



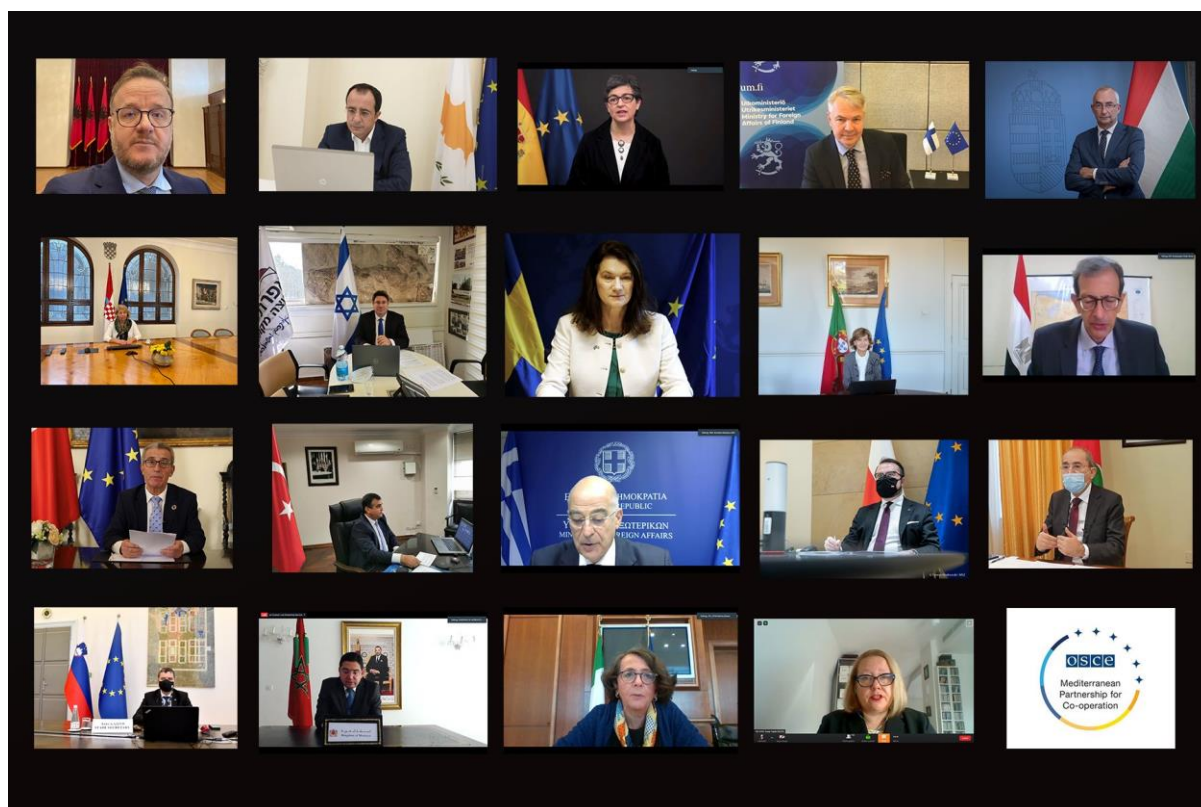
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

## 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference

### Promoting Security in the OSCE Mediterranean Region through Sustainable Development and Economic Growth

3 November 2020

Vienna, Austria, and Via Zoom



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## 1. Annotated agenda

### Introduction

At the 2019 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Tirana, Ministers and other high-level representatives of the OSCE Participating States and the Partners for Co-operation reviewed the Mediterranean Partnership on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. They concurred that celebrations provided a welcome opportunity to shape the future of the Partnership rather than simply commemorating past achievements. In the spirit of growing cooperation and genuine partnership, the 2019 OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava renamed the Mediterranean Contact Group into OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group.

Against this backdrop, Sweden as the Chair of the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group promoted political dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation on a range of crucial topics with a view to intensifying the exchange of best practices and identifying areas for long-term co-operation. Topics included: information technology and the fight against human trafficking; women, peace, and security; youth engagement and participation to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

To conclude the 2020 program, the OSCE Mediterranean Conference will address the topic of “Promoting Security in the OSCE Mediterranean Region through Sustainable Development and Economic Growth”. The event shall start with a high-level political segment discussing how to promote Security through Sustainable Development and Economic Growth at the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thematic sessions shall then tackle specific aspects, including the economic participation of women and promoting environmental co-operation.

The Conference will provide a platform to discuss ways on how to translate the current level of engagement with the Mediterranean Partners into enhanced action-oriented dialogue so as to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the Partnership’s achievements, as called for by the Milan Declaration.

**Tuesday, 3 November 2020**

09.00 – 09.25 Registration on Zoom

09.25 – 09.30 Technical introduction and welcome

Master of Ceremony: Ambassador Luca Fratini, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General

**09.30–10.00 Opening remarks**

Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Ulrika Funered, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE

Speakers:

1. H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden
2. H.E. Mr. Agron Tare, Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania
3. Ms. Tuula Yrjölä, Officer-in-Charge/Secretary-General, OSCE Secretariat

**10.00 –12.15 Political segment | Comprehensive Response to current Security Challenges: Promoting Security through Sustainable Development and Economic Growth during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*The CSCE/OSCE provided one of the earliest multilateral platforms for addressing the link between European and Mediterranean security. It has since offered a seminal experience on how to pursue and operationalize the notion of comprehensive security among a plurality of states across the OSCE three dimensions. The OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group is a valuable platform for strengthening our regional dialogue and cooperation on security. This year, we are facing joint challenges of a form and magnitude that few of us have experienced before. Therefore, this year's conference focuses on how we, with combined efforts, can promote our comprehensive security and cooperation in times of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a matter of prime concern to us all:*

*How to promote Security through Sustainable Development and Economic Growth at the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic?*

Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, followed by H.E. Ms. Ulrika Funered, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE

Speakers:

Please see attached annex on page 8.

To be followed by interventions by Delegations of Partners for Co-operation, participating States, international organizations and institutions.

Rapporteur for Opening Remarks and Political Segment: Mr. Philippe Tremblay, Head of the External Co-operation Section, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE Secretariat

#### **14.00–15.30 Session I: Women’s Economic Empowerment**

*Advancing the role of women in society and the economy is a key driver for change at global level. Investing in women’s economic empowerment sets a direct path towards poverty eradication as well as inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Developing and deploying one-half of the world’s available talent has a huge bearing on the growth, competitiveness and future-readiness of economies and businesses worldwide, notwithstanding the impact on individuals, in terms of women and girls’ empowerment.*

*What should be the priorities going forward? What initiatives could be launched or stepped up to address specific issues and what are the major obstacles for women entering the formal economy? Do these obstacles make women more vulnerable to economic shocks such as a pandemic? What is needed to accelerate positive change?*

Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Leena Al-Hadid, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the OSCE

Speakers:

1. Dr. Lenita Freidenvall, Director and Deputy Head of the Division for Gender Equality, Ministry of Employment, Sweden
2. Mr. Roger Albinyana, Director of Mediterranean Regional Policies and Human Development, European Institute of the Mediterranean, Barcelona
3. Ms. Hana Rado, Chief Operating Officer of McCann Tel Aviv, co-founder and Chairperson of AloTok, and President of Supersonas Israel
4. Ms. Natalia Strigunova, Deputy Director, Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation and Special Projects, Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation

Rapporteur: Ms. Teresa Albano, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Governance Unit, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities; and Ms. Sylvi Bratten, Adviser on Gender Issues, Gender Section, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE Secretariat

15.30–16.00 Break

### **16.00–17.30 Session II: Promoting Environmental Co-operation**

*The increasing frequency and intensity of disasters and extreme weather events, and the poor governance, mismanagement and degradation of natural resources pose threats to the environment and security in the OSCE region and the Mediterranean. The accelerated rate of environmental change also affects the economies and puts livelihoods at risk. Strengthening co-operation and partnerships to address environmental challenges magnified by climate change, can facilitate the achievement of sustainable development in all its aspects, advance green growth and foster common security. Maximizing the full potential of women as agents of change and engaging and empowering youth as important partners for the present and the future are essential in these endeavors.*

*What are the most pressing environmental and climate change challenges in the Mediterranean and what are their potential impacts on common security in the region? What are the benefits of regional and sub-regional dialogue and co-operation in the fields of environment and climate change? What are the experiences and lessons learned from existing initiatives and how can the OSCE contribute further to enhancing the exchange of best practices with a view to intensifying practical co-operation and partnerships in tackling environmental challenges and climate change in the Mediterranean?*

Chairperson: Mr. Vuk Žugić, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Speakers:

1. H.E. Mr. Yasser Sorour, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Nile Water Affairs, Egypt
2. Ms. Léna Salamé, Secretariat of the Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace, Geneva Water Hub
3. Mr. Grammenos Mastrojeni, Deputy Secretary General for Energy and Climate Action, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean
4. Dr. Malin Mobjörk, Director, Climate Change and Risk Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
5. Ambassador Hinrich Thölken, Director for International Climate and Energy Policy and Digital Transformation, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

**17.30–18.00 Concluding remarks**

Moderator: Ambassador Luca Fratini, Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General

Speakers:

1. Ambassador Petra Lärke, Head of Task Force for Sweden's CiO of the OSCE
2. Senator Pascal Allizard, OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs
3. H.E Ambassador Adam Hałaciński, Permanent Representative of Poland to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Emiliano Alessandri, Senior External Co-operation Officer, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE

## Annex 1

### **Political segment | Comprehensive Response to current Security Challenges: Promoting Security through Sustainable Development and Economic Growth during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

#### **Speakers list, Ministers and Deputy Ministers:**

H.E. Mr. Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Jordan

H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Co-operation and Moroccan Expatriates, Morocco

H.E. Mr. Ofir Akunis, Minister of Regional Co-operation of Israel

H.E. Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland

H.E. Mr. Nikos Dendias, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece

H.E. Mr. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Malta

H.E. Mrs. Arancha González Laya, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Co-operation, Spain

H.E. Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cyprus

H.E. Mr. Ehab Fawzy, Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security, Egypt

H.E. Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary

H.E. Ms. Marina Sereni, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Italy

H.E. Mr. Paweł Jabłoński, Undersecretary of State for Economic and Development Co-operation, Africa and the Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

H.E. Ms. Teresa Ribeiro, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal

H.E. Dr. Anže Logar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia

H.E. Mr. Faruk Kaymakcı, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Director for European Union Affairs, Turkey

H.E. Ms. Andreja Metelko-Zgombić, State Secretary for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia



## 2. Reports by the session rapporteurs

### 2.1 Opening remarks

*Report by Mr. Philippe Tremblay, Head of the External Co-operation Section, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE Secretariat*

#### Chairperson:

H.E. Ms. Ulrika Funered, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE

#### Speakers:

H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

H.E. Mr. Agron Tare, Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania

Ms. Tuula Yrjölä, Officer-in-Charge/Secretary-General, OSCE Secretariat

**H.E. Ms. Ann Linde**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, in her opening remarks stressed the importance of international co-operation and dialogue in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During its Chairpersonship of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group over the past year, Sweden had focused on security topics, including information technology; the fight against trafficking in human beings; women, peace and security; and youth engagement and participation to counter violent extremism and radicalization. The OSCE Mediterranean Conference was a valuable platform for enhancing regional dialogue and actively promoting security through sustainable development and economic growth.

She pointed out that the topics of the two thematic sessions – “Women’s economic empowerment” and “Promoting environmental co-operation” – were central to ensuring a sustainable, inclusive and safe recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Empowering women to increase their participation in economic life was the most promising way to contribute to sustainable development. She further stressed that the Mediterranean was one of the regions most affected by climate change. In view of the current challenges, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change were key instruments that could help to ensure a robust recovery.

In closing, she emphasized that as the incoming OSCE Chairpersonship, Sweden’s primary focus would be on the Organization’s fundamental tasks, namely on defending the European security order, upholding the comprehensive security approach, ensuring good governance, and strengthening civil society and respect for human rights.

**H.E. Mr. Agron Tare**, Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania, speaking on behalf of the Albanian 2020 OSCE Chairpersonship, thanked the Swedish Chairpersonship of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group for advancing the dialogue between the participating States and the Mediterranean region in the course of so difficult a year. He further thanked the OSCE Secretariat for supporting Sweden in organizing the Mediterranean Conference, which was a unique platform for the exchange of experiences with a view to enhancing action-oriented discussions.

He referred to the 2018 Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (MC.DOC/4/18), which had reconfirmed that security in Europe was inextricably linked to security in the Mediterranean region. The participating States had on that occasion agreed on a number of themes, ranging from terrorism to climate change, on which dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners were to be fostered.

In connection with the 45th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, celebrated in 2020, he noted how that instrument had acknowledged the link between security in the OSCE and security in the Mediterranean region. Broad cross-regional co-ordination was key to overcoming global challenges in such uncertain times. He stressed how the Albanian 2020 OSCE Chairpersonship had been promoting the role of women and young people in conflict resolution. Moreover, Albania was committed to strengthening environmental co-operation in the Mediterranean region, since the principles of the Helsinki Final Act were currently more relevant than ever. The OSCE remained an excellent platform for exchanging best practices with the Mediterranean Partners.

**Ms. Tuula Yrjölä**, Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General, OSCE Secretariat, pointed out that closer multilateral co-operation between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation was vital to addressing various challenges stemming from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. She referred to the OSCE's founding document, the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, which had recognized that security in Europe was inextricably interlinked with security in the Mediterranean area.

The discussion with the Mediterranean Partners had often revolved around the nexus between equitable development and lasting security. Significantly, the COVID-19 crisis had compelled the international community to look at the concept of sustainable development more broadly. Change in several respects was necessary to ensure a successful recovery.

She thanked the Swedish Chairpersonship of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group for devoting the two thematic sessions of the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference to women's economic empowerment and promoting environmental co-operation. The world was faced with a changing security environment, characterized by many common challenges that had to be addressed through co-operative solutions and sustainable development. As the largest regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the OSCE had a unique responsibility for strengthening regional co-operation, which benefited the entire

international community in such challenging times, and turning the current crisis into an opportunity for the Mediterranean region.

## **2.2 Political segment – Comprehensive Response to current Security Challenges: Promoting Security through Sustainable Development and Economic Growth during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Report by Mr. Philippe Tremblay, Head of the External Co-operation Section, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE Secretariat*

### **Chairperson:**

H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, followed by H.E. Ms. Ulrika Funered, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE

### **Speakers:**

H.E. Mr. Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Jordan

H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Co-operation and Moroccan Expatriates, Morocco

H.E. Mr. Ofir Akunis, Minister of Regional Co-operation of Israel

H.E. Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland

H.E. Mr. Nikos Dendias, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece

H.E. Mr. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Malta

H.E. Mrs. Arancha González Laya, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Co-operation, Spain

H.E. Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cyprus

H.E. Mr. Ehab Fawzy, Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security, Egypt

H.E. Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary

H.E. Ms. Marina Sereni, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Italy

H.E. Mr. Paweł Jabłoński, Undersecretary of State for Economic and Development Co-operation, Africa and the Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

H.E. Ms. Teresa Ribeiro, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal

H.E. Dr. Anže Logar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia

H.E. Mr. Faruk Kaymakcı, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Director for European Union Affairs, Turkey

H.E. Ms. Andreja Metelko-Zgombić, State Secretary for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia

**H.E. Mr. Ayman Safadi**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Jordan, condemned the horrific terrorist attack that had taken place in Vienna the day before. He stressed that terrorism was the common enemy of all humankind and could not be defeated on the battlefield: it had to be vanquished through culture. Terrorism had nothing to do with any specific civilization or religion. Countering the threat posed by terrorism and its ideology was a key priority. He underlined the important role of the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group in promoting joint action to achieve comprehensive security. Jordan remained committed to co-operation with the international community on tackling common challenges and enhancing security through a holistic approach.

**H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Co-operation and Moroccan Expatriates, Morocco, asserted that the “Mediterranean chapter” of the Helsinki Final Act from 1975 had not lost any of its relevance. On the contrary, the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership had become even more relevant recently given the many common challenges, including those posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Morocco was a strong partner of Europe and had a lot to learn from the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security, especially in terms of conflict prevention and resolution and building inter-State trust and confidence. He noted that the Mediterranean was a region with complex dynamics and challenges, particularly with regard to demographics, water management, climate change, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings. Morocco saw its role in the region as being that of a “provider of peace” and “builder of bridges”. In view of recent terrorist attacks, he emphasized that the fight against terrorism was a shared responsibility and did not stop at the borders of countries. Morocco would host a United Nations regional hub to deal with the problem of terrorism in northern Africa.

**H.E. Mr. Ofir Akunis**, Minister of Regional Co-operation of Israel, started by thanking the Foreign Minister of Morocco for his statement, and expressed the hope that they would have many other opportunities to sit around the same table. He condemned the terrorist attack in Vienna, stressing that such outrages had no place in the world. A promising development in terms of security was that the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and the Sudan had all recognized the State of Israel and established diplomatic relations with the latter. Further countries in the region were likely to follow suit, and such agreements would help to counter radicalism

stemming from other countries. The conclusion of the Abraham Accords had created a real opportunity to foster prosperity and economic growth in the region. He referred to the establishment of the Abraham Fund – whereby the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the United Arab Emirates and Israel had agreed to mobilize more than 3 billion US dollars to be invested in regional projects – and invited all interested countries in the region to participate. Israel was committed to working together with other Arab countries in order to secure peace and promote prosperity in the region.

**H.E. Mr. Pekka Haavisto**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, noted that the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean were closely linked when it came to responding to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. More than ever, co-operation was necessary to tackle environmental degradation and climate change, promote sustainable development and enhance security in the region. The full participation of women and young people in public life and their economic empowerment were instrumental in achieving those goals. Drawing attention to the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, he encouraged the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners to continue fulfilling their commitments on women, peace and security. The OSCE publication *Inclusion of Women and Effective Peace Processes: A Toolkit*, issued in December 2019, should be used to increase women’s participation in negotiation processes. Referring to the large youth population in the Mediterranean, he mentioned the Young Mediterranean Voices initiative, a youth-led platform for discussing current challenges. The ongoing OSCE project in Central Asia and Afghanistan entitled “Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention” was being supported by Finland. In closing, he reiterated the importance of regional and global co-operation.

**H.E. Mr. Nikos Dendias**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, noted that thanks to the Abraham Accords there had been progress towards greater peace and stability in the region. However, ongoing conflicts in Libya and Syria, the Palestinian question, the issue of Cyprus, expansionist national agendas, economic imbalances and illegal migration continued to pose serious challenges to the consolidation of lasting security in the Mediterranean region. Elaborating on the root causes of illegal migration, he stressed that conflict, lack of opportunities for development and the violation of international human rights norms all triggered illegal flows of people. Illegal migration was a security concern because it played into the hands of criminal groups engaged in the trafficking of human beings and could serve as a conduit for terrorism into Europe. It was essential to promote security in the Mediterranean region through sustainable development and economic growth, particularly in the current context dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. He concluded by stressing that future challenges had to be addressed through international co-operation and solidarity.

In his video message, **H.E. Mr. Evarist Bartolo**, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Malta, pointed out that his country had been the leading advocate of the “Mediterranean chapter” in the Helsinki Final Act. Referring to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, he noted that it had the potential to create instability in an already vulnerable region facing numerous challenges, such as an economic downturn, growing unemployment and increasing wealth inequality. Given the difficult economic context, it was vital to enhance vocational training and

support small and medium-sized enterprises as they adapted to the new circumstances. Irregular migration and trafficking in human beings were of great concern to Malta and other Mediterranean States, since the number of boats arriving, via the Central Mediterranean route, at Maltese and Italian coasts had more than doubled in 2020. Smugglers were resorting to more dangerous sea routes because of the intensified border patrols and restrictions at entry points. Such a major challenge could not be resolved by front-line countries on their own. He stressed that co-operation in the two crucial areas covered by the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference, sustainable development and economic growth, could contribute to peace and security in the region. Women and young people merited greater attention, and it was important to ensure their full participation in society. The OSCE remained a strong and open platform for discussing matters of mutual concern: Malta fully supported enhancing the Organization's co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners.

In her video message, **H.E. Mrs. Arancha González Laya**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Co-operation, Spain, stated that the Mediterranean region was a top priority of her country's foreign policy and emphasized the inextricable link between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean region as a whole. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security was relevant to tackling terrorism, organized crime, smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and irregular migration flows. Spain attached great importance to the empowerment of women as political and economic actors in society. She pointed out that Spain was an active participant in the Western Mediterranean Forum (also referred to as the "5+5 Dialogue"). The fifth Regional Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean, scheduled for 27 November 2020, would commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, whose signatories had pledged to enhance peace, stability and prosperity in the Euro-Mediterranean area. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025, developed by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Mediterranean Action Plan, similarly sought to achieve a sustainable future in the region. She recommended that efforts should continue on fostering business co-operation in the Euro-Mediterranean, strengthening the role of the private sector and ensuring customer protection.

**H.E. Mr. Nikos Christodoulides**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, stated that his country was a supporter of multilateralism and an advocate of a strong, sustainable and diversified partnership with the OSCE. Both the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and the 2018 Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (MC.DOC/4/18) had recognized that security in the OSCE area was closely linked to security in the Mediterranean region. The important work carried out within the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group complemented the activities of other regional and international organizations. Cyprus had established a trilateral co-operation mechanism with Egypt and Greece to uphold peace, stability and security in the Eastern Mediterranean. He noted that the 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference addressed some very timely issues. Achieving a "green", resilient and inclusive economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis was an urgent task. The equitable allocation of vaccines would be crucial to tackling the pandemic in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (on "ensur[ing] healthy lives and promoting well-being

for all at all ages”). In closing, he expressed the hope that the forthcoming thematic session on “Women’s economic empowerment” would contribute to an enhanced dialogue.

**H.E. Mr. Ehab Fawzy**, Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security, Egypt, observed that the OSCE played a significant role in promoting stability in the Mediterranean region. There was considerable potential for further enhancing co-operation in the region on topics ranging from border security and counter-terrorism to environmental security. The COVID-19 crisis had increased food insecurity and disrupted health care. Those and other problems, such as migration and organized crime, were likely to intensify. The global pandemic highlighted the importance of strengthening international co-operation, particularly on medical assistance and health care. Egypt had launched a national strategy, entitled “Egypt’s Vision 2030”, which complemented the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and sought, among other things, to improve the situation of women. He recommended that the OSCE should initiate co-operation with regional institutions such as the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, and the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.

**H.E. Mr. Péter Sztáray**, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary, noted that since the change of the name from CSCE to OSCE at the Budapest Summit in 1994, the organization had remained on the frontline of European security, which was closely interconnected with developments in the Mediterranean region. During the COVID-19 crisis, multilateral co-operation was important to promote sustainable development and gender equality. Recent terrorist attacks had demonstrated that co-ordinated action was essential. He reiterated that the OSCE was a key platform for dialogue aimed at strengthening co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners in areas ranging from counter-terrorism to climate change. He noted that it was crucial to find consensus on the top four positions of the OSCE who could stand firmly on top of the organization.

**H.E. Ms. Marina Sereni**, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Italy, began by noting that even before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mediterranean region had faced numerous security challenges, such as political and economic instability, illegal migration, terrorism, illicit trafficking and environmental degradation. In the current crisis, women were at greater risk, and she therefore welcomed the thematic session devoted to women’s economic empowerment in the Mediterranean region. Moreover, the second thematic session, on promoting environmental co-operation, would address the pertinent topics of climate change and sustainable development in the region. In recent years, there had been significant progress in the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership. Some highlights were the adoption of the Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean in 2018 (MC.DOC/4/18), the signature of a memorandum of understanding between the OSCE Secretariat and the Union for the Mediterranean in the same year, and the decision to rename the Contact Group to “OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group” in 2019. Italy looked forward to the Permanent Council meeting on 12 November dedicated to the Mediterranean Partnership, and called for the removal of the

“out-of-area” restrictions. She emphasized that it was time to mainstream Mediterranean-related issues across all three OSCE dimensions in order to intensify the dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners, and invited the OSCE Secretary General to report to the Permanent Council every year on those efforts.

**H.E. Mr. Paweł Jabłoński**, Undersecretary of State for Economic and Development Co-operation, Africa and the Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland, placed great emphasis on dialogue between the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners to address common challenges such as armed conflicts, terrorism, extremism, illegal migration, human rights violations and environmental degradation. Those topics would be discussed extensively during Poland’s Chairpersonship of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group in 2021. As the international community continued to face significant security challenges, which had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, Poland was in favour of sharing best practices and promoting co-operation so as to bolster national and regional efforts to tackle the global pandemic.

**H.E. Ms. Teresa Ribeiro**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal, began by noting that the Mediterranean region was not a “separate chapter” but, rather, an integral part of the OSCE. The Organization’s role as a platform for dialogue and co-operation provided an opportunity to address common challenges. Referring to the ongoing fight against COVID-19, she stressed that all measures taken to tackle the pandemic should comply with human rights, respect fundamental freedoms and protect civil, economic and social rights. The pandemic risked aggravating the negative consequences of climate change, social inequality and institutional fragility, creating further security challenges and humanitarian crises. The 2020 OSCE Mediterranean Conference offered a further opportunity to identify areas for long-term co-operation that could contribute to sustainable development and more equal societies. Portugal would soon take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first semester of 2021, during which its priorities would be human development and the employability of young people.

**H.E. Dr. Anže Logar**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, emphasized that the Mediterranean Conference was an important mechanism for maintaining a dynamic discussion between the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation. The inextricable link between security, sustainable development and economic growth had been acknowledged in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. The OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security recognized that conflicts could arise not only from political disputes, but also from economic tensions and environmental degradation. The Sustainable Development Goals offered a global road map that was applicable also to the OSCE. There were many ways to promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean region in the context of the COVID-19 crisis – notably by reviewing consumption and production patterns, building capacity for digital transformation, tackling inequalities and improving access to education. The Euro-Mediterranean University in Piran, for example, had established a number of study programmes on promoting peace, security and prosperity in the region. In closing, he stressed the importance of building resilience to violent extremism among young people, as they were the most affected by the global crisis.



**H.E. Mr. Faruk Kaymakcı**, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Director for European Union Affairs, Turkey, emphasized that his country was at the vanguard of the fight against terrorism. Turkey was the Mediterranean country with the longest coastline, and it valued highly the partnership developed by the OSCE with other countries in the region. The importance of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership had indeed already been recognized in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and reaffirmed in the Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit in 1999. In the light of growing anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, issues related to tolerance and non-discrimination should feature prominently on the Mediterranean Partnership's agenda. As a result of the ongoing global pandemic, the world economy was under severe strain. Turkey for its part had enhanced international co-operation in order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19: for example, it had delivered medical equipment to five Mediterranean Partners. He stressed the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (on promoting peace, justice and strong institutions) and of the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Turkey's objective was to ensure lasting peace and security in the region, particularly in the Eastern Mediterranean. In closing, he mentioned President Erdoğan's call for an international conference on the Eastern Mediterranean.

**H.E. Ms. Andreja Metelko-Zgombić**, State Secretary for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia, underscored the economic and political relevance of the Mediterranean region. The COVID-19 pandemic had led to severe social and economic consequences, aggravating the already fragile situation in the region. To tackle the pandemic, the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners needed to develop capacities for common action, demonstrate solidarity and reinforce political dialogue so as to fully harness the OSCE's potential as a platform for co-operation. The measures taken to deal with the difficult economic situation should be multi-layered, aiming both to protect vulnerable groups and to ensure business liquidity. The COVID-19 crisis was an opportunity to modernize economies in the region and strengthen their resilience. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of addressing security challenges through the empowerment of women and young people. Multilateral co-operation was key to overcoming the global pandemic.

## Statements by delegations

The representative of **Algeria** stated that security in the Mediterranean region remained a top priority for her country. It was important to maintain and strengthen the momentum of interactions between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with other international and regional organizations. She concluded by mentioning that the Mediterranean Partners needed to act in accordance with the Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (MC.DOC/4/18).

The representative of **Tunisia** noted that youth unemployment was rising in the context of COVID-19 and that the crisis was having a spillover effect in the region. The global pandemic

had come at an uncertain time, characterized by an increase in organized crime, trafficking in human beings and terrorism. He referred to a study from King's College London published in April 2020, which had argued that the COVID-19 crisis would undermine all the progress achieved by many countries over the past decade. Given the abundance of pressing challenges, it was necessary to promote institutional reform, good governance and transparency.

The representative of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** argued that the outbreak of COVID-19 had revealed that the international community was far from being properly prepared for threats that could occur at any time. Bosnia and Herzegovina expected to be able to fulfil its commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the international community as a whole faced huge obstacles. The current crisis transcended national borders altogether. It was crucial to enhance co-operation among participating States and relevant institutions to combat trafficking in human beings, money laundering and terrorism. Dealing with migration, in particular, called for the co-operation of all governments, and the Mediterranean region played a key role in relevant efforts.

The representative of the **Holy See** emphasized in his statement that security issues should be addressed in a comprehensive manner, with due account taken of sustainable development and economic stability. The COVID-19 pandemic was widening social and economic divisions, and the fallout of the crisis would exacerbate inequality. He called for help to be provided to all those in need, in accordance with two fundamental principles: the "inclusion of all" and "protecting the sacredness of human life".

The representative of **Switzerland** referred to how the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 had recognized the indivisibility of security in Europe and in the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean region was particularly important for Switzerland, which had recently adopted a foreign policy strategy for the region covering a number of areas through which sustainable development could be fostered: peace, security and human rights; migration and protection of people in distress; economy, finance and science; and digitalization of technologies. He mentioned the Blue Peace initiative, whose goal was to transform water from a source of conflict into a "source of co-operation". Switzerland attached great importance to the exchange of experiences within the OSCE and welcomed the active participation of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

The representative of the **European Union (EU)** noted that the OSCE and the EU shared a comprehensive and holistic security concept based on common values, principles and commitments. The COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted how interdependent the OSCE and the Mediterranean region were, and that multilateral action was necessary for post-crisis recovery. The EU had long-standing relations with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, based on bilateral, regional and cross-border co-operation. The Mediterranean region remained high on the EU's agenda: consequently, the EU wanted to renew its partnership with the region ahead of the 2021–2027 Multiannual Financial Framework. In connection with the forthcoming 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, the representative referred to the Regional Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean that was

scheduled to take place on 27 November 2020. The EU greatly valued the OSCE's important role as a regional platform for dialogue and co-operation.

The representative of the **Russian Federation** noted that the OSCE's comprehensive security approach should underlie the response to the COVID-19 pandemic through co-ordinated efforts by the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the OSCE had a key role to play in promoting peace, security and sustainable development.

The representative of the **United States of America** pointed to the need for open dialogue and co-operation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean region, which was particularly pertinent during a global crisis. Governments should not use the pandemic as a pretext for cracking down on political opposition, undermining electoral processes or suppressing an independent media and civil society activity. She recalled the commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, which had acknowledged that the security of the OSCE area was linked to that of the Mediterranean region, as recently reaffirmed at the Ministerial Council meeting in Milan in 2018 (MC.DOC/4/18). She mentioned a number of projects conducted by the United States, including the Peace to Prosperity programme, which sought to promote peace and co-operation in the Middle East, and the international Call to Action on Women's Economic Empowerment, which sought to ensure that women were empowered to drive the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She concluded by emphasizing that it was crucial to uphold the shared OSCE principles and commitments.

The representative of the **Union for the Mediterranean** (UfM) stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated socio-economic inequality and the effects of climate change. She pointed out that the pandemic had created an unemployment crisis far severer than that seen during the 2008 recession. The UfM was therefore convinced of the need for co-operation with its partners and other stakeholders to promote economic, social and environmental values. Moreover, the UfM underlined the importance of commitment to the environmental goals laid down in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the European Green Deal. The UfM expressed its full support for the OSCE's projects and other initiatives in the Mediterranean region.

The representative of the **Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean** (PAM) noted that security was closely linked to sustainable development and economic growth in the context of efforts to promote recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. He observed that the Middle East, North Africa and the Sahel were vulnerable to climate change, which had had devastating effects in a region whose very survival depended on agriculture and fisheries. The growing instability had unfortunately created a breeding ground for the terrorism of the so-called Islamic State. The PAM continued to collaborate closely with the United Nations and NATO on counter-terrorism in the Mediterranean and the Sahel. He remarked that the PAM had promoted "Marshall Plan"-style principles to strengthen security through sustainable development and economic growth in the Sahel and sub-Saharan Africa.

The representative of the **League of Arab States (LAS)** noted that the Arab Committee for Sustainable Development had requested the League to prepare a regional report addressing the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their implementation in seven conflict-affected member countries: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen. The report would serve as a regional reference guide providing a set of integrated tools for assessing progress towards the SDGs in the participating countries. The representative mentioned that the report would be disseminated in February 2021 at the LAS headquarters in Cairo, thereby serving as an opportunity to exchange best practices on, and key findings from, implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region.

The representative of the **Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)** mentioned that security in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean were closely interlinked, and that achieving security, sustainable development and economic growth was not possible without political stability and economic prosperity. On 25 September 2020, the BSEC Chairpersonship-in-Office had hosted an informal online meeting with the BSEC Foreign Ministers, at which they had emphasized the need for enhanced co-operation to tackle the adverse economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Black Sea region. The BSEC was committed to revitalizing and further enhancing co-operation with the OSCE, with which it was keen to share experience and best practices.

The representative of the **Economic Cooperation Organization** emphasized that the COVID-19 crisis was threatening the prospects of the Sustainable Development Goals being achieved in many parts of the world. He recommended taking certain urgent measures, including the equitable allocation of potential vaccines against COVID-19.

## 2.3 Session I: Women's Economic Empowerment

*Report by Ms. Teresa Albano, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Governance Unit, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities; and Ms. Sylvi Bratten, Adviser on Gender Issues, Gender Section, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE Secretariat*

### Chairperson:

H.E. Ms. Leena Al-Hadid, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the OSCE

### Speakers:

Dr. Lenita Freidenvall, Director and Deputy Head of the Division for Gender Equality, Ministry of Employment, Sweden

Mr. Roger Albinyana, Director of Mediterranean Regional Policies and Human Development, European Institute of the Mediterranean, Barcelona

Ms. Hana Rado, Chief Operating Officer of McCann Tel Aviv, co-founder and Chairperson of AloTok, and President of Supersonas Israel

Ms. Natalia Strigunova, Deputy Director, Department of Multilateral Economic Co-operation and Special Projects, Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation

**H.E. Ms. Leena Al-Hadid**, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the OSCE, opened the session by noting how, despite encouraging progress in the advancement of women's participation in the economic and political spheres, there were still significant gaps, especially in certain parts of the world, such as the Mediterranean region. She underlined the need to redouble efforts to achieve gender equality, since COVID-19 could turn out to be a "perfect storm" with the potential to wipe out what had been achieved so far and to push women's rights further backwards.

The first speaker, **Dr. Lenita Freidenvall**, Director and Deputy Head of the Division for Gender Equality, Ministry of Employment, Sweden, explained that as a member of the world's first feminist government she, like all her colleagues, sought to ensure that gender equality was central to all decision-making and resource allocation. The aim was to build a society in which women and men, girls and boys could all realize their full potential. Stressing that gender equality was a prerequisite for sustainable development and peace at the national and global levels, she outlined some outstanding challenges that had been exacerbated by the pandemic, such as violence against women and the greater vulnerability of women and girls in the labour market due to the rise in precarious work. Seeking to serve as an inspiration for others, Sweden had redoubled its efforts – at the national level, through the establishment of a national commission for gender-equal lifetime earnings, tasked with advising on the design of policies to achieve increased economic equality between women and men; and at the international level,

by being a co-leader of the global Action Coalition for Economic Gender Equality within the Generation Equality framework. She concluded by calling on the OSCE participating States to work together on policies, legislation and measures aimed at ensuring women's full participation in the labour market and at the economic empowerment of women.

**Mr. Roger Albinyana**, Director of Mediterranean Regional Policies and Human Development, European Institute of the Mediterranean, Barcelona, emphasized how human security was closely linked to tackling socio-economic disparities. Women's economic empowerment could be a critical driver of human development in the Mediterranean region. Progress in the region towards greater gender parity, particularly in education, had not yet translated into increased participation by women in economic and public life: at just 20 per cent, the labour force participation rate of women in the region was far from satisfactory. Long-standing legal, social and cultural barriers in the Mediterranean region were the cause of persistent wage gaps in both the public and private sector, a high rate of informal employment and a low rate of creation of new businesses among women, compared with other regions in the world. Promising initiatives currently being undertaken by countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia should inspire further targeted policy action on: fostering equal access to finance; banning discrimination based on sex or marital status; reviewing maternity leave and child care provisions; and introducing incentives for employers to support part-time employment, remote working and flexible hours, thereby improving the balance between work and family life. He concluded by calling for full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, along with internationally recognized labour standards promoting gender equality and non-discrimination between women and men, which should inform gender-sensitive policymaking efforts.

**Ms. Natalia Strigunova**, Deputy Director, Department of Multilateral Economic Co-operation and Special Projects, Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation, pointed out how the COVID-19 pandemic had affected women's health and social and economic well-being. In particular, systemic challenges preventing women's economic empowerment had been exacerbated because of the over-representation of women in the sectors hit hardest by the pandemic (tourism and hospitality, food services, wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing). She cited distressing data on the female unemployment rate, including data reflecting the negative repercussions of the digital transformation: according to a World Economic Forum report, for every new job created thanks to digital technologies, four jobs would be lost by men and 20 by women. Those data supported Ms. Strigunova's call for tailored support for women and girls left behind by the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" - particularly those living in remote and rural areas - such as the provision of social protection nets, quality employment, measures to improve the work-life balance.. She also highlighted the need for targeted policies for women-led businesses as potential drivers of the post-pandemic recovery. . In this regard, a case in point was the Russian stimulus package adopted to counteract the adverse consequences of the pandemic, which included, among others, such measures as the provision of vocational training opportunities for women with children; special federal and regional subsidies for unemployed women; microloans for women entrepreneurs; educational programmes and training directed at mothers who were entrepreneurs, which sought to foster entrepreneurial

skills and innovative business ideas; and the promotion of female leadership. In closing, she called on the OSCE to support efforts to tackle the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women, notably by promoting capacity-building for digital innovation, with a focus on young women; by encouraging policymakers to expand flexible employment arrangements and unlock the economic potential of women in rural and remote areas; and by collecting and sharing data for evidence-based policymaking to advance women's economic empowerment.

**Ms. Hana Rado**, Chief Operating Officer of McCann Tel Aviv, co-founder and Chairperson at AloTok, and President of Supersonas Israel, spoke about the severe exclusion suffered by Israeli women. She shared some alarming data about women's economic and political participation in Israel: women accounted for 70 per cent of the unemployed; only 16 per cent of managerial positions were held by women; and just 5 per cent of mayors and heads of regional councils were women. As a social entrepreneur in Israel who was creating jobs for women especially in peripheral areas, and who led a workforce of around 3,000 women, Ms. Rado pointed out the need for urgent action by her country's Government on: (a) education – financial education should be provided to all children from the ages of 5 to 18 in order to increase their knowledge of handling money and investments and to foster entrepreneurship and leadership; (b) work-life balance – promoting a more equal distribution of family care responsibilities; (c) women in business – significantly increasing women's access to financial support from the Government and the private/banking sector; and (d) decision-making – ensuring that 50 per cent of decision-making positions in the public sector were held by women; and (e) women and security – women should be able to feel safe and secure in public and private spaces, from childhood to retirement age. She concluded her statement by calling for comprehensive and in-depth research on the barriers preventing the full participation of women, the aim being to inform gender-responsive policymaking and operational measures.

## Statements by delegations

The representative of **Spain** confirmed that her country was fully committed to the promotion and protection of women's rights. Economic rights were particularly relevant in that respect. Although the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated the inequalities faced by women, it had also prompted action to advance their economic empowerment. The participation of women in all decision-making processes was vital for a long-term and sustainable response, particularly in areas such as social protection, fiscal policies and access to financial systems. Given the major repercussions of the pandemic and the need for integrated action, the OSCE, as a multilateral and regional organization, could play a key part in mobilizing both State and non-State actors to promote gender equality.

The representative of **Italy** observed that despite remarkable progress, there were still significant gaps in gender equality – not least in Italy, where the labour market participation rate of women was 18 percentage points lower than that of men, even though 57 per cent of

university graduates were women. Italian women had played an important role in building the Republic and shaping its values, as outlined in the Constitution. Emphasizing that Italy was at the forefront of efforts to promote gender equality in the Mediterranean region, he referred to the Italian Network for Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue and the Cairo Ministerial Declaration of 2017, in which the 43 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean had pledged to advance women's economic participation. He called on the OSCE participating States to enhance the Organization's role in the Mediterranean region by removing the "out of area" restrictions. Italy was currently supporting various gender-sensitive OSCE projects, including one on gender and anti-corruption.

The representative of **Cyprus** stressed how gender equality was not only a stand-alone Goal in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development but also a means of achieving all the other Sustainable Development Goals, since it was a prerequisite for sustainable development, prosperity, economic growth and peace. Cyprus was supporting a capacity-building programme for women entrepreneurs in the Middle East and North Africa in co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. She stressed that in order to achieve greater gender equality, policies and measures had to be accompanied by social and cultural change. The COVID-19 response should therefore include a strong focus on gender promotion and make women part of the decision-making process. That would benefit not only women but society as a whole.

The representative of the **United States of America** asked the speakers to elaborate further on the role of the OSCE and the promotion of regional initiatives.

The representative of the **European Union** (EU) stressed that women's empowerment was crucial to security and recalled how gender equality was a core EU value and a recognized driver of economic growth. She argued that the social and economic costs of violence against women and girls should prompt efforts to suit actions to words when it came to protecting and promoting women's rights, particularly given the disproportionate impact on women of the economic fallout of COVID-19.

The representative of the **United Kingdom** confirmed that women and girls were at the heart of his country's approach to economic development. Women were more vulnerable to economic shocks, such as the economic crisis triggered by COVID-19, because of their over-representation in low-paid and precarious forms of employment. Moreover, their contribution to unpaid care work was three times higher than that of men. It was essential to tackle the long-standing inequalities faced by women (among other disadvantaged groups) by expanding social protection programmes, lightening the burden of unpaid care, improving their working conditions, and addressing the problem of informal employment among women. In closing, he asked the panellists if, as part of efforts to "build back better", affirmative action could help to remedy persistent gender gaps in the economic sphere.



## Closing remarks

**Dr. Freidenvall** reminded the participants that 2020 was expected to register a ramping up of global efforts to achieve gender equality in the economic sphere. However, the COVID-19 crisis had in fact increased the risk of women suffering violence, discrimination and marginalization. The post-pandemic recovery was an opportunity to “build back better” for both women and men, girls and boys.

**Mr. Albinyana** agreed that the COVID-19 economic crisis offered an opportunity to introduce policies and mechanisms aimed at promoting gender equality, as long as States and non-State actors joined forces and took decisive steps towards that objective. Although there were no “one size fits all” approaches, affirmative action programmes had proved to be effective in the past, especially in terms of increasing the political participation of women.

**Ms. Strigunova** stressed the need to provide women with new opportunities to enable them to act as drivers of the post pandemic recovery, and called on the OSCE to share relevant best practices and experiences.

**Ms. Rado** underlined the need for affirmative action, especially considering that the COVID-19 pandemic was an extreme situation that would have long-lasting adverse consequences for women and girls.

**H.E. Ms. Al-Hadid** closed the session by reminding the participants that women’s economic participation was a question of power. Ensuring that women’s perspectives were fully taken into account meant supporting the equal representation of women in leadership positions, in governments, in boardrooms and at the peace tables –wherever decisions were taken that directly affected people’s lives. She concluded by emphasizing that women’s participation was beneficial for the whole of society and, in particular, that it was critical for peace and security in the Mediterranean region and worldwide.

