

Second day of the Twentieth Meeting
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DECISION No. 5/13
IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT
OF ENERGY-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE OSCE REGION

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments related to environment and energy in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on energy security dialogue in the OSCE, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/07 on protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks, the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security, adopted at the Madrid Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2007, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/09 on strengthening dialogue and co-operation on energy security in the OSCE area and the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration,

Acknowledging the link between energy-related activities and the environment,

Stressing the importance of reducing the negative impact of the environmental footprint of energy-related activities,

Noting the impact of energy production, transportation and consumption on the environment and its transboundary nature,

Recognizing that a responsible and sustainable management of natural and energy resources can improve the environment, curb climate change, boost economic growth and contribute to security and stability,

Acknowledging that affordable, diversified reliable and sustainable energy supply is an important precondition for sustainable development and that energy resources can contribute substantially to economic growth if managed responsibly and transparently,

Noting that the environmental footprint can be improved through participating States pursuing energy diversification coupled with more environmentally sustainable energy options, with a focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency, when developing their respective national energy policies,

Highlighting the comparative advantage of the OSCE as a platform for broad political dialogue on issues relating to improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, complementing existing bilateral and multilateral activities and initiatives creating synergies *inter alia* with the work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy of UNECE,

Recognizing that good governance, transparency and anti-corruption measures as well as the involvement of civil society and the private sector in decision- and policy-making processes at all levels lead to greater accommodation of environmental concerns related to energy production, transportation and use and noting in this respect activities and principles of the EITI and other multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives,

Recognizing that the increasing interdependence between energy producing, consuming and transit countries in the OSCE area requires co-operative dialogue,

Being aware that the use of renewable energy sources, low carbon technologies and energy efficiency measures contributes to reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and offers economic opportunities,

Aiming at supporting further development and use of new and renewable sources of energy including sharing best practices and technology in order to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities,

Emphasizing the importance of regional and subregional co-operation, where appropriate, on improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, in order to strengthen security and stability,

Drawing upon the relevant summary conclusions, recommendations and outcomes of the Twenty-First OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Increasing stability and security: Improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region”,

1. Encourages participating States to make best use of the OSCE as a platform for a broad dialogue, co-operation, exchange of information and sharing of best practices, *inter alia* on good governance and transparency in the energy sector renewable energy and energy efficiency, new technologies, technology transfer, green growth;
2. Encourages participating States to continue to promote high standards of transparency, accountability and good governance in order to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, including by advocating and reinforcing good environmental governance in planning, financing and the implementation of energy-related activities;
3. Calls on participating States to engage civil society organizations in the development of policy recommendations as well as the design, implementation and evaluation of projects related to sustainable energy and the environmental impact of energy-related activities;
4. Encourages participating States to promote modernization and technological innovation in the energy sector, in particular with a view to enhancing environmental sustainability and improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, including through public-private co-operation;

5. Encourages participating States to promote multi-stakeholder co-operation among governments, international, regional and non-governmental organizations, civil society, the business community, academia, development agencies and financial institutions in order to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities, including through the promotion of public-private partnerships and technological innovation aiming at sharing best practices among participating States;
6. Encourages participating States to explore the OSCE's possible role in supporting the UN post-2015 development agenda as it may relate to the environmental footprint of energy activities, and in the UN/World Bank Sustainable Energy for All Initiative;
7. Encourages participating States to mainstream a gender perspective¹ in the elaboration and implementation of projects and policies related to energy sustainability, and to ensure for men and women equal opportunities for access to resources, benefits and participation in decision-making at all levels;
8. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to continue fostering, where appropriate, international co-operation, *inter alia*, through supporting relevant international and regional legal instruments, conventions and protocols related to improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities and to support, upon request, their implementation by participating States thus contributing to transparency, accountability and good governance in the field of energy in the OSCE area;
9. Tasks 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;
10. Tasks the OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, within their mandates and with a view to strengthening security and stability in the OSCE region, to promote sustainable energy and foster, where appropriate, transboundary co-operation;
11. Tasks the OCEEA and the OSCE field operations, within their mandates and upon request of the host country, to continue supporting awareness raising on the impact of energy-related activities on the environment, and facilitating the involvement of civil society, academia and the business sector in respective decision making processes, including through the Aarhus Centres and other multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives;
12. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

1 "Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality." See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-Second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1), Chapter IV, paragraph 4.