategies with strong resilience thinking. Thus, resilience is not a protective or reactive strategy, **it is the ability to innovate in response to disruptions in political, institutional and technological manners.**
- ✓ Transformability resulting from the environmental impacts of war against Ukraine leads to the re-positioning of states, reconfiguration of foreign policy strategies and approaches towards environmental security as a basis for sustainable development and growth. Transforming political systems of dictators / autocratic regimes.
- ✓ Avoiding overdependencies, implementing offshoring, nearshoring, re-shoring approaches.



➤ ***Main functions and dimensions of environmental peacebuilding***

✓ ***(De)politicization, institutionalization, and communication:***

- political dimension is an important domain for cooperative environmental projects;
- state capacity-building is important;
- security and foreign policy dimensions are critically important for environmental cooperation structures.

✓ ***Democratization.***

- Transboundary environmental cooperation could, in the long term, lead to a broader understanding of geographical spaces and communities, thereby replacing the traditional concept of a mutually exclusive, politically defined identity with one of an ecological community.
- Leadership.

✓ ***Modernization, decarbonization, and technological development.***

- Livelihood security is the backbone of providing environmental peacebuilding projects and programs that allow recruiting people, creating new jobs, contributing to regional development, etc.
- As well as this war about value, norms and models of development, Ukraine's victory and reconstruction is about economic recovery on climate-friendly principles of sustainable development, including decarbonization.
- Impetus for economic structure of Russia transformation toward modernization on decarbonization principles;
- Modernization and *technological innovation* cooperation are driving components for the transformability



## CONCLUSIONS

1. Ukraine's struggle for sovereignty and independence against Russia's aggressive large-scale invasion of 2022 is about international law rules and norms, human rights and **models of development with the focus on value of nature and human, as well as economic development on environmental and climate –friendly principles and standards.**
2. Current aggressive war of Russia against Ukraine revealed multiple gaps in environmental peacebuilding approaches and international law, international institutions and global governance system appeared to be ill-equipped with effective instruments in all range of conflict related issues: started with prevention of destructions and environmental damages and losses, evaluation of damages, interconnections with global food-water-energy security issues and responsibility of aggressor.
3. As an impact of current Russia's war against Ukraine **OSCE may gain momentum for enhancing its role in military, defence and climate change resilience and security through, first, dialogue and communication platform in adaptation of military security to climate change agenda and providing stable and sustainable environmental peace-making / peacebuilding instruments within the OSCE area through cooperation and coordination.**



THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION