

Second day of the Twenty-First Meeting
MC(21) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

DECISION No. 6/14
ENHANCING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments and principles related to the environment, disasters and security contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1992 Helsinki Document, the 1999 Istanbul Summit Declaration, the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted at the Maastricht Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2003, the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security adopted at the Madrid Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2007, Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/13 on improving the environmental footprint of energy-related activities in the OSCE region, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/13 on protection of energy networks from natural and man-made disasters,

Emphasizing the often cross-boundary nature of environmental challenges, including disasters,

Acknowledging that environmental degradation, including disasters, could be a potential additional contributor to conflict and that conflicts, poor governance, mismanagement and degradation of natural resources as well as migratory pressures can affect the vulnerability of society to disasters,

Emphasizing the importance of co-operation among participating States in disaster risk management, in order to diminish tensions as part of a broader effort to prevent conflict, and where appropriate, to build mutual confidence and promote good neighbourly relations,

Recognizing that natural hazards may become disasters because of, among other factors, the vulnerability of societies, and acknowledging that the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and natural resources such as soil, water and forests are essential for the prevention of disasters,

Noting the exacerbating effect climate change may have on the frequency and magnitude of disasters, and therefore the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation to effectively reducing disaster risk,

Acknowledging that each participating State has the primary responsibility for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risks,

Noting the efforts undertaken by regional and international organizations, *inter alia* the United Nations system, in the area of disaster risk reduction, and recognizing that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations has a complementary role to play within its mandate in addressing this challenge in its specific region while avoiding duplication, focusing on the OSCE's added value, namely its broad membership and its multidimensional concept of common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security,

Reaffirming the importance of co-operation with other regional and international organizations in addressing environmental challenges that have an impact on security, including disasters,

Noting the relevant UNECE multilateral environmental agreements to the disaster risk reduction efforts of participating States,

Noting the significance of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and encouraging the participating States to actively engage in the preparations for the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDDR) aiming at adopting the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in 2015,

Noting the importance of the ongoing global negotiations on climate change in the context of the UNFCCC, aiming at adopting a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties from 2020, and of the discussions on the post-2015 Development Agenda,

Taking note of the relevant summary conclusions, recommendations and outcomes of the Twenty-Second OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Responding to environmental challenges with a view to promoting co-operation and security in the OSCE area”,

1. Encourages the participating States, which have not done so, in an effort to foster security and resilience, to strive to adopt an integrated approach to disaster risk management including measures for prediction, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery at all levels;
2. Encourages the participating States to develop, co-ordinate and implement, where appropriate, disaster risk reduction measures with climate change adaptation and mitigation plans at all appropriate levels;
3. Encourages the participating States to promote technological development, innovation, and the transfer of technology and know-how among themselves and with all relevant stakeholders, in support of disaster risk reduction;
4. Encourages the participating States to promote good governance and transparency in the field of disaster risk reduction, to incorporate local knowledge and information into national plans, taking into consideration the capabilities of both men and women and the

specific vulnerabilities of children, women, the elderly, the poor, and the disabled, and to actively engage all relevant stakeholders, including where appropriate local authorities, civil society, the private sector, the media and academia in all phases of disaster risk reduction;

5. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), and where possible in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, within their available resources and mandates, to support the participating States upon their request in strengthening disaster risk reduction and management at all levels, and to facilitate co-operation, where appropriate, within and across borders, including by making best use of the OSCE's partnership within the ENVSEC Initiative;

6. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the OCEEA, within their available resources and mandates, to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and experience, building upon the OSCE's good practices in disaster risk reduction gained particularly in the field of water management, flood risk management, and fire management;

7. Tasks the OCEEA, in co-operation with the OSCE field operations, within their available resources and mandates, to assist the participating States, upon their request, in implementing where appropriate increased preparedness for cross-border implications of disasters, with a view to building trust and confidence among the OSCE participating States;

8. Tasks the OCEEA and the OSCE field operations, within their available resources and mandates, to support the participating States, upon their request, in raising disaster risk awareness at the local level, and to promote community-based and gender/age/disability-sensitive disaster risk reduction, including, where appropriate, through Aarhus Centres, civil society organizations and other multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives;

9. Encourages the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.