

22nd ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING

Montreux, 19-21 May 2014

CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY

Conference documents can be retrieved from the Website: http://www.osce.org/event/22nd_eef_prep2

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Introduction

The Second Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) on “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area” took place in Montreux, Switzerland, on 19-21 May 2014. Four thematic areas were addressed during the two-day meeting:

- Adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction at a local level
- Cross-dimensional impacts of natural and man-made disasters
- Coping measures to reduce disaster risks at an international, cross-border and national level
- The potential impacts of natural and man-made disasters in the wider scope of the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security

Around 140 participants, including official representatives of OSCE participating States, Field Operations and Institutions, as well as experts from international, regional and non-governmental organizations, the business community and academia attended the meeting and engaged in the discussions.

Throughout the event, a number of proposals were put forward by speakers and participants.

- Parallels were drawn between disaster risk management and the conflict cycle. Indeed, both can benefit from early warning, overall prevention, operational preparedness, and sometimes, if the previously mentioned measures were insufficient, management and mitigation of the effects. While dealing with disaster risks reduction, many participants proposed to shift the focus from response and recovery to **preparedness and prevention**.
- Many participants acknowledged that addressing disaster risks require a **cross-dimensional perspective**.
- **Good governance and transparency** were considered one of the key factors for ensuring an efficient implementation of disaster risk management.

- Several experts recalled that in the upcoming years **climate change** would trigger extreme weather events, increasing the frequency and intensity of disasters. One of the consequences of such scenario would be the aggravation of **poverty, food insecurity, water scarcity** and thus, an increased number of **displacements**.
- OSCE participating States were identified as both, countries vulnerable to natural hazards and potential destination for people fleeing from natural disasters and conflicts. Therefore, it was suggested that the OSCE could facilitate discussions on both the **internal displacement and cross-border movements** caused by disasters. Furthermore, aware that it is frequently difficult to distinguish between “*conflict-refugees*” and “*disaster refugees*” (as often there is a mixture of both) some participants suggested that the OSCE could help to produce common **definitions** of such categories. Moreover it was suggested that the OSCE could engage in the **Nansen Initiative** and other processes aiming at promoting co-operation and developing solutions.
- Because natural disasters do not respect borders, the need for **regional co-operation, burden- and responsibility-sharing** in risk reduction and management was often highlighted. The OSCE was seen as a key **platform to promote such co-operation**.
- In order to ensure a successful **cross-border co-operation**, leading to disaster preparedness and consequence management, participants acknowledged that there should be an **exchange of information** among the parties and mutual support during emergencies
- Examples of natural disasters that developed solidarity among parties originally in conflict were put forward and presented to prove that disaster risk reduction has a strong potential as **confidence building measure (CBMs)**. Likewise, it was pointed out that not only natural disasters could lead to conflicts, but conflicts could also lead to man-made and natural disasters (i.e. forest fires, pollution, draught or flooding after destruction of water dams).
- The **exchange of experiences and best practices** on how to prevent disaster risks and manage them was identified as a key factor to build resilience and trust among participating States. It was acknowledged that, such exchange of best practices and **CBMs** would need to be developed at all levels of governance, in close co-operation with national and local authorities, and would require continued facilitation of the dialogue between interested participating States.
- The potential of **OSCE structures and Field Operations** in facilitating such regional co-operation was underlined. It was suggested that the OSCE could develop **capacity building trainings**, promote networking, including **cross-border interoperability**, organize **events** on disaster risk reduction for and with practitioners and involve key actors, including **civil society, local and national governments, and private sector** in all actions.
- The **OSCE** and its **Field Operations** were regarded as key in **monitoring, collecting data collection and reporting** on issues related to disaster risk reduction and prevention.

- It was underlined that **public participation and awareness-raising** can mitigate the effects of disasters. The OSCE, through its **Field Operations** and the **Aarhus Centres network**, could contribute to increasing capacities of communities in disaster risk reduction. Participants highlighted the importance of the **network** as a platform to facilitate co-operation and co-ordination on environmental issues across and within countries and encouraged its further engagement in the field of disaster risk reduction.
- On the need to better share lessons learnt across the OSCE and with other affected parties, it was pointed out that **new technologies** and **analytical methods** could offer solutions to some of the most pressing issues. A better use of technology in preparation and prevention, especially communications technology like the UN-Spider, was encouraged by participants. The **OSCE Self-Assessment Tool for Nations to Increase Preparedness for Cross-Border Implications of Crises** was seen as an instrument that could assist participating States in increasing prevention and preparation for cross-border implications of natural disasters.
- It was underlined that there is a need to **promote the development of key technologies** facilitating risk reduction and make them available to respective governments, agencies and communities. It was suggested that within the OSCE framework, border-, disaster relief- and other relevant agencies should be encouraged to exchange best practices on technology aspects.
- It was also suggested to integrate disaster risk reduction measures into different economic and social sectors, including the **private sector**, which would ensure that businesses are become more aware of risks arising from disasters and are properly positioned to minimise such risks.
- The linkages between **environmental challenges and technological/industrial accidents** were also discussed. Some participants saw a role for the OSCE in addressing this interconnection.
- **Co-operation and co-ordination of the OSCE with relevant regional and international organizations**, such as UNHCR, IOM, OCHA, among others, was encouraged by participating States. OSCE participating States were encouraged to support and contribute to the preparatory process towards the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in 2015 as well as the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Nevertheless, it was noted that the OSCE should avoid duplicating structures and efforts and rather focus on strengthening the existing international bodies and frameworks and building capacities. The **ENVSEC Initiative** was perceived as an excellent example of co-operation among international organizations.
- Finally, it was pointed out that the OSCE could reach out to **Partners for Co-operation** and that environmental risk mapping looking at the specific regions would be very useful.

REPORTS OF THE RAPPORTEURS

Opening Session

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

Rapporteur: **Ms. Riccarda Caprez**, Scientific Advisor, Directorate of Political Affairs, Sectoral Foreign Policies Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Welcoming remarks:

- **State Secretary Yves Rossier**, Head of the Directorate of Political Affairs, Switzerland
- **Ambassador Manuel Bessler**, Delegate for Humanitarian Aid and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA)
- **Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Keynote speakers:

- **Dr. Frederick S. Tipson**, Special Advisor, PeaceTech Initiative, US Institute of Peace
- **Mr. Axel Rottländer**, Chief Executive Officer, German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV); Chair of the Working Group on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)

Ambassador Thomas Greminger opened the second Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, expressing his condolences and solidarity with the victims of the floods in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia. He welcomed all participants to Montreux, which in the recent past hosted peace mediation efforts. After a brief summary of the first Preparatory Meeting in Vienna, Ambassador Greminger presented an overview of the second Preparatory Meeting in Montreux, including the field visits on the second day of the meeting.

State Secretary Yves Rossier opened his statement by asking why the three dimensions of the OSCE predominantly acted as soloists, though everyone agreed with the organization's holistic approach to security. The speaker noted that Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) should, as a matter of fact, be an integral component of a comprehensive security perspective, because natural and environmental risks often affect emerging or pre-existing tensions and conflicts. As key challenges he identified the following: securing political will, developing a comprehensive understanding of multiple hazards and their interactions and relevance across policy sectors, promoting a multi-stakeholder approach and involvement of all levels of authorities. Mr. Rossier further stated that crises are often wake-up calls for development and

change but stressed that, nonetheless, prevention is always a better investment than response and rehabilitation. Resilience of nations will be of paramount importance, and in an interconnected world this requires cross-border co-operation between governmental and non-governmental actors. In this regard, the State Secretary reminded the audience that the OSCE, when fully exploiting its potential, is best placed to pave the way towards greater resilience. Finally, he expressed, on behalf of Switzerland, his condolences and deepest sympathy to the people and governments of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia, who are currently suffering from devastating floods and their secondary effects.

Ambassador Manuel Bessler began his speech by expressing his condolences and sympathy to the people of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia. In-depth disaster analyses for the flood-affected areas are vital in order to obtain a clear picture of the risk landscape and prevent new risks. Ambassador Bessler further referred to the dynamic of hazards, vulnerability and risk exposure, particularly in the context of climate change, and the need for adapting to its consequences. As main components of successful risk management also relevant for the OSCE, he identified: a comprehensive risk management approach, including disaster risks; preventive measures for crises, conflicts and disasters; and political leadership and commitment to the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction including the 3rd United Nations World Conference on DRR in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. In this context, the speaker also referred to the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and called for strengthening of ties between the new global frameworks. Last but not least, Ambassador Bessler emphasized the responsibility of the OSCE participating States, as they are among the key donors for humanitarian aid and development co-operation and the largest providers of military and civil defense assets for disaster relief.

Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden expressed his deep sympathy for victims of floods in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia as well as for people affected by the wildfires in Southern California. The Co-ordinator introduced the themes of the Second Preparatory Meeting and encouraged participants to benefit from a dynamic exchange of ideas among the different stakeholders. He described the role of the OSCE in DRR as a platform for dialogue and exchange of best practices and information on issues that have implications for security and stability. Dr. Yigitgüden emphasized that the Organization is well placed to contribute to international co-operation and global discussions, including within the framework of the 2014 Climate Change Summit, as well as on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. With its field operations and the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), the OSCE offers an effective framework to support the participating States in their efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction at different levels and promote transboundary co-operation through the development and implementation of concrete projects.

In his keynote speech (delivered in the form of a poem) on “Natural Assaults and European Security in the Ecozoic Era”, *Dr. Frederick S. Tipson* described a disconcerting future and put forward a number of interesting and potentially controversial ideas. He characterized the imminent few decades as an era in which our habitat would become increasingly more hostile to our security and health. The greatest threats would come from repeated “assaults” of our natural environments, such as floods, storms, droughts, wildfires, seismic eruptions or disease, rather than from aggressive governments or terrorism. The speaker called this “the ecozoic era”. As Dr. Tipson noted, such trends as increasing population pressures and climate volatility will - or already do - burden political institutions and civil society, increasing the risk of repression and violence. Their impacts are no longer avoidable. The time has come to

adjust our political and security priorities to the scale of these impacts. Dr. Tipson assessed these environmental scenarios as being even more dire and intractable than the superpower confrontation and risk of nuclear war during the Cold War era. According to the speaker, the key factor is how soon citizens and governments will recognize the increasing hostility of the habitat and the need to undertake essential adaptations in terms of location and set-up of communities, homes and businesses. Specifically, he suggested drawing on the example of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 by framing common priorities and principles of solidarity that would prevent natural disasters from undermining human security. The 40th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act should inspire a new commitment in the face of these new threats: basket I as a common agenda for resilience, basket II – a renewed commitment to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and basket III, - a set of commitments addressing the need to relocate, reconfigure and even abandon the most exposed locations. Dr. Tipson emphasized much stronger co-operation between nations and stakeholders as an indispensable necessity for adjusting to the new ecozoic era.

Mr. Axel Rottländer opened his speech by referring to the variety of definitions of ‘resilience’, and noting that resilience, in any case, was a product of different economic, political and social factors, describing a status rather than a process. Several factors, such as livelihood, wellbeing, social protection and good governance, are important to take into consideration for communities or States trying to become more resilient. Concerted action would be required at different levels and between multiple actors to deliver resilience. Efforts need to come from society as a whole, since resilience will deeply rely on cultural and social factors. While economic stability, social services, social protection and good governance provide better resilience, communities benefitting from these assets will also be able to apply methods for better prevention, preparedness, response and reconstruction, thereby making them even more resilient. With hazardous events very likely to appear more often and with increased intensity, Mr. Rottländer suggested expanding our capacity beyond learning from the past by anticipating future disasters and their impacts. In his opinion, co-ordination and co-operation of the international community based on the existing and future framework for disaster risk reduction will be the key factor to increase resilience.

The floor was opened for *statements by Delegations/discussion*.

A representative of Greece took the floor to inform the participants about his country’s approach to DRR implementation at the national, regional and local levels through cross-cutting prevention, preparedness and response plans and programs. Additionally, he highlighted a comprehensive ‘Hellenic National Platform for DRR’ as Greece’s contribution to the ISDR, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to promote a culture of prevention.

A representative of the European Union expressed sympathy and solidarity with the participating States in South-Eastern Europe that suffered from the recent flooding. She particularly valued the meeting’s focus on the nexus between natural disasters and security and the importance of making states resilient to environmental risks. She also anticipated discussions on a possible role for the OSCE in this regard in the context of the upcoming Concluding Economic and Environmental Forum Meeting in Prague and the Ministerial Council in Basel. The representative further outlined various measures to support implementation of the EU disaster risk management framework, including its engagement in addressing cross-border impacts; mainstreaming of disaster risk management in EU policies and financial instruments; and efforts to enhance synergies with adaptation to climate change;

as well as its intention to actively contribute to the negotiations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (i.e. post-Hyogo Framework for Action).

In light of the recent floods in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, *a representative of the USA* informed about the assistance his country is providing to the affected participating States. In this regard, he encouraged discussions during the meeting on the role of the OSCE field operations as well as on how the OSCE as a whole could address DRR issues. He particularly appreciated the timely discussion on the linkage between climate change and disaster risk management, as well as on security aspects of disaster response. He also commended the Swiss Chairmanship and the OCEEA for the organization of the meeting, including the field visits.

A representative of Armenia took note that the agenda of the current meeting builds on the outcomes of the First Preparatory Meeting and provides opportunities to further elaborate on the OSCE's role and added value in responding to environmental challenges. He further outlined his country's efforts with respect to DRR, especially at the local level, including through the Aarhus Centres. The representative also welcomed the strong emphasis on cross-border co-operation and stressed the crucial role the OSCE could play in promoting such co-operation within its expertise on confidence building measures.

A representative of Serbia described the scale of the natural catastrophe unprecedented in her country's history, which had hit the region just a few days before the meeting. She acknowledged the support of numerous volunteers joining forces with the police and military, as well as of many countries and international organizations, and encouraged the participating States to engage further with the Government of Serbia at the bilateral or multilateral levels in efforts to restore basic living conditions for the large number of affected people.

A representative of Turkey expressed sympathy with and condolences to all who suffered in the recent floods in South-Eastern Europe. He emphasized the need for regional, inter-regional and international co-operation to address the threats that natural disasters pose to human safety and wellbeing, and identified multilateral dialogue and the network of field presences as important elements of the role the OSCE could play in this field. Finally, he stated that the ongoing discussions in the Helsinki+40 process should also contribute to the goal of enhancing the role of the OSCE in environmentally focused cooperation on security issues. He also assured that his country remained ready to actively engage in the Forum's deliberations with a view to possible adoption of a thematic document at the Ministerial Council in Basel.

A representative of the Russian Federation joined the words of sympathy for the countries affected by the recent flooding and informed about the assistance provided by his country. He commended the CiO and the OCEEA for the organization of the meeting and reported on how his country prioritized DRR issues, particularly through the work of the Ministry of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters and its participation in joint international operations. He also drew participants' attention to persistent problems in co-ordination of international humanitarian aid in case of disasters, such as insufficient communication between different organizations, discrepancies between national legislations and procedures in the field of civil defense, lack of resources and inconsistencies between the needs of the affected countries and the type of help offered by the international community. The representative stated that he expected

fruitful discussions on improving international co-ordination and exchange of best practices relevant to the topic.

A representative of the European Investment Bank (EIB) started his statement by expressing condolences to everyone affected by the floods in the Balkans. Further, he stressed that the fight against the consequences of climate change, including improvement of resilience of natural systems such as river basins or forests, is currently a priority for the EIB, with more than 6.2 billion euros in loans related to some 50 natural disasters worldwide in the last decade. He named some recent examples of projects benefiting from the EIB support and stressed the advantages for beneficiaries resulting from EIB's collaboration with the European Commission, as well as with other financial institutions. In conclusion, the representative assured that the EIB would continue to provide financial assistance in order to prevent natural disasters or mitigate their impacts in the future.

A representative of Azerbaijan also extended deepest sympathies to the victims of the floods in the Balkans and assured that her nation would provide aid to the affected countries. Further, she commended the Swiss Chairmanship and the OCEEA for the organization of the meeting and stated that natural disasters had become a global challenge requiring concerted actions to prevent the causes, mitigate their effects and to address post-disaster recovery. She appreciated that the issue of natural hazard triggered disasters and technological accidents was put on the agenda of the EEF as such phenomena were becoming increasingly more important, especially those with cross-border impacts, and welcomed the focus on prevention rather than response. The representative also looked forward to discussions on reliable management of natural disasters and accidents, risk reduction and prevention of mismanagement of industrial infrastructure with potentially destructive and fatal effects for the OSCE region, and stressed that transparency, access to information and comprehensive, impartial environmental impact assessment procedures were an integral part of this process.

A representative of the Holy See expressed his deepest condolences to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia for the loss of lives. He suggested that one of the outcomes of the meeting should be an appeal (forwarded to and reaffirmed at one of the upcoming Permanent Council meetings) to make more aid available to the affected countries, to be followed by prompt and concrete steps under the auspices of the OSCE to provide the three nations with the appropriate assistance. In light of the current situation in the Balkans and the recent tragedy in a coal mine in Soma, Turkey, the representative called upon the participating States to prioritize preparedness for disasters and show solidarity with all those who might be in need of help.

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

Moderator: **Prof. Martin Beniston**, Director, Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE), Chair for Climate Research, University of Geneva

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

Speakers:

- **Dr. Roza Aknazarova**, Chairperson of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- **Mr. Neil McFarlane**, Chief Regional Programmes and DRR Coordination, Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Point, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
- **Mr. Dmitriy Prudtskikh**, Manager of the Aarhus Centre in Khujand, Tajikistan
- **Ms. Yulia Minaeva**, Senior Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Bishkek

The moderator, Prof. Beniston, opened the session by outlining the context of increased visibility and impact of natural disasters today, with particular reference to the recent flooding in the Balkans. He quoted insurance statistics, which record that, over the last 50 years, 16,000 natural hazards events have taken place, of which over 250 caused at least 1 billion dollars each in damages. Moreover, 85% of these events have been linked to climate and weather with the remainder classified as geological events. Prof. Beniston elaborated on the human cost of natural disasters, citing data that over the past 50 years there have been approximately 1.2 million deaths, with 60% related to climate and the balance related to geological hazards. In this period, the associated damage is reported to have cost 2,000 billion dollars. Additionally, he said that according to the forecast of the IPCC, there would likely there would likely to be an increase in extreme weather events and consequent disasters, both in terms of frequency and intensity. An aggravating factor has been the increase in the global population, which has magnified the effect of such events in recent times. He finished by referring to the recent IPCC report, which identified two types of extreme weather events: coastal flooding; and the flooding in river basins. In the case of a densely populated area such as Europe, the cost of risk reduction is projected to amount to several billions of euros per year over the rest of the century.

After the introductory remarks, *Dr. Roza Aknazarova* commenced her presentation by highlighting the increased importance attached to climate change by national governments and international institutions around the world. She also briefly summarised the primary international environmental conventions governing the global response to climate change and identified the strategy documents adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in response to, and support of, these conventions. She elaborated upon the activities of the Assembly in related areas such as water resources management. Along with preventative measures, she stressed the importance of mitigating the effects of climate change and identified some key instruments for implementing this approach, which includes adapted legal and policy frameworks, promotion of the green economy, improved monitoring and forecasting systems, increasing public awareness and participation and enhancing the robustness of infrastructure.

Dr. Roza Aknazarova also identified the impact of climate change on water resources, biodiversity agriculture and human health. She highlighted such issues as requiring control and management measures, public awareness-raising, international co-operation, incentives for restorative measures, and called for co-operation on transboundary water resources and to make more use of the capacities of the Aarhus Centres. Finally, Dr. Roza Aknazarova described the initiatives regarding glaciers, water resources and mountains, and emphasised the importance of the Parliamentary Assembly in advancing relevant resolutions.

Mr. Neil McFarlane informed about the tasking by UN member nations to the Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to focus on 5 main objectives for next year's UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction: to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) over the last 10 years; to review experiences at the national and regional levels; to adopt a new framework; to focus on commitments concerning cooperation; and to review the Office's work at the local, national and regional levels. Mr. McFarlane outlined the current status of consultations in the run to the Conference, which include regional conferences and preparatory committee meetings. He reported on the issues raised during the consultations thus far such as the need to ensure coherence between various international agreements, the requirement to agree on common monitoring indicators and the importance of developing public-private partnerships (i.e. with the private sector or local communities) to curb disaster losses. He stated that there was also a growing recognition of the importance of the private sector, which was where much of the investment in disaster risk reduction was occurring, and of course where a significant amount of risk was borne. Working with the private sector involves ensuring that businesses are aware of risks and are properly positioned to minimise such risks. Other issues that were raised included populations at risk, the cumulative effect of natural disasters (e.g. earthquakes leading to tsunamis) and the need to engage with the scientific community in solving these problems.

Mr. McFarlane reported on the progress made in Europe toward the implementation of the HFA commitments, however, he said there is still room for improvement in the area of integration of DRR into different economic and social sectors, risk identification and awareness (especially communication of risks to the population), application of science and technology, local community action and private sector partnerships. He mentioned the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction as a means for promoting the priorities for this region and spoke about efforts to mainstream DRR at the local level through this forum. Currently, the UNISDR is engaged in a pilot project with the OSCE and the Swiss government on DRR governance and standards in several countries.

Mr. McFarlane finished by focusing on the following 3 key messages. Firstly, the frequency and severity of natural disasters has been increasing (the trend of many small but severe events taking a greater toll). Secondly, DRR must cross the nexus of environment, development and security, i.e. DRR must move beyond response and recovery to preparedness in different government ministries and at both the local and national level. Finally, the new framework must place an emphasis on prevention.

Mr. Dmitriy Prudtskikh presented his experience of working on DRR at the local level through the Aarhus Centre platform. He briefly introduced the number and geographic distribution of Aarhus Centres in the OSCE region and then focused on Tajikistan, where 7 Aarhus Centres cover all of the regions within the country. He highlighted the importance of the Aarhus Centre network as a platform to facilitate cooperation and coordination on

environmental issues across the country and between countries, as exemplified by cooperation between the Khujand Aarhus Centre and the Aarhus Centre in Osh, Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Prudtskikh outlined the activities conducted by the Khujand Aarhus Centre on the issues of DRR and climate change, which have included trainings for farmers on disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation tools, open consultations on DRR issues, promotion of energy efficient technologies, and dissemination of information through mass media and cross border cooperation on DRR. The Khujand Aarhus Centre initiated a local trust fund mechanism for effective response to natural disasters and climate change and promoted greater public participation as a means of attracting government attention and finance for action in this area. He believes that public awareness-raising about DRR is of critical importance. The mass media offers an ideal way to disseminate such information, and initiatives in this regard could include training journalists and conducting outreach and awareness-raising events such as journalist competitions. With OSCE support, Aarhus Centres could strengthen their activities in disseminating information, increasing awareness, engaging the public and sharing best practices on community-based DRR.

In terms of response and coordination of actors on the DRR in Tajikistan, Mr. Prudtskikh pointed out the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT), which brings together the government and all of the organisations involved in disaster response to coordinate response and recovery operations. The Khujand Aarhus Centre is the focal point for REACT in the region of Sughd in northern Tajikistan.

Mr. Prudtskikh concluded by pointing out that there were still some gaps to be covered in capacity building of Aarhus Centres in the area of DRR including in the areas of cross-border cooperation and stimulating mass media interest.

Ms. Yulia Minaeva began her presentation by describing the exacerbating effect of natural disasters on existing inequalities throughout the world, with underprivileged and vulnerable communities and populations being disproportionately affected by such events. She emphasized the economic effects of natural disasters and elaborated on potential security impacts, such as civil unrest and political instability. In the context of the Kyrgyz Republic, she reported that the incidence of natural disasters has been increasing. A complicating factor in the country is the fact that there are approximately 92 radioactive and toxic waste sites and the prospect of natural disaster raises the risk of significant pollution and harm to human health, both in Kyrgyzstan and its neighbouring countries. Furthermore, she reported that the government has been covering only 20% of the cost of damages from natural disasters.

Further on, Ms. Minaeva provided some examples of projects conducted by the OSCE in the area of DRR. In 2007 and 2008, the OSCE engaged in a project aimed at enhancing preparedness and response to natural disasters through the Aarhus Centre platform. This improved the capacities of both the local communities and the government. In 2009, a training centre was created, where simulations and exercises are now conducted. Another project dealt with disaster risk reduction and infrastructure improvement in the Batken province of Kyrgyzstan, where ethnic tensions in a mix of neighbouring ethnicities aggravated by competition for scarce natural resources is a prominent feature. The OSCE contributed to this project by facilitating public participation through the Aarhus Centre. The results of the project included the construction of new preventative infrastructure such as gabion nets, enhanced protection of public infrastructure and improved resilience of local communities in the face of disaster risks.

Ms. Minaeva concluded by suggesting that there was a genuine role for the OSCE to play in DRR and that the Aarhus Centres should be even more engaged in this regard due to their capacity to work with the local communities and facilitate stakeholder dialogue.

The floor was opened for discussion.

A representative of Kyrgyzstan confirmed his country's commitment to implementation of DRR and stated that his government was making progress on priorities established in the national strategy for the 2013-2020 period. He referred to a climate change conference held in Almaty a week earlier, which among other issues addressed impacts of natural disasters. He highlighted that Kyrgyzstan is committed to working together with its Central Asian neighbours and with its international partners such as the World Bank.

A representative of Slovakia outlined the approach of Slovakia to emergency situations, which is enshrined in several laws in accordance with EU legislation and is based on protection of life and property. Overall preparedness, early warning and the right to immediate assistance are among the measures utilised in emergency situations. Integrated rescue units are a central element of response, co-ordinating efforts by the emergency services, police and military. She stressed the importance of cross-border cooperation, which is based on exchange of information and mutual support during emergencies. The delegate acknowledged the many documents and strategies agreed and adopted by the OSCE but stressed the importance of focusing on implementation and expressed hope that further relevant MC Decisions would be adopted this year.

A representative of Italy took the opportunity to inform the forum about the relevant initiatives that are being developed among others in Italy, namely the establishment of the Platform on Natural Hazards of the Alpine Convention PLANALP and its Alpine strategy for adaptation to climate change in the field of natural hazards.

Ms. Camille Buyck, a representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), stressed the role of healthy ecosystems in reducing vulnerability of communities to disaster risks and the importance of investing in nature-based solutions, which not only reduce risks and increase preparedness but have also proven to be cost-effective and functional means to address restoration and recovery. She reaffirmed IUCN's commitment to mobilize the expertise of its large network and promote exchange of best practices with local and regional authorities.

Mr. Ysmail Dairov, a representative of the Regional Mountain Centre of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, raised the issue of mountain ecosystems and the prospect of glacial melting and related issues of trans-boundary water resources management. He stressed the importance of collecting precise data on water resources and mountainous ecosystems. He endorsed the OSCE's role in addressing the security aspect of natural disasters, especially in prevention of tensions between countries, and called for greater attention to the work that his organisation was conducting in this area.

Session II Panel Debate: Cross-dimensional Impacts of Natural and Man-Made Disasters

Moderator: **Dr. Khalid Koser**, Deputy Director and Academic Dean, Crisis and Conflict Management Programme, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP); Chair of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Migration

Rapporteur: **Mr. Edward Safaryan**, Environment and Security National Project Officer, OSCE Office in Yerevan

Speakers:

- **Mr. Claus Gerhard Neukirch**, Deputy Director for Operations Service, Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE Secretariat
- **Ms. Marine Franck**, Climate Change and Nansen Initiative Officer, Division of International Protection, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- **Ms. Nina Birkeland**, Head of Monitoring and Advocacy Department, Norwegian Refugee Council

Dr. Khalid Koser opened the session, reminding that the discussions should focus on cross-dimensional impacts of the natural and man-made disasters as well as on the OSCE's role in local and cross-border DRR activities.

Mr. Claus Gerhard Neukirch commenced his presentation by hypothesizing that the conflict cycle the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center (CPC) deals with is somewhat similar to the disaster and risk management cycle, and underscored that there is an obvious and complex relationship between disasters and conflicts. If displacement pressures already exist in an affected population, the actual flows of people leaving their communities may be multiplied by disasters. He added that conflicts can lead to man-made and natural disasters (i.e. forest fires, pollution, draught or flooding after destruction of water dams) and dealing with disasters requires a cross-dimensional approach.

Mr. Neukirch outlined general principles that apply both to disaster risk management and to the conflict cycle, with a focus on population movements: early warning, overall prevention, operational preparedness, and finally, if the previously mentioned measures were insufficient, (conflict/disaster) management and mitigation of the effects. He emphasized that the OSCE prioritizes cooperation and coordination of its activities related to population displacements (mostly in post-conflict rehabilitation) together with other international organizations (primarily UNHCR). Mr. Neukirch added that there is a need to improve data collection and reporting, as well as exchange of information between organizations acting in the field on displacement issues and impacts on affected populations, the situation in Ukraine being the most recent example. The speaker informed about a protection checklist which has been developed together by UNHCR and OSCE, providing operational guidance to people in the field dealing with forced displacements.

In conclusion, Mr. Neukirch stated that past experiences must be leveraged in order to overcome challenges arising from natural and man-made disasters. He added that disasters could also become an opportunity to mitigate conflicts: the tsunami in East Asia opened a

possibility for dialogue with the rebels. He also added that it was important to see this two-way relationship between conflicts and disasters and referred to ENVSEC as the example of an excellent initiative that helps to solve issues at the nexus between environmental protection and security.

Ms. Marine Franck started her presentation by referring to the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report (released 2 months ago) which, among other issues, emphasized vulnerability and anticipated that impacts of climate change would cause increasing displacement of people over the 21st century. According to the report, climate change challenges would aggravate poverty and displacements, the very factors that lead to conflict, multiplying the impacts of food insecurity and water scarcity, resulting in increased vulnerability of millions of people.

Ms. Franck added that adaptation would help to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience, but it would also force some people to migrate from zones with high risk of natural disaster. UNHCR is becoming increasingly involved in responding to large-scale disasters. The institution is concerned with the respect of human rights of relocated and displaced people due to disasters and climate change. She pointed out that the OSCE participating States are both countries that are vulnerable to natural hazards including climate change impacts (recent floods in the Balkans) and at the same time they are the potential countries of destination for people who flee from disasters and climate change impacts (especially from least developed countries).

Finally, *Ms. Franck* briefly referred to the role of the Nansen Initiative on Disaster-Induced Cross-Border Displacement and concluded by emphasizing the need for regional cooperation, burden- and responsibility-sharing and a collaborative approach, and highlighting the role the OSCE could play as a platform for such collaboration. However, adaptation is only one of the solutions to climate change and soon new types of vulnerabilities will need to be addressed in a collaborative approach.

In her introduction, *Ms. Nina M. Birkeland* informed the participants that the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) works in more than 25 countries with people displaced both by natural disasters and conflicts. She underscored the need for a wide range of stakeholders to be more actively involved in solving DRR-related issues. The speaker stated that a disaster could be of limited scale, but it might cause displacement of a large number of people. Currently, most of the efforts are focused on prevention and response to disasters, but displaced people (especially those crossing international borders) are often forgotten once disasters are over – jobs, education, health services, etc. of the displaced persons are endangered. *Ms. Birkeland* emphasized that currently no legal protection of rights of the displaced people who fled across borders is in place, if the displacement took place as a result of a disaster or climate change impact. These are the “non-convention” refugees (for whom UNHCR has no clear responsibility), and therefore there is a worldwide protection gap. In December 2011, at the UNHCR Ministerial Conference, Switzerland and Norway made a pledge to cooperate on this issue and close this gap. Afterwards, the Nansen Initiative was established, which has produced a report on displacement due to disasters.

Ms. Birkeland informed that the overall goal of the Nansen Initiative is to build consensus on key principles and elements of protection for the people displaced across borders as result of disasters and climate change. The planned outcome is referred to as “the protection agenda”. In different regions, neighbouring states should help each other to overcome problems resulting

from disasters. In conclusion, the speaker posed a question to the participants whether the OSCE should play a role and if so in what way in implementing the Nansen Initiative.

In response to the Moderator's question about other possibilities to fill the above mentioned protection gap, Ms. Birkeland mentioned the precedent of the Dominican Republic that showed solidarity and accepted more than 200,000 people crossing its border after the earthquake in Haiti. She also suggested that the OSCE could play a role in promoting discussions on both the internal displacement and cross-border movements caused by disasters, with a view to a comprehensive application of the disaster cycle approach. Additionally, she recalled that it was frequently difficult to properly distinguish between conflict refugees and disaster refugees as often there is a mixture of both.

The floor was opened for *discussion*.

A representative of the United States of America asked about the difference between the work of UNHCR and the Nansen Initiative, including whether the UNHCR was required to respond to displacements related to natural disasters, and why the Nansen Initiative was needed. She also asked the speakers to provide examples of the Initiative's activities.

Ms. Franck answered that protection of people displaced as a result of disasters was not part of the UNHCR core legal mandate. Rather, the institution pursues a "cluster approach" to protect IDPs displaced due to conflicts. It shares the lead with OCHA and UNICEF in protecting IDPs displaced by natural disasters and climate change. She added that regarding the cross-border displacements related to disasters, UNHCR participates in and actively supports the Nansen Initiative as a member of the Chairing Group but it is a States-led initiative.

Ms. Birkeland explained that the Nansen Initiative assesses the concrete causes of displacement and opportunities for prevention, compares those between regions and discusses how traditional donor countries could support specific initiatives in different regions. The issues are global but there is also a need for guidelines for each region. The speaker referred to an example from the OSCE region, pointing out that when there was a forced migration, many people followed the same migration routes and joined their diaspora in other countries. Additionally, she mentioned that the guiding principles on internal displacement had been in place since 1998, covering both disasters and conflicts, and that many countries have their own national policies in this regard.

Ms. Sena, Vice-Chair of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, OSCE PA inquired about the types of technological developments that would help to protect people before and after disasters. While discussing how technologies help to track high profile disasters and monitor internal and cross-border movements, she referred to the example of the 2012 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, where unique IP addresses and mobile phone connection data were used to track displacement and movement of people. The representative asked whether States should offer economic incentives so that new technologies and applications could be deployed to protect their citizens, and highlighted the role of online social media platforms and mobile tools and hubs in drawing the attention of the international community to the evidence of disasters as well as human rights violations. Within the OSCE framework, border agencies, disaster relief agencies and other relevant agencies of the participating States should be encouraged to

exchange best practices on technology aspects of disaster relief. The representative invited the speakers to elaborate on the nexus between technology and cross-dimensional impacts.

Mr. Neukirch stated that there were numerous opportunities for social media, mobile phones and other technologies to be used for tracking, information exchange, alerts and assessment of impacts as well as crowd-funding after disasters. However, feasibility of such applications depends on how technologically advanced specific countries are. Another concern and limitation in this respect is the availability of IT tools in affected communities and overall IT proficiency. Indeed, there is a genuine need to close these gaps by promoting such technologies and making them available to respective governments, agencies and communities. He was convinced that this was a very promising aspect of both prevention and conflict/disaster management activities.

Ms. Birkeland agreed that new technologies should be widely deployed in the context of disasters. In particular, she underscored that it was necessary to identify how various new technologies could be used to accomplish tangible returns, namely, in order to identify in very clear terms what climate change means to specific communities, and to choose what interventions and measures could be taken to ensure adaptation or reduce negative effects and displacement. In fact, multifactor models are available that can integrate climate, economics, development, and conflict data to analyse current levels of resilience and offer relatively simple practicable interventions to overcome vulnerabilities. Governments should use such predictive models to address current shortcomings and minimize potential disaster effects.

Ms. Franck assured that UNHCR had been aware of the potential and utility of the new technologies since 1990s and cited an example of how such technologies were used in refugee camps.

A representative of Azerbaijan shared the experience and views of her country on natural hazard-triggered disasters and their potential impact on public security. The representative expressed gratitude to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the World Bank for the review report entitled “Risk assessment for Central Asia and Caucasus” conducted in line the Hyogo Framework for Action. The representative emphasized that in order to fully appreciate the need for DRR and implement the concept it was necessary to properly understand various factors, including the nature and severity of impacts of disasters, learn about previous incidents, identify trends and understand vulnerabilities of populations. Vulnerability of the South Caucasus region to destructive natural disasters is further aggravated by the presence of high-risk infrastructure facilities, including the aging Metsamor nuclear power plant. She stated that the South Caucasus has experienced a natural hazard-triggered industrial disaster with catastrophic consequences - the 1988 Spitak earthquake. The representative highlighted that Azerbaijan remains concerned over the functioning of the Metsamor NPP and the intention of Armenia to build a new NPP unit in Metsamor, as Metsamor NPP is only 85km from an Azerbaijani exclave Nakhchivan and 16 km away from the Turkish border in the midst of a seismically active zone. She cited findings from studies on hazardous fallout from a likely NPP accident that suggest that in case of an accident at the plant, Azerbaijan would be affected by radioactive fallout within the first 12 – 24 hours. She expressed hope that her message would be duly taken by the OSCE participating States and relevant international organizations. The representative added that her country was taking note of the experience of the OCEEA and IAEA-led frameworks in the field of addressing hazardous waste management and believes that this positive

experience of interagency cooperation might be extended to address other threats and challenges emanating from the nuclear energy production.

A representative of Armenia recalled his country was a member state of a relevant UN body with appropriate expertise, namely the IAEA, which inter alia conducts peer reviews of NPPs. He added that the Armenian NPP was under continuous monitoring by the IAEA and that any concerns with regard to safety and security and all technical details of the Metsamor operations should be discussed in the relevant UN agency. He also stated that it was not warranted to draw a parallel between Metsamor and Fukushima because the Fukushima NPP was damaged by a tsunami, which is not likely to happen in South Caucasus. On the topic of the session and the question about the role of the OSCE in the context of disaster-related population displacements, the representative opined that there was a lack of needs assessments, because to date there was no strong factual evidence of cross-border movements within the OSCE area caused by natural disasters. His view was that needs should be assessed first before any action could be advised or taken. He also recalled a Nansen Initiative publication, pointing to terminology definitions therein. In his opinion, in the context of climate change, it was hard to distinguish between migration and displacement. Specifically, he gave an example of population movements resulting from deforestation as being defined as migration and not displacement, in contrast to tsunamis. He inquired about concrete examples from the OSCE area, in particular, of cross-border movements. In conclusion, the representative urged for better recognition of the differences between creeping disasters and sudden catastrophic events, leading respectively to migration and displacement. He also called for better coordination and cooperation between UNHCR and other international organizations, such as IOM and OCHA as, in his opinion, a qualitatively new level of international co-operation and a new understanding of this issue were needed before any activities could be initiated within the OSCE framework.

Ms. Franck confirmed that the terminology in this area was very complex and still not fully defined. In fact, one of the objectives of the Nansen Initiative is to introduce a clear distinction between migration and displacement.

In response to the Moderator's question on the linkages between migration and displacement on the one hand, and the conflict cycle on the other hand, *Mr. Neukirch* referred to the example of IOM's involvement in repatriating migrants who had worked in Libya and were returning to their home countries because of the conflict. They could not be really considered to be refugees but rather repatriates forced by circumstances. In this regard, the speaker stressed that each case should be analysed individually and both threats and opportunities in such situations should be identified. With respect to situations associated with environmental challenges, he referred to the ENVSEC Initiative that attempts to promote preventive measures, including confidence building, in cross-dimensional environmental/economic situations that could affect populations. Finally, *Mr. Neukirch* stressed the importance of differentiating between forced displacement and migration, and recognizing the possibility that various types of movements of people might lead into conflict situations.

In response to the question about what the OSCE could do to assist with the Nansen Initiative, *Ms. Birkeland* referred to two levels: the Secretariat and individual participating States. Each country participating in the Hyogo Framework process should assure that displacement is mentioned in the commitments undertaken. The issue of displacements is often forgotten or neglected as usually the number of people affected by disasters is much larger than the number of people displaced. However, the specific needs of displaced people

should not be forgotten. The OSCE Secretariat could help to produce common definitions, and manage information flows, as well as engage OSCE's field presences with their monitoring and reporting capabilities. The speaker emphasized the importance of all elements related to population movements (both forced and not forced): prevention, crisis management, and post-crisis rehabilitation. The OSCE can help to monitor the situation of people who left their homes in order to make sure they are not forgotten. In conclusion, she summarized the role of the OSCE as being a monitoring and guidance-setting institution (on a regional level), as well as peer review mechanism for compliance with commitments made by individual participating States.

Ms. Franck also presented her concluding remarks and recommendations. Firstly, preventive action to avoid displacements should be seen as mitigation, just as mitigation of greenhouse gases would diminish the impact of climate change and disasters. Secondly, there should be climate change adaptation and DRR actions supported at the national level in order to enable people to remain in their original settlements, and, as the last resort, relocation should be offered and planned in advance. *Ms. Franck's* another recommendation was to engage in the Nansen Initiative and other processes that aim to promote cooperation and develop solutions for these issues. Another important aspect is to document the impact of environmental changes on habitats and communities at the local level, including potential causes of population movements. Other potential measures involve supporting the inclusion of human mobility language into the UNFCCC negotiations, Hyogo Framework and other related frameworks.

The representative of Azerbaijan emphasized that the point of all Forum discussions should be to exchange views and offer and receive updated and accurate information. She reiterated that nobody could guarantee that there would be no other devastating earthquake in the region and no cross-border effect. She also pointed to valuable lessons from how the government of Japan managed the Fukushima disaster, including in terms of information disclosure and invited relevant countries to learn from this experience.

A representative of Spain reaffirmed that Spain fully aligned itself with the statement made by the EU during the opening session and he offered a divergent view on large-scale human movements as exemplified by the joint Spanish-Moroccan annual summer holidays experience when some 2.5 million cross the straits between Europe and North Africa daily. The representative inquired whether this experience in large-scale border crossing management could be useful for the OSCE, including its disaster risk prevention and cross-border co-operation, specifically because the Spanish agency in charge of this process, i.e. the Civil Protection Department, is also responsible for risk reduction in case of natural or man-made disasters. He also asked whether any lessons, best practices or parallels could be drawn between this situation and issues discussed during the session.

Afterwards, *the Moderator* invited the panellists to share their final reflections on the discussions.

Mr. Neukirch suggested that there was one key lesson to be learned, namely that although the discussions in general focused on threats associated with natural and man-made disasters and conflicts, this focus should not eclipse the opportunities to be found in joint efforts in confidence building, mitigation and prevention.

Ms. Birkeland recognized that there was indeed limited reliable information on people forced to leave their homes because of disasters in the OSCE region. However, such information will be vital to focus future discussions and understand where, why and of what magnitude disasters occur and what should be done to prevent them and mitigate consequences. Additionally, she emphasized the importance of cross-border cooperation because disasters, including environmental ones, do not recognize borders.

In his final comments, *the Moderator* commended the participants for constructive and critical engagement in vital and sometimes politically controversial discussions, and offered a brief summary of major outcomes and recommendations. He highlighted the immediate relevance and cross-dimensional nature of the issues raised during the session both for the international community in general and specifically for the OSCE region. Further on, he urged for better clarity on the most critical concepts, such as man-made vs. natural disasters, migration vs. refugees, etc. The Moderator also emphasized that both the Secretariat and OSCE participating States could contribute a lot to the Nansen Initiative. He suggested that there should be better sharing of lessons learnt across the OSCE and with other affected parties, and reminded that the new technologies and analytical methods offered solutions to some of the most pressing issues. He emphasized the need for improved data collection, reporting and evidence-based needs assessments in the OSCE region. Finally, he recalled that the common challenge was to look beyond threats and problems and focus on available opportunities.

Session III Coping measures to reduce disaster risk at an international, cross-border and national level

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

Rapporteur: Mr. Christoph Opfermann, Senior Project Officer, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Speakers:

- **Ambassador Toni Frisch**, Chair of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG); Chair of the Military and Civil Defence Assets Consultative Group; Special Advisor HFA2
- **Mr. Dennis Thomas Cosgrove**, Head of the OSCE Borders and Security Management Unit under the Transnational Threats Department
- **Ms. Wendy Cue**, Chief of Environmental Emergencies Section, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit

In his presentation, *Ambassador Toni Frisch*, representing the *International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)*, stressed the need for preparedness and prevention rather than focusing on response to emergencies. According to the speaker, one of the lessons learned from the disaster in Haiti is that co-ordination should not be donor driven. Ambassador Frisch introduced the work of INSARAG, a global network of more than 80 countries and organizations under the United Nations umbrella with the task to strengthen the effectiveness and co-ordination of International Urban Search and Rescue Assistance (USAR). The INSARAG collects best practices in co-ordination and sets minimum standards for USAR teams, i.e. a methodology for international co-ordination of earthquake response, based on the INSARAG Guidelines established in 2002. Additionally, in 2005 INSARAG External Classification (IEC) was established. It serves as a certification system for participating rescue organizations. Further, Ambassador Frisch informed about the *Consultative Group on the use of Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA group)* and the international *Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE)*, established by UNEP and OCHA as their most important co-operation and support mechanism for response to environmental disasters. The AGEE works at the political level, promoting an approach centered rather on “prevention and preparedness than cure” and engaging with relevant stakeholders.

Talking about ways how to ensure synergy and interoperability between regional and global networks, Ambassador Frisch mentioned a possible establishment of an Emergency Response and Preparedness Consultative Group under the lead of OCHA and encouraged the OSCE participating States to support and contribute to the preparatory process towards the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in 2015. According to the speaker, the OSCE should avoid duplication of efforts, and focus, instead, on strengthening the existing international bodies, as well as national structures and initiatives, and building capacities.

Mr. Dennis T. Cosgrove underlined the need to communicate across borders. He described the work of the OSCE’s TNT Department as pre-crisis activities. He referred to OSCE’s

experience, in particular its publications, including an instrument called “Self-Assessment Tool for Nations to Increase Preparedness for Cross-Border Implications of Crises”. This tool produces inputs for various institutions, all border-related agencies, actors and international organizations in this field. The advantages of the TNT Department are its intergovernmental approach, inter-agency and trans-border co-operation, as well as engagement with the civil society. According to Mr. Cosgrove, the OSCE has expertise, experience and tools both at its headquarters and in field presences, and liaisons with all relevant stakeholders. The OSCE should leverage these key assets and continue its various valuable programmes in such fields as water management and regional interconnectedness. The OSCE should also connect people, including in the cultural field.

In conclusion, Mr. Cosgrove commended the CiO and OCEEA for the opportunity to participate in current discussions and emphasized the need to focus on the youth as a target group.

Ms. Wendy Cue informed the participants about the work of the joint UNEP/OCHA Environmental Unit. The unit focuses on making positive impacts in line with its vision for countries to become more resilient, better prepared and able to effectively respond to environmental emergencies. Ms. Cue also described the work of her unit, giving concrete examples of potential actions and gave a brief overview of the current response mission related to the recent floods in the Balkans.

In its work the joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit prioritizes preparedness, response and the environment in humanitarian actions. Preparedness includes risk and hazard assessments, promotion of international norms and standards through the Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC) and preparedness trainings. Ms. Cue introduced the Environmental Emergency Risk Index (EERI), a strategic tool for prioritizing work on preparedness and environment in humanitarian actions. It builds upon existing humanitarian, development and environmental performance indices and focuses on technological hazards and environmental vulnerability to identify countries most at risk. She also described the recent Arsenic Waste Management Assessment Mission in Georgia conducted jointly with the OSCE with an objective to provide recommendations for safe management, transport, storage and onsite disposal and containment of arsenic waste, as well as to assess the amount of waste and extent of contamination. The team included national authorities, OSCE, UNDP and UNEP/OCHA. Its recommendations highlighted among other the need for more technical guidance and budget allocations by the state.

Further on, Ms. Cue described the Environmental Emergencies Centre, which is an online platform providing information, tools, trainings and guidance to inform a more prepared and effective response to environmental emergencies. The speaker informed about available introductory and advanced trainings on a variety of environmental emergency preparedness and response topics, such as for example how to better connect factories and rescuers. Finally, Ms. Cue stressed the necessity to bring together disaster managers and environmental experts and underscored the need for regional co-operation in Central Asia, focusing on a project sponsored by the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE. The project consists of four phases: training needs assessment, regional workshops, identification of possible initiatives and implementation of these complementary initiatives. Within this project a recent workshop in Tajikistan identified the need for a regional seminar on mining tailings. Another regional workshop is planned to be held in Georgia in June 2014. According to Ms. Cue, the specific role of the OSCE could be to increase partnerships and co-ordination.

The floor was opened for *discussion*.

A representative of Turkey expressed condolences and solidarity with all victims of the floods in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. He reported on his country's response to the floods in the Balkans as well as the humanitarian aid provided by Turkey to Syria and Syrian refugees since the outset of the conflict in March 2011, including construction of modern accommodation centers, access to education, and assistance to prepare the refugees for the post-crisis period. The same temporary accommodation standards are foreseen to be used in case of disasters in Turkey.

Mr. Walter Kemp, representing the International Peace Institute, asked Ambassador Frisch, what entity should co-ordinate response and support operations in case of a disaster like the floods in the Balkans in order to ensure best co-ordination of assistance and prevent chaos.

In his reply, *Ambassador Frisch* once again referred to lessons learned from the crisis in Haiti and stressed that co-ordination should not be donor driven. He underlined that Haiti was a special case because it had no army. In any case, the existing structures should be respected, and national authorities must have the lead. However, in specific cases OCHA can take the lead for the UN family co-ordinating humanitarian aid in the first response phase. The speaker mentioned that there were also other networks heavily involved such as the Red Cross movement but stressed that all entities operating in the field should co-operate closely with national authorities and/or co-ordinating international organizations.

Ms. Cue added that the national authorities could request specific international assistance in order to avoid receiving inappropriate aid, for example by communicating through the ministry of health what type of medical support is needed in the country. She also mentioned the environmental cause that led to the crisis in Syria, namely a major drought between 2006-2011 that exacerbated urbanization, unemployment and other pressures in the country, stressing that the nexus between environment and conflict must be taken into account in the field of humanitarian aid.

A representative of Serbia informed about the mechanism her country used to call for help during the recent flooding via its embassies and missions in other countries. But this mechanism is unfortunately not applicable for smaller countries that have fewer representations, making it much more difficult for these countries to request and receive appropriate assistance. The representative also stressed that assistance needs could vary from day to day, be it water supplies or financial assistance to mitigate effects.

A representative of the OSCE FSC Support Unit asked the speakers about the national action plans.

Finally, *a representative of UNISDR* stressed the importance of better preparedness and the need to have commitments for coordination, and invited the participating States to take part in the preparatory process for the Sendai Conference, including the upcoming meeting in July in Geneva. He drew attention to a special website being launched by UNISDR in order to inform on possible commitments to support the implementation of the HFA. He also encouraged the OSCE participating States to proactively discuss major inputs for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Concluding Discussion

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

Rapporteur: **Mr. Conan Doyle**, Political Adviser, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE

Speakers:

- **Dr. Walter Kemp**, Director for Europe and Central Asia, International Peace Institute
- **Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Ambassador Thomas Greminger opened the session by thanking organisers and participants for their contributions to the discussions. He went on to give an outline of the Concluding Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum which will be held in Prague on 10-12 September. He informed that the Chairmanship intends to circulate a Perception Paper on the outcome of the two Preparatory Meetings shortly that should build the background for the final leg of the Forum. Cross-dimensional issues, addressed in Session II will be further explored in Prague. Slow onset disasters will also be addressed. ICT applications in disaster risk management will be explored further and this will be facilitated by presenting concrete ICT and public-private partnership tools. The ongoing post-2015 negotiation processes in the UN will be integrated into the discussions in Prague and Margareta Wahlström, UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, will be present as a keynote speaker. Finally, focus will fall on the possible role the OSCE could play in addressing environmental challenges without duplication of work.

Dr. Walter Kemp began by emphasising that disasters are an issue affecting the entire OSCE area. He added that their frequency and severity is increasing whether they are sudden, slow on-set or small scale disasters, and that they are a serious threat to security and therefore the OSCE, as a security organisation, cannot ignore them. He emphasised that the threats are trans boundary in nature and require cooperation between states to tackle them. He also elaborated on the cross-dimensional nature of the issue, as it relates to governance and development, and emphasized that it should not be a political issue and likened disaster prevention to conflict prevention. He noted that a role for the OSCE is divided along two “vectors”. The first being the “hardness” of approach and the second being the timescale. The OSCE’s role would be “soft” and would take place early on the timescale meaning that the OSCE has a role to play in prevention and preparedness.

He emphasised that the OSCE was already doing a lot in the field with mechanisms like the self-assessment tool outlined in Session III. He added that implementation of currently available tools at all levels is key and that the OSCE has a niche at the regional level. He also pointed out that the OSCE could reach out to Partners for Co-operation and that environmental risk mapping looking at the specific regions would be very useful.

In terms of areas for solid actions which could be taken by the OSCE, Dr. Kemp listed the following: better use of technology in preparedness and prevention, especially communications technology like the UN-Spider; urban planning and water management in particular in relation to floods and land erosion; training and networking including cross-border interoperability; a revision of the “Oslo Guidelines”, with potential for FSC/PC cooperation; quality assurance of DDR practice through meetings similar to this year’s EEF but attended by practitioners; involvement of a wide range of actors including civil society, local and national governments, and private sector in all actions; the potential of agreements on mountainous areas could be explored; issues of displacement and ENVSEC could be areas of focus for cooperation. He also stressed the strength of the OSCE politically as a Chapter VIII organisation and advised collaboration with OCHA and other UN offices. Engaging with the post-2015 agenda was also stressed by Dr. Kemp. Finally, he stated that the subject of the EEF was an issue with links to all parts of the OSCE and that disaster risk reduction could be the legacy of the Swiss Chairmanship in the second dimension.

Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden began by thanking participants and gave a brief overview of each of the day’s sessions. He went on to highlight two areas of work which were emphasised as being highly relevant. These were further promotion of capacity building on disaster risk reduction at all levels in close collaboration with national and local authorities, and continued facilitation of the dialogue between participating States in this area. He stated that his office will closely review the recommendations generated during the meeting and assess possible follow-up activities. His office will also support implementation of last year’s MC decision on protecting energy networks from disasters.

On the Concluding Meeting in Prague, the Co-ordinator stated that a review of OSCE commitments related to the topic of the Forum would be carried out by UNDP. Finally, he expressed confidence that the Concluding Meeting will crystalize outcomes of the Forum Process this year which will help to bring about a possible MC decision on the second dimension in December.

All of the *Delegations* who took the floor expressed their sympathies to those affected by the flooding in the Western Balkans.

A representative of the European Union took the floor stating that the EEF Preparatory Meeting fulfilled the purpose of serving as a forum for political dialogue providing participating States with an opportunity to exchange experience and good practices in the area of disaster risk management. She recognised the cross-dimensional impact of disasters on security and the intrinsic link between natural disasters and climate change. She also stated that the member states are committed to playing a constructive role in the negotiation process for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

The representative emphasised that the OSCE should focus on risks and vulnerabilities relevant to the Organisation. She highlighted that public participation and awareness-raising in disaster risk reduction can mitigate the effects of disasters and stated that the OSCE, through its field missions and the Aarhus Centres, could contribute to increased capacities of communities in disaster risk reduction. She added that cross-border co-operation is essential for disaster preparedness and consequence management. The representative highlighted that several conventions already address this co-operation and stated that the OSCE could further play a role in supporting participating States by building on this legal framework. Targeted exchange of experience and best practices, enhancing dialogue and co-operation can

furthermore contribute to building trust and confidence in the OSCE area. The representative further elaborated on EU's internal process of mainstreaming DRR.

A representative of Tajikistan took the floor and described the situation in the mountainous regions of his country where flooding has caused massive damage and costs in recent times. He stressed that disaster prevention in mountainous regions required special attention. The government is coordinating with international organisations but this coordination needs improvement. The representative went on to elaborate on funds received from the Climate Fund, the World Bank and others which was used to set up a special secretariat dealing with climate adaptation, which is doing so very successfully.

A representative of Belarus stated that disasters are best dealt with when national bodies coordinate international assistance. He elaborated on his country's comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction and response and suggested establishing cross-border assessments of disaster preparedness. He stated that such a program could be developed by the OSCE.

A representative of Kyrgyzstan took to floor to inform about her country's efforts in the field of DRR at the national level, including making adaptation to climate change a priority and working with the OSCE through the Aarhus Centre in the country.

Mr. Olivier Overney, Head of the Flood Protection Section at the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), provided the participants with organizational remarks concerning field visits on the second day of the Forum Meeting.

ANNEX I: DECISION NO. 1088 ON THEME, AGENDA AND MODALITIES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.DEC/1088
25 July 2013

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962nd Plenary Meeting
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DECISION NO. 1088

THEME, AGENDA AND MODALITIES OF 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

- 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 II: WELCOMING REMARKS

22st ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING

Montreux, 19 - 21 May 2014

Welcoming remarks by State Secretary Mr. Yves Rossier, Head of the Directorate of Political Affairs, Switzerland

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished guests

Welcome to Switzerland and welcome to Montreux on the occasion of the Second Preparatory Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

Montreux, on the shores of Lake Geneva, is best known as the city of Jazz. And Jazz is probably the musical genre that has been most effective in bringing people, religions, countries, and traditions together by fusing styles and crossing cultures.

Also the OSCE - as the largest regional security organization encompassing 57 participating States from Vladivostok to Vancouver - has a reputation for successfully bringing people and countries together around a same table. And with its unique multi-dimensional security approach it would appear a predestined melting pot for fusing and crossing politico-military, economic, environmental and human security perspectives in order to build peace and security, confidence and trust amongst its participants.

So why is it that unlike Jazz we don't always feel the groove and swing in the OSCE's daily pulse?

Integration of the three Dimensions in the OSCE – Integrated Risk Management

We all acknowledge that the Economic and Environmental Forum is the main meeting of the OSCE in the second dimension; as the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting is the main conference in the third dimension. This is setting the stage: generally, the three dimensions work independently, focusing around dimension-specific goals and deliverables, while overlaps and interaction between them remain the exception rather than the rule.

Why is it that these three dimensions predominantly perform as soloists, when everybody agrees that the OSCE's holistic approach to security, based on the legacy of the historic 1975

Helsinki Final Act, is its key asset and comparative advantage? How do we blend these three dimensions together to form a merry combo?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The goal of this year's Forum is to identify the role of the OSCE in assisting participating States in how to better respond to environmental challenges. As a matter of fact, Disaster Risk Reduction should be an integral component of a comprehensive security perspective. One possible niche for the OSCE could be exactly at the crossroads between its three dimensions. Indeed, natural disasters can trigger instability and conflicts, human rights violations or displacements.

I therefore particularly welcome today's Keynote speech by Dr. Tipson on the nexus between disasters and security, and the Panel Debate in the early afternoon on the impacts of natural and technological disasters on conflicts and on population movements. Probably not many of us are aware that more people are being displaced by disasters than by persecution and conflict.

Furthermore, I am convinced that natural and environmental risks affecting emerging or pre-existing tensions and conflicts, as is often the case with slow-onset disasters such as droughts, should become an integral component within the OSCE's conflict cycle. To give you an example: the period of severe drought in Syria between 2006 and 2011 led to the displacement of around 1.5 million people within the country and might have contributed to the outbreak of this bloody conflict.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Breaking down the barriers and shelving the silo mentality is also a - if not the - key challenge to a comprehensive risk management approach. Disaster risk governance will only be "integrated":

- if there is a political will from the government,
- if it is taking into account multiple hazards and their numerous interactions,
- if it is spanning across relevant policy sectors,
- if it is encompassing main stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society,
- and if it is involving all levels of authorities: from national down to local governments.

Let me stress the local echelon. Indeed, most kinds of hazards are local and have predominantly local impacts. The first to be affected and to respond to a disaster are local actors. It seems therefore only natural to empower them such that they can develop the necessary instruments to assess, prevent and mitigate risks at a local level. I'm confident that today's first session dealing with disaster risk reduction at a local level will advance some answers to this challenge.

Do we need disasters in order to progress?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Until the unfolding of the crisis in Ukraine and the establishment by consensus decision of the Special Monitoring Mission, the OSCE was not highly on the agenda of the world top

news and had a rather low profile. The crisis was the defining moment that allowed the organisation to reassert its *raison d'être*.

Similarly, experience shows that major natural and man-made disasters are often wake-up calls for decision makers generating a set of lessons learned that sometimes dramatically change public perceptions, national policies and socio-economic patterns.

Does humanity need stresses and shocks, tensions and disasters in order to learn? Are we going to evolve through crises rather than proactive behaviour?

Sure, our modern society with its main institutions, including our democratic political systems and our market economies are tuned to maximise short-term benefits sometimes at the cost of future problems. So when considering the challenges climate change is potentially posing to our existence: do we actually have to rely on disasters to bring us to reason and to save us from more severe calamities as philosopher Hans Jonas put it 25 years ago? In other words: should we really engage in disaster risk reduction, if crises might be the fuel necessary for human development and change?

The answer is clear-cut, if we don't want to sound sardonic: Prevention is always the better and more efficient investment than response and rehabilitation. All the people affected by severe disasters will certainly also agree with this.

This is true across all sectors. Preventing disease and maintaining good health is better than any medical therapy. Preventing conflicts and radicalization before violence erupts could save lives, avoid the destruction of infrastructure and the impairment of the economy. These are often irrevocable processes that post-conflict rehabilitation cannot reverse. That's why the spectre of new rifts looming on Europe's horizon must be taken seriously by the OSCE in order to build bridges and prevent these rifts from widening.

Natural hazard-triggered disasters have caused more human casualties world-wide in the past hundred years than both World Wars combined. Last year alone, natural disasters have generated economic costs of almost 200 billion \$. So yes: we should definitely invest in disaster prevention and risk mitigation!

In this context, let me express on behalf of the Swiss government and of the Swiss people our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the people and the government of Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia, especially to those who lost loved ones and are suffering from the devastating floods and triggered secondary effects like landslides. Switzerland stands ready to assist the affected people in their difficult situation.

The road to resilience. Cross-border cooperation as CBM.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The growing interconnectedness, complexity, technical dependence and urbanization of our multipolar world exacerbate the vulnerabilities of societies to hazards and the risks of unforeseen cascading effects. Building risk resilient nations – the topic of our second keynote speech today – will indeed be of paramount importance. Disasters, like other cross-cutting global risks such as cybercrime, often transcend national boundaries. No state can deal with such risks in isolation. Collective prevention, preparedness and response are indispensable.

Hence, a pillar to achieve resilience in our interdependent world is stronger cross-border collaboration both among governmental and non-governmental actors. Technical cross-

border cooperation in disaster risk management is a win-win situation for all parties involved and can be a powerful apolitical way to bolster trust and confidence among stakeholders. Those who have chosen to participate in tomorrow's first excursion along the transit route of the Great St Bernard will get the chance to learn more about a specific example of cross-border cooperation between Italy and Switzerland.

In this context, let me seize this opportunity to convey the best regards of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Mr. Didier Burkhalter, to the participants of this Preparatory Meeting. He cannot be with us today, as the president of the Italian Republic, Mr. Giorgio Napolitano, is currently paying a state visit to Switzerland and is being received by the Swiss Federal Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Collaborative risk management and collective action not only among neighbouring states but involving stakeholders from across government, private sector and civil society will be imperative to achieve national resilience. Resilience - the capacity of a system to buffer against outside attacks - is as such a comprehensive concept that goes far beyond disaster mitigation. In particular we must be looking at the systemic interlinkages between politico-military, socio-economic, financial, environmental and transnational components.

The OSCE, if it fully taps its potential as an organization with a broad, multi-dimensional security perspective, is well placed to adopt an integrated risk governance approach and to contribute to pave the road to resilience. It might be a long and winding one. But I hope that the swing of Montreux will accelerate our pace towards this target.

22st ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING

Montreux, 19 - 21 May 2014

**Welcoming remarks by Ambassador Manuel Bessler,
Delegate for Humanitarian Aid and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA)**

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished guests,

I would also like to welcome you all to Switzerland, to Montreux, and to the field visits in the Canton of Valais that the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation has arranged for you tomorrow, in cooperation with the authorities of the Canton and the Federal Office for the Environment. The examples you will be shown tomorrow will focus on natural and environmental risks in a mountainous region.

For the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship intends to link this official meeting with practical observations in the field, while bringing people together to share their knowledge and expertise. I very much hope that you will enjoy the field visits that we have organised!

My initial thoughts go to the individuals, families and communities that were severely affected by the floods in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and their neighbouring countries. Switzerland has offered financial contributions and assistance to the governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia, and is continuing to closely monitor the situation.

Knowing your risks is at the heart of disaster risk management, be it in a mountainous area or anywhere else. It is not only important to correctly assess risks, but also to understand how risks are interconnected. A clear picture of the risk landscape is fundamental for preventing new risks as well as reducing and transferring existing risks. It will be of the utmost importance for the flood affected areas in south-eastern Europe to delve deep into disaster analyses in order to draw lessons for the future – in terms of understanding risks, planning land use, making/implementing laws and taking constructional measures. The field visit in the floodplain of the river Rhone will show how these different types of measures are combined. Since resources for risk reduction activities are limited, prioritising public policy measures is key.

Managing disaster risks is not static. Hazards, vulnerability and risk exposure change over time, particularly in the context of climate change. Tomorrow, the field visit along the Great St Bernard route will show how risk reduction measures have to be adapted to the consequences of climate change.

Achieving resilience of nations and communities is not only a concept, but a long-term programme and investment. Resilience embraces at the same time the ability of people, communities and systems to withstand, adapt and recover from disasters – such as floods, storms and earthquakes – as well as to prevent, withstand, adapt and recover from wars,

conflicts and crises. It is our very obligation to secure people from violent attacks and to reduce people's vulnerability and exposure to disasters.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to briefly elaborate three components of successful risk management that are also relevant for the OSCE:

First, pursuing a comprehensive risk management approach, including disaster risks, that leads to resilience, is in accordance with the multi- and cross-dimensional nature of the OSCE. Disaster risk management is therefore relevant for the OSCE's overall safety and security agenda. Not only because natural disasters may endanger people's lives and livelihoods, cause economic losses, or have a devastating impact on critical infrastructure, but also because cooperation in reducing disaster risks may contribute to clearly defining responsibilities and building confidence between nations, communities and people that are potentially at risk.

Second – and as mentioned before – prevention is better than cure. This is valid for crises, conflicts and disasters. However, the shift from response to a combination of preventive and preparedness measures faces many challenges. Prevention is politically not attractive: It is easier to raise public resources for assistance when a disaster strikes than for preventive measures before a possible emergency situation occurs. And prevention is complex, involving many policy sectors, stakeholders at different governmental levels, and also non-governmental actors.

At the global level, Switzerland is very engaged in disaster risk reduction. This year, we will host the two inter-governmental preparatory committee meetings in Geneva to work out a new international agreement on disaster risk reduction to replace the existing Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Governments around the world should agree on this new framework at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), scheduled for March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. We realise how important it is to involve all the relevant actors in this process, be it regional organisations such as the OSCE, local governments, communities or the private sector.

Finally, the time has come for OSCE participating States to show political leadership and commitment for the Sendai process. In addition, we all need to advocate that the post-2015 agenda, which will define the sustainable development goals for the next generation, fully integrates the spirit and the action of disaster risk reduction. In this regard, the ties between Geneva, New York and also Vienna must be strengthened, especially as we move ahead with preparations for new global frameworks.

Dear participants,

I am looking forward to accompanying you during the two coming days, to learn from your experience in the field of disaster prevention and to take a common step towards the risk-informed, sustainable development of our societies in the OSCE area. We bear a special responsibility because OSCE participating States are among the key donors for humanitarian aid and development cooperation, and the largest providers of military and civil defence assets (MCDA) for disaster relief.

Thank you for your attention.

22st ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING

Montreux, 19 - 21 January 2014

**Welcoming remarks by Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden,
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

Allow me to start by expressing my gratitude for the warm hospitality of the Swiss Chairmanship. I am confident that this beautiful venue on the shores of Lake Geneva will inspire us in our deliberations. I also highly appreciate the commitment of the Swiss Chairmanship to promoting more reliable management of natural disasters in the OSCE area which also contributes to strengthening the role of OSCE's economic and environmental dimension in this field.

Please let me express my deep sympathy to our colleagues from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia. The recent flooding that affected South-Eastern Europe reminds us painfully about the importance of the topic we discuss today. Please accept our sincere condolences for the losses suffered.

We planned to have a representative of the Emergency Management Sector of the Serbian Ministry of Interior with us today. We invited him to share with us the Serbian experience about national co-ordination mechanisms. We fully understand that under the current circumstances, he had to cancel his participation.

The devastating wildfires in the Southern California was another recent disaster that the world witnessed.

We send our thoughts and best wishes to all those working for the remedy of these disasters in the affected regions. To reduce sufferings from disasters like this is the very reason why we are here today.

Today, we start the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd Economic and Environmental Forum, dedicated to “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting cooperation and security in the OSCE area”. This meeting is unique in the sense that it will combine an in-depth discussion of disaster risk reduction with hands-on experience of its practical application. During tomorrow's field visits we will be able to see how Switzerland applies integrated disaster risk management, including in transboundary areas.

Our discussion today will build on the results of the First Preparatory Meeting in January in Vienna. Back then, we examined the human, social and economic consequences of disasters

and concrete case studies of past disasters and co-operation in this field. We also analysed the role of environmental good governance and sustainable management of natural resources in addressing environment and security challenges that are linked to disasters. Our discussions in Montreux will shed light on a number of important topics ranging from disaster risk reduction at the local level to cross-dimensional impacts of disasters. This will also cover impacts on security and population movements, as well as coping measures for reducing disaster risks in the international, cross-border and national contexts.

From the very outset, I would like to emphasize that our Forum's deliberations should benefit from the dynamic exchange of ideas among different stakeholders. No single group or organisation can address every aspect of dealing with disasters. If we aim for making a significant progress in disaster risk reduction, we should seek and encourage an active involvement of civil society and the private sector.

Allow me a few words on the specific sessions of today's meeting:

Disaster-related challenges faced by the urban and rural settlements highlight the importance of adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction at a local level. This will be the focus of our discussion in the first session. Emergency response and recovery capacities are critical for a community's resilience to disasters. Equally important are the availability of risk assessments and prevention measures. Well-functioning early warning mechanisms are yet another important prerequisite for effective local action. These measures and instruments can be effectively brought to life only if people are aware and have reliable access to environment- and climate-related information as is envisioned by the Aarhus Convention that the OSCE has been supporting over a decade.

As we know, disasters may have far-reaching consequences for the security and safety of individuals, communities, countries and even whole regions. Such disasters tend to aggravate pre-existing problems and disproportionately affect vulnerable segments of the society. The consequences can be felt for years, with some people being compelled to move to other areas or countries. In our second session today we will take a closer look at the existing approaches to mitigating these effects.

The third session today will be dedicated to coping measures to reduce disaster risks at an international, cross-border and national level. Within our efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness, it is important to recognize that disasters do not have respect for political boundaries. Addressing disasters in such context requires effective international and cross-border co-operation as well as robust co-ordination mechanisms at national level. Preparedness for cross-border implications is vital to facilitate a speedy and effective response and to deal with cross-border movements as a consequence of disasters. This session will also introduce a self-assessment tool developed by the OSCE to increase participating States' preparedness for cross-border implications of such crises.

Distinguished participants, let me now touch upon the role of the OSCE in disaster risk reduction:

The OSCE provides a platform for dialogue and for the exchange of best practices and information on important issues that have implications for security and stability. Disaster risk reduction is one of them. The OSCE is therefore well placed to contribute to international co-operation and global discussions in this field, including those within the framework of the

2014 Climate Change Summit, post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

My Office and the OSCE field operations already support participating States in their efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction at different levels and to promote transboundary co-operation through the development and implementation of concrete projects. The Environment and Security Initiative - ENVSEC-, provides an effective framework for co-ordination and implementation of on-going and future OSCE projects in this field.

The wildfire management project in South Caucasus is a good example of how OSCE can contribute to institutional capacity building, policy formulation, and inter-agency co-ordination for management of a disaster- in this case fires. We hope that our deliberations this year will pave the way for replicating this project in other regions and further deepening OSCE's engagement in this field. Another example is the climate change adaptation project including flood management in Moldova and Ukraine.

In addition, several new projects have been launched or are about to be started in partnership with other ENVSEC partners. Let me mention just a few examples.

This month, the OSCE is launching an ENVSEC-project to strengthen the capacities and roles of communities in disaster risk reduction through the Aarhus Centres. Under the leadership of the OSCE, the project will be implemented in selected countries of South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia.

One more project planned within ENVSEC will aim to increase the potential for ecosystem restoration to mitigate floods in two transboundary river basins in Eastern Europe. The OSCE in partnership with UNECE and UNEP will support a combination of activities that aim for capacity building and concrete implementation.

The OSCE Field Operations are also active in disaster management field through several initiatives and projects. In an effort to mainstream disaster risk reduction to the work of our field operations, my Office has been collaborating with the Swiss Chairmanship to organize Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) trainings targeting our field colleagues. Last week, the training for South Caucasus region was successfully conducted in Tbilisi. This will be followed by trainings for Central Asia and South Eastern Europe in fall.

I would like to thank my colleagues in field operations for their efforts and to strongly encourage them to actively participate and contribute to our Forum's discussions.

Once again, welcome to all of you here. I am looking forward to fruitful discussions.

Thank you for your attention.

ANNEX III: KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Keynote speech by Dr. Frederick S. Tipson, Special Advisor, PeaceTech Initiative, US Institute of Peace

I thank the organizers for affording me this time in this important O.S.C.E. forum.
I've tried to frame these views with care, in meter and in rhyme, and hope that this won't violate decorum.

Though I am an advisor at the Institute of Peace, the views that I express are just my own.
I only hope that as the risks from habitats increase, the views expressed will not be mine alone.

**

The future of the planet has been coming into view, and various scenarios are forming.
Trends are now in motion we no longer can undo from population growth and global warming.

In just a generation, we will add two billion persons, and warm up by another two degrees.
And as these trends continue, and the situation worsens, more and more of us will feel the squeeze.

Our habitat increasingly presents us with the clues that humans are at ever greater risk;
And every week some expert body warns us on the News, or stark reports on Web or compact disc.

The I.P.C.C. helps distill the evidence from science, its last Report especially emphatic;
Despite its cautious tone and its empirical reliance, the human implications are dramatic.
The gist is that new stresses will bring larger-scale eruptions, disasters will increase in scale and scope.

Causing social strains and more political disruptions, and challenging all governments to cope.

And yet, the general public seems disturbingly detached, and governments contribute to the drift;

Until these risks and peoples' sense of urgency are matched, priorities will not begin to shift.
Societies will try to be resilient, stern and stoic, emphasizing basic self-reliance.

And when resilience falters, people often are heroic, responding to disasters with defiance.

The U.N. and the World Bank press Disaster Risk Reduction, and plan a conference next year in Japan;

And U.N. OCHA tries to lead relief and reconstruction, as more disasters overwhelm their plan.

Yet, while we try to focus on resilience and relief, and batten down the hatches of Manhattan,
The surging seas will likely bring more coastal zones to grief, where there may not be hatches left to batten.

The scale of new assaults will breach both stoic and heroic, and overwhelm this normal kind of focus;

We're entering an era that we might call "ecozoic", when many people have to shift their locus.

This era will transform how our security is felt, as people are compelled to face the facts. For, as we come to recognize the hand that we have dealt, our fate will hinge on how each state reacts.

It's time that we acknowledge what the data represents, and where the dangers are most existential.

It's time that we think harder of unthinkable events, in order to reduce their worst potential.

I do not make this argument to call for mitigation; I don't think things will change soon just by pleading.

The Population/Climate train already left the station; our chance to stop more train wrecks is receding.

Cold War Precedent?

These days we are distracted by the Russian intervention, dressed up in a strange Eurasian rubric;

A product of nostalgia for that Stalinist pretension: Soyuz Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik.

Yet, nothing that this current dangerous crisis represents, short of major nuclear exchange, Can match the size and scale of coming natural events, whose impacts will uproot and rearrange.

I came of age, like many here, with Cold War expectations, we lived with many narratives of gloom;

Superpower conflicts through mistakes or escalations were captured in scenarios of doom.

No one then suggested that such guesswork was too tough: or too far-fetched, too dire or depressing;

A one-in-twenty likelihood was likelihood enough to prompt elaborate planning and assessing.

More recently, Dick Cheney even further stretched that math; he said that to protect our nation's treasures,

Odds of even one per cent should justify our wrath, and vindicate "extraordinary measures".

Does anybody really think the chances are that low, of super-storms, pandemics, massive quakes?

Should we not anticipate the ways that things could go, and gauge not just percentage risks but stakes?

In fact, the point of working on scenarios like these, is not to scare us into indecision,

But rather by converging our ideas and expertise, they help us to steer clear of a collision.

Nearly forty years ago, and as the Cold War raged, and nuclear deployments were intense, Up north in Helsinki a large conference was staged, with governments from both sides of the fence.

Divisions seemed unbridgeable, alliances were fixed, and public expectations then were low;

And yes, Helsinki's overall accomplishments were mixed, and many people said "I told you so!"

Critics thought the documents were diplomatic caskets that froze forever World War II aggression.

The final statements organized as principles in baskets, which only seemed to overlook oppression.

But over time the value of Helsinki's Final Act, crystallized within a declaration, Was how it represented a pan-European pact, a kind of manifesto in gestation.

Rather than a typical rhetorical endeavor, a meaningless political exchange, Basket Three became a kind of democratic lever, a rally point for movements bent on change. A source of solidarity and grass-roots innovation, for human rights and other points like those.

A form of "higher power" that transcended every nation, and helped to bring the Cold War to a close.

A New Helsinki?

So, as the O.S.C.E. now approaches middle age, forty years beyond that Final Act; Maybe it is time for it to turn another page, and contemplate another type of pact. As we confront the prospect of huge natural assaults, and challenges from heat, disease and weather, We can't afford our pattern of decisions by defaults; we need some tools to tie our fates together.

Europe should again prepare for existential pressures, and find the terms for future solidarity. It ought to set its sights upon these ecozoic stressors, assessing risks and remedies with clarity.

By framing local challenges as European choices, citizens may see the larger trend; Making hard decisions with the weight of wider voices sometimes makes them simpler to defend.

Basket One of course would be commitments to **resilience**, priorities related to endurance. Unlike rocket science this does not require brilliance, the elements are known with some assurance.

Infrastructure hardening and popular awareness of plans for shelters and evacuations. And public health facilities that operate with fairness, when crises overwhelm our preparations.

Basket Two would emphasize commitments to **relief**, reaffirming ethics of assistance. Principles providing that when people come to grief, they still deserve a dignified existence. That implies increasing our capacity for aid, but also stronger standards for its use. Relief should not perpetuate bad choices people made; emergency should not be an excuse.

Basket Three will prove to be an even greater lift, the one that frames the needs for relocation.

This subject could provoke a very deep, divisive rift, involving fears of government dictation. So what we must ensure is that through data and debate, decisions will be based on frank discussions;

Failure to find fairness when large numbers relocate, could foster very deadly repercussions.

I realize this proposal may seem far-fetched and naive, that governments and publics are not ready.

Perhaps ten years will have to pass before we all believe, that change could be more radical than steady.

But certainly within ten years, before it is too late, and if, by then, this entity survives, We'd have a manifesto that affirms our common fate, for when that wider urgency arrives.

Containing Mother Nature?

Perhaps we also need to find some guiding metaphor, some slogan that will motivate decisions.

A molder of morale as these assaults strike more and more, to transcend our political divisions.

Americans would say we fought the Cold War by containment, building on the ideas of George Kennan.

That was what, we say, our anti-Soviet campaign meant, to bottle up the threat from Marx and Lenin.

Should that be our mantra now: "Containing Planet Earth", by treating "Mother Nature" as the foe?

Should we see our habitat as hostile from our birth, and blame the planet for each fatal blow?

No, I don't think treating Mother Nature as the villain gets us to the changes that we need, There are no simple fixes, no quick shot of penicillin, and metaphors like that will not succeed.

Nature is indifferent to humanity's survival, we dare not treat our planet as the devil.

Assaults do not negotiate the terms of their arrival; the oceans won't dial down their rising level.

And Mother Earth will not address the danger of division among a human family in stress. This ecozoic era calls for leadership and vision, and very human measures of success.

For I predict that sooner than some analysts suppose, these fateful facts will dawn upon the masses.

The era of avoidance will come sharply to a close before another passive decade passes.

And then, I fear, the danger is that we won't be prepared, to hold the bonds of decency together.

Peaceful people can revise their values when they're scared—and decency can change, just like the weather.

Indeed, what history shows is that we humans can be manic; we're subject to wide swings from peace to war.

Avoidance and complacency can also turn to panic, as humans have done many times before. People won't be patient, once they fear for their survival, for ineffective words or vague designs.

This August marks a century since World War I's arrival, and that should send a shiver down our spines.

And so, rather than build a case for Mother Earth's arraignment, we should focus brainpower and passion,
In fashioning the frameworks for humanity's "**sustainment**": security through wisdom and compassion.
The prior generation somehow managed to foreclose the nuclear exchange that nearly stung us;
To undergo the massive changes nature will impose, the forces to contain are those among us.

Crying Wolf?

Am I just Chicken Little, who proclaimed "The Sky is Falling," and organized a march to tell the King?
(An acorn struck her head and Chicken Little started bawling, before she checked the science of the thing.)
Or maybe I sound like the Boy Who Cried "Wolf" immaturely, before the Wolf was really at the door,
And thereby lost his audience, by warning prematurely, and lost the sheep that he was liable for.

Well, Chicken Little's theory was unfounded and unvetted, her principal hypothesis was dumb;
And crying Wolf too soon, while both short-sighted and regretted, simply came before its time had come.

No, I prefer the metaphor of Boston's Paul Revere, a hero of American tradition.
Paul Revere was famous as a horse-back volunteer, to warn about a British expedition.
Paul's battlefield scenarios were limited to two: one by land, the other one by sea.
The British troops were coming, that prediction was quite true; the question was just which route it would be.

We can't be sure from place to place just which assaults will strike; both land and sea can mount severe attacks;
We can't be sure what local people's actions will be like, or how the wider human race reacts.
But as with Boston's Minutemen, the danger signs are clear, the answer to the question can't be neither.
The risks we see from land and sea will not just disappear, real lives depend on readiness for either.

**Presentation by Mr. Axel Rottländer, Chief Executive Officer,
German Committee for Disaster reduction (DKKV); Chair of the Working Group on
Climate Change Adaption and Disaster Risk Reduction, European Forum for Disaster
Risk Reduction (EFDRR)**

Resilience has become a buzzword and many concepts concerning Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) are referring to resilience. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) refers to the concept of resilience by stating its aim: “Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters”, and the framework describes in priority three a number of activities. Quite a number of definitions for resilience are existing and they highlighting different aspects. For example, UNISDR defines resilience as resistance to disasters, ability to recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely manner, preservation and restoration of basic structures. For others resilience to natural hazards consists of three pillars: resistance, recovery and adaptive capacity. Other definitions highlight the ability to learn from disasters as one of the main aspects of resilience. As a result, the term resilience is used in many different ways and it is often not clear what resilience actually means.

Resilience is obviously the result of different factors, there is an economic, political and social dimension of the term resilience, and it describes a status rather than a process. Livelihood for example of an important factor when increasing resilience and wellbeing is another one. In addition, social protection and good governance do play an important role. Hence, these factors need to be taken into consideration when communities and states want to become more resilient.

Nevertheless, these different factors of resilience also require concerted action of different levels and actors. Hence, increased resilience is a result of comprehensive efforts, which need to be deeply rooted at all levels. Efforts for increased resilience have to come from a society itself and it seems difficult to “make” a society resilient. Resilience is a result of factors that deeply rely on culture and society. Individuals, communities and states have to develop their own specific strategy to influence the factors for resilience.

Communities with economic stability, social services, social protection and good governance will be resilient. These communities will also be in a position to apply all the tools resulting from the Disaster Management such as prevention and preparedness as well as emergency response and reconstruction, which makes them even more resilient.

These factors are also very much connected to the concept of sustainable development and this is in line what UNISDR proposed as elements for the new Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). “The expected outcome of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction should not be described only in terms of reduced loss but rather in positive and aspirational terms such as secure, healthy, wealthy and resilient nations and communities.” The new HFA will strengthen the efforts on the local, national and international level to foster resilience by making a link to the SDGs.

Due to climate change, extreme weather events are likely to appear more often with an increased intensity. This means that our capacity to learn natural disasters has to go beyond the reference to the past but we have to anticipate the impact of future disasters. Currently predictions are still uncertain as the second report of the IPCC outlines. Therefore, climate change adds another risk that need to be considered when working on the resilience factors and disaster risk reduction.

Resilience cannot be seen as a task for a community or a state only. Disasters do not stop at borders, and comprehensive efforts are required to extend and improve coordination and cooperation of the international community for increased resilience. The existing HFA and new HFW will provide tools, methods and guidance on how international cooperation and coordination for increased resilience can be achieved.

ANNEX IV: CLOSING REMARKS

22st ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

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

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING

Montreux, 19 - 21 May 2014

**Closing Statement by Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden,
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Dear Ambassadors,
Dear Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In concluding the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, please allow me to express my gratitude for the constructive discussions, the comprehensive presentations, the competent moderations as well as the ideas put forward today.

The keynote speeches by Dr. Tipson and Mr. Rottländer have pointed to the various aspects of natural disasters and their implications for security. Dr. Tipson warned that natural disasters are likely to become the biggest threat to security and co-operation in our era. He called for a renewed commitment of the OSCE towards addressing this new set of threats. Mr Rottlaender reiterated one of the key messages of the first preparatory meeting: that increasing resilience to natural disasters requires concerted action of different levels and stakeholders. He further emphasized the relevance of the tools provided by the existing Hyogo Framework for Action and the new post-2015 framework in advancing this process.

The focus of this Second Preparatory Meeting is very relevant not only to the policy and decision-makers but also to ordinary people in all 57 participating States. In the coming years, one of the greatest challenges will be to adapt societies to a changing environment. Only then can they successfully cope with the effects of climate change, including growing climate-related disaster risks. In our first session we have examined different ways for reducing these risks at local level. As an example, we have learned how an Aarhus Centre in Tajikistan has been providing effective tools to this end.

The second session was dedicated to a discussion of cross-dimensional impacts of disasters, including in the context of population movements. In this regard, presentations by UNHCR, the Norwegian Refugee Council and by OSCE’s Conflict Prevention Centre gave a good opportunity to develop a more nuanced understanding of this topic.

In the third session, we addressed disaster risk reduction from another perspective, looking at reduction of risks in international, cross-border and national contexts. The speakers highlighted the need for robust co-operative arrangements at different levels, including at the cross-border level. We also had a chance to learn of a self-assessment tool developed by the OSCE applicable also to increase states' preparedness for cross-border implications of disasters.

Our today's discussions have resulted in a number of recommendations from the experts and the participants about the possible areas where the OSCE could provide its support. Mr Kemp provided a concise summary of these recommendations and gave us food-for-thought for our preparations of the Concluding Meeting in Prague.

I wish to highlight two areas of our work that were once again emphasized as being highly relevant: first, to further promote capacity development on disaster risk reduction at all levels in close collaboration with national and local authorities. And second, to continue fostering dialogue and co-operation among the participating States in this area. This should include enhanced co-operation among different national agencies as well as among civil society and the private sector.

We will closely review the recommendations that are generated today and assess possible follow-up activities. My Office will continue to build on the experience acquired by the OSCE and our ENVSEC partners to support disaster risk reduction efforts. This will include further advancement of our activities in the areas of wildfire management, flood risk reduction and climate change risk assessment and adaptation. My Office will also support the implementation of last year's MC Decision on the protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters, a topic related to this year's Economic and Environmental Forum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to say a few words about the Concluding Meeting in Prague in September. One of the essential elements of a concluding meeting is a review of the OSCE commitments related to the topic of the Forum of that year. We are looking forward to the results of this year's review to be prepared by the United Nations Development Programme.

What is very important is that the Concluding Meeting will consolidate the outcomes of the Forum discussions throughout the year. It will help crystalize conclusions and recommendations for OSCE action in the area of disaster risk reduction, also taking into account a possible Ministerial Council decision at the end of the year.

Reverting to today's meeting and concluding my speech, I wish to note that a Consolidated Summary including the key suggestions and recommendations made by participants during today's deliberations, will be compiled by my Office and made available to all of you within the next weeks.


Thank you.

Closing Statement by Dr. Olivier Overney, Head Section Flood Protection, Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland

The 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
"Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting
cooperation and security in the OSCE area"
SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING
Montreux, 19 - 21 May 2014
Closing Session

EEF_DEL/23/14
21 May 2014

ENGLISH only

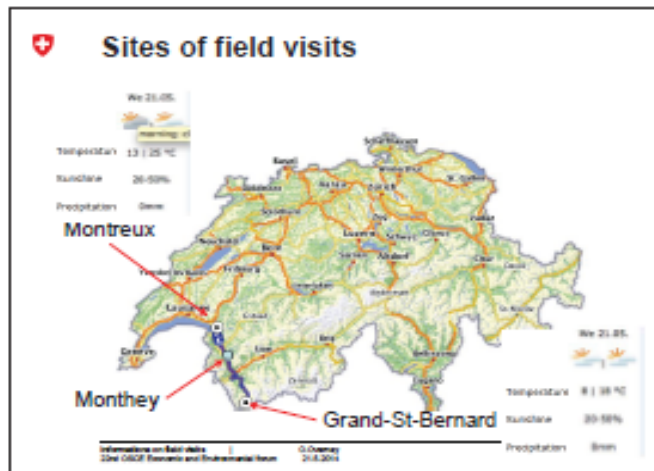
 **Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft**
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

Salva Confederaziun

**Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications (DEL/23)**
Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)
Helmuth Preussner (London)

Informations on the field visits in the Canton of Valais

Dr. Olivier Overney, Head of Flood Protection Section
22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum





Outfits

For both field visits

- Good shoes for gravel path
- Warm clothes (wind)
- Sun protection

• Field visit 2 Monthey :

For visiting the chemical sites, visitors must have arms and legs covered and wear closed shoes



Aims of the visits

- Insights for OSCE delegations on integrated disaster risk management in a mountainous area and in an alpine valley
- Highlight the importance of collaboration between stakeholders from all institutions at every level
 - Prevention / land planning, response
 - State, insurances and industries
 - Local, regional and national
 - Pivotal role of the Federal Office for the Environment for DRR in Switzerland



Thank you for your attention!

Have a nice field visit !

Information on this slide is based on the work of the IAEA and the IAEA/WHO Joint Factbook on Nuclear Safety and Security. © IAEA, 2014.

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ANNEX V: ANNOTATED AGENDA



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe The Secretariat

Vienna, 20 May 2014

The 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

**“Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting
cooperation and security in the OSCE area”**

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING

Montreux, 19 - 21 May 2014
Fairmont Le Montreux Palace, Avenue Claude Nobs 2, 1820 Montreux, Switzerland
Le Petit Palais/Conference Centre

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Monday, 19 May 2014

19.00 – 20.30 **Welcome cocktail hosted by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**, Fairmont Le Montreux Palace, Avenue Claude Nobs 2, 1820 Montreux

Tuesday, 20 May 2014

09.00 – 10.30 **Opening Session** (*open to Press*)

Selected topics:

- Nexus between Natural Disasters and Security
- Making States Resilient to Disaster and Climate Risks

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

Rapporteur: Ms. Riccarda Caprez, Scientific Advisor, Directorate of Political Affairs, Sectoral Foreign Policies Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Welcoming remarks:

- **State Secretary Yves Rossier**, Head of the Directorate of Political Affairs, Switzerland
- **Ambassador Manuel Bessler**, Delegate for Humanitarian Aid and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA)
- **Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Keynote speakers:

- **Dr. Frederick S. Tipson**, Special Advisor, PeaceTech Initiative, US Institute of Peace
- **Mr. Axel Rottländer**, Chief Executive Officer, German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV); Chair of the Working Group on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)

Statements by Delegations / Discussion

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 **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 and disaster risk management and the implementation of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)
- Past examples of integrated flood risk management: case studies, lessons learned and best practices

Moderator: Prof. Martin Beniston, Director, Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE), Chair for Climate Research, University of Geneva

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Hickey, Environmental Officer, Economic and Environmental Department, OSCE Office in Tajikistan

Speakers:

- **Dr. Roza Aknazarova**, Chairperson of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
- **Mr. Neil McFarlane**, Chief Regional Programmes and DRR Coordination, Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Point, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
- **Mr. Dmitriy Prudtskikh**, Manager of the Aarhus Centre in Khujand, Tajikistan
- **Ms. Yulia Minaeva**, Senior Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Bishkek

Discussion

12.30 – 14.00 **Lunch Break. Light Lunch offered by the 2014 OSCE Swiss Chairmanship.**

14.00 – 15.30 **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

Moderator: Dr. Khalid Koser, Deputy Director and Academic Dean, Crisis and Conflict Management Programme, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP); Chair of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Migration

Rapporteur: Mr. Edward Safaryan, ENVSEC National Project Officer, OSCE Office in Yerevan

Speakers:

- **Mr. Claus Gerhard Neukirch**, Deputy Director for Operations Service, Conflict Prevention Center, OSCE Secretariat
- **Ms. Marine Franck**, Climate Change and Nansen Initiative Officer, Division of International Protection, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- **Ms. Nina M. Birkeland**, Head of the Monitoring and Advocacy Department, Norwegian Refugee Council

Discussion

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30 **Session III – Coping measures to reduce disaster risks at an international, cross-border and national level**

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

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

Rapporteur: Mr. Christoph Opfermann, Senior Project Officer, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Speakers:

- **Ambassador Toni Frisch**, Chair of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG); Chair of the Military and Civil Defense Assets Consultative Group; Special Advisor HFA2
- **Mr. Dennis Thomas Cosgrove**, Head of the OSCE Borders and Security Management Unit, Transnational Threats Department
- **Ms. Wendy Cue**, Chief of Environmental Emergencies Section, UNEP/OCHA

Discussion

17.30 – 18.30 **Concluding Discussion / Closing Statements**

- Wrap-up
- Outlook to the Concluding Meeting of the 22nd Economic and Environmental Forum, Prague, 10-12 September 2014
- Organizational remarks concerning field visits on 21 May 2014

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

Rapporteur: Mr. Conan Doyle, Political Adviser, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE

Speakers:

- **Dr. Walter Kemp**, Director for Europe and Central Asia, International Peace Institute
- **Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Statements by Delegations

- **Dr. Olivier Overney**, Head Section Flood Protection, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland (FOEN)

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

Wednesday, 21 May 2014

**Disaster Risk Management in a mountain area: Field visits in the Canton of Valais.
8:00 – 16:30**

Excursion 1: Cross-border cooperation in applied disaster risk management along the transnational route of the Grand-Saint-Bernard (Italy-Switzerland)

A) Aim of the Visit

- Participants are familiar with integrated disaster risk management applied in a mountain area and its practical implementation along a transit route
- Participants gained an insight into transnational cooperation dealing with natural hazards
- Participants are aware that dealing with natural hazards includes a multi-stakeholder approach (different administrative levels, different actors from state entities to civil society)

B) Topics to be addressed

- Integrated disaster risk management approach including a mix of measures (e.g. preventive and preparedness measures)
- Multi-hazard approach (natural and technical hazards)
- Italian-Swiss cooperation

C) Places to be visited

- Several locations along the transit road. The route of the Grand-Saint-Bernard is a significant transit route linking Italy and Switzerland in a rough mountain area. The route 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 installations (e.g. settlements).

Excursion 1 will provide insights into the applied integrated DRM approach, including protection measures, early warning systems, traffic control, tunnel safety and the Italian-Swiss cooperation.

Excursion 2: Management of natural and technical risks in the municipality of Monthey

A) Aim of the visit

- Participants are familiar with integrated disaster risk management applied in the plain of River Rhone and its practical implementation in a municipality with a multi-hazard situation
- Participants are aware that dealing with natural hazards includes a multi-stakeholder approach (different administrative levels, different actors from state entities to civil society)

B) Topics to be addressed

- Integrated disaster risk management approach including a mix of measures (e.g. preventive and preparedness measures)
- Land-use planning as important protection measure
- Importance of sound fundamentals for disaster risk management (hazard and risk assessments, monitoring, participation)
- Multi-hazard approach (natural and technical hazards, especially industrial accidents)

Places to be visited

- Different locations in the municipality of Monthey. The municipality of Monthey, situated in the "plain of River Rhone", is not only endangered by natural hazards such as floods from the River Rhone/its tributaries and earthquakes, but also by possible accidents stemming from nearby chemical industry.

Excursion 2 will provide insights into the applied integrated DRM approach, including the "3rd Rhone River correctional training works" (in terms of flood protection, water and terrestrial habitats, land use planning), monitoring and warning systems as well as earthquake retrofitting measures. The excursion will also show the emergency plans and precautionary measures taken in case of a major chemical accident.

Departure for both field visits: at 08:00 a.m. (sharp)

⇒ **Meeting point:** entrance of the **Hotel Fairmont Montreux Palace** in Montreux.
Please note that late arrivals will unfortunately not be considered due to the tight schedule.

⇒ **The return transfer** will be provided either to **Geneva Airport** or to **Montreux** after the Field Visit on 21st May (only). The time of arrivals is foreseen around 16:30 in Montreux (Hotel Fairmont Montreux Palace) or approx. **at 18:00 at Geneva Airport.**

ANNEX VI: FIELD VISIT ASSESSMENT



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Evaluation

Field visits Valais, 21.05.2014

On the occasion of the 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd OSCE Economic and environmental Forum

Number of received evaluation sheets:

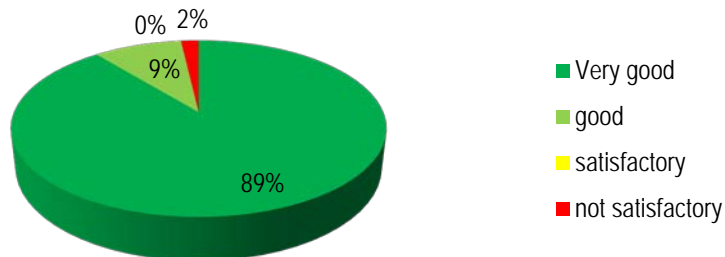
55

Question 1	😊		😐	☹️
How useful is the combination of a conference segment and a field visit segment?	49	5	0	1
Question 2	😊		😐	☹️
Did the field visits contribute to good practice sharing between participating States/ experts?	37	15	1	1
Question 3	😊		😐	☹️
Are field visits recommendable for future OSCE Chairmanships?	46	8	1	0

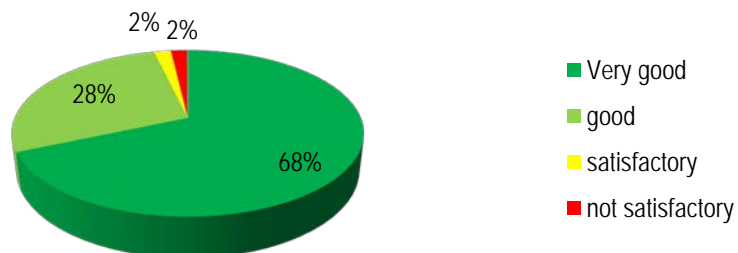
What did you like most at the field visits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Professionalism Everything Concrete examples Good organization Explanation and tour Practical side of DRR Trip itself was useful St. Bernhard To see things in action Practical and technical information The visit at the school (Monthey) Well-presented information Getting a concrete sense of DRM The Swiss Team! Tunnel facilities
Any additional comments you want to share?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More advice to the teams from the rest how to engage in international system

- A Field visit may be only appropriate for certain topics
- Rather than theory may be case studies, practice will be more useful
- It was a perfect activity
- fantastic scenery and Swiss hospitality
- one stop less would have been better
- skip or separate the statements during the forum, it kills any discussion
- Well organized conference, thank you!
- Would be interesting to see the cooperation in a real situation- assist to an international/ cross border exercise
- Field visit took up too much time in the context of a 2 day forum
- Thank you

How useful is the combination of a conference and a field visit segment?



Did the field visits contribute to good practice sharing between participating States/ experts?



Are field visits recommendable for future OSCE Chairmanships?