## 2.4 Session II: Promoting Environmental Co-operation

*Report by Ms. Sogol Jafarzadeh, Environmental Affairs Adviser, Environmental Co-operation Unit, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, OSCE Secretariat*

### Chairperson:

Mr. Vuk Žugić, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

### Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Yasser Sorour, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Nile Water Affairs, Egypt

Ms. Léna Salamé, Secretariat of the Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace, Geneva Water Hub

Mr. Grammenos Mastrojeni, Deputy Secretary General for Energy and Climate Action, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

Dr. Malin Mobjörk, Director, Climate Change and Risk Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Ambassador Hinrich Thölken, Director for International Climate and Energy Policy and Digital Transformation, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

The Chairperson, **Mr. Vuk Žugić**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, welcomed the speakers and participants. Referring to the discussions during the high-level political segment of the conference, he drew attention to the linkages between environmental co-operation, sustainable development and comprehensive security. He then moved on to the global struggle against the COVID-19 pandemic, noting the threats that the pandemic posed to security and stability. It was essential to learn from the crisis and to “build back better”, putting co-operation, solidarity and resilience at the heart of recovery efforts. In a brief overview of the environmental challenges in the OSCE area and the Mediterranean, he focused particularly on water scarcity and water pollution, climate-induced extreme weather events and slow-onset disasters, highlighting the OSCE’s response to those challenges. Working in close collaboration with its partners, the OSCE has a long-standing commitment to promoting water diplomacy and good water governance; identifying and mapping climate-related security risks; developing and implementing transboundary adaptation measures; and enhancing disaster risk reduction. The OSCE’s co-operation in the environmental field with the Mediterranean Partners dated back to 2007, namely to the Valencia follow-up process – a process of dialogue on environmental and security issues among the Mediterranean Partners supported by the OSCE. Looking forward, he referred to the current collaboration between the OSCE and the Union for the Mediterranean to develop a new initiative on climate change and security in the Mediterranean.

Following his introduction, Mr. Žugić posed three questions to the speakers as a way of encouraging an interactive discussion. Specifically, he asked **(a)** what the most pressing environmental and climate change challenges in the Mediterranean were, and what potential impact they might have on common security in the region; **(b)** what benefits in terms of security were brought by regional and subregional dialogue and co-operation in that field; and **(c)** how the OSCE as a regional security organization could help to enhance the exchange of best practices with a view to intensifying practical co-operation on tackling environmental challenges and climate change in the Mediterranean.

**H.E. Mr. Yasser Sorour**, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Nile Water Affairs, Egypt, **(a)** described water scarcity and increasing water demand as the most urgent environmental challenge in the Mediterranean region, one that had been exacerbated by climate change. Drought was named as the second most pressing challenge that has been increasing in severity and contributing to desertification. The third major challenge mentioned, was sea-level rise, which was accelerating. He also referred to the increasing salinity of the Nile delta. The impact of those challenges on security varies from country to country, while competition over shared water resources poses a challenge to regional security, including due to the lack of co-operation between the riparian countries and the lack of environmental and socioeconomic studies that are required by the international law that governs the utilization of international rivers. **(b)** Mr. Sorour stated that co-operation was not a choice but a necessity. Strong political will, however, was required to establish co-operation and to co-ordinate actions, particularly on the management of transboundary natural resources. Depending only on technical aspects would not be enough without the presence of a political will. He referred to the long-standing efforts to achieve co-operation and to the ongoing negotiations over the Nile Basin, pointing out the lack of an agreed-upon vision on how to use the available water resources. It was necessary to make stronger commitments to transboundary water co-operation in order to ensure stability and peace in the region. He also referred to the ongoing negotiations on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam for an agreement to avoid the negative repercussions of the Dam on other riparian states. Furthermore, he questioned the presentation of the nexus (water- energy- food) approach as the only solution to overcome water scarcity and enhance cooperation. **(c)** The OSCE could support capacity-building activities and also play an important role in raising awareness of the direct link between the sustainability of the shared water resources and security in the region.

**Ms. Léna Salamé**, Secretariat of the Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace, Geneva Water Hub, **(a)** provided an overview of the Geneva Water Hub's perspective on water as a catalyst for peace, and highlighted the importance of water in the Mediterranean region. Projections indicated that some two billion people worldwide might be living in highly water-stressed countries by 2050 if business as usual continued. The Mediterranean region was already facing significant challenges as a result of increasing water demand, climate change, pollution, high population growth, accelerated and uncontrolled urbanization, and the overexploitation of coastal groundwater. Water demand, consumption and losses in the region had all doubled in the course of the last century. Water resources were not distributed equally

in the region, varying considerably from one country to another. The degradation of water resources was also contributing to increased competition among the users, while the transboundary nature of water resources added a further level of complexity to the task of managing water resources in the Mediterranean region sustainably. For instance, 90 per cent of the area of South-Eastern Europe was part of a transboundary river basin, which highlighted the interdependence between the countries in the region. Water is an important cross-cutting factor in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the sustainable management of water resources is a prerequisite for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Mediterranean region. **(b)** There was a two-way relationship identified between peace and stability on the one hand, and water on the other. Women played an important role in that respect and their views, perceptions and sensibilities, often quite different from those of men, were vital to the management of water. **(c)** Thanks to its “convening power” and its mandate to foster water co-operation, the OSCE provided a neutral platform bringing countries together to address water-related challenges to security. Through its work on water diplomacy – also in co-operation with the Geneva Water Hub – the OSCE could further enhance its important role in building the capacity and knowledge of decision-makers involved in water co-operation and diplomacy. It was imperative that the new generation of water champions understood the complexity of water issues and could look at those from different perspectives.

**Mr. Grammenos Mastrojeni**, Deputy Secretary General for Energy and Climate Action, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), **(a)** noted that the ongoing collaboration between the UfM and the OSCE focused on arguably the most important challenge for the future of the Mediterranean: climate change and its impacts in the region. Climate change was a global problem, but its impacts were unevenly distributed. It could turn into a serious stability risk if efforts to combat it were not integrated organically into national and regional policy frameworks. The severity of current climate change and its projected future impacts could aggravate the asymmetries in revenue and level of development in the region. Inequalities needed to be tackled to pave the way for a fairer and more integrated economy, and to help mitigate the negative effects of climate change in the Mediterranean. **(b)** Given the pace and amplitude of climate change in the Mediterranean, no single nation – not even the strongest – could survive by relying on its own forces alone. Countries needed to be able to access the resources and knowledge of one another. Stressing the importance of the science–policy interface, he argued that science could help with mitigation and adaptation to climate change and provided a pathway for the strengthening of regional peace. Co-operation was essential to tackling the climate crisis and bringing about sustainable peace in the Mediterranean. For two thousand years, the countries of the southern Mediterranean had been coping with water scarcity, and there was a lot to learn from them. The “economy of co-operation” that was required to tackle climate change was at the same time a way of overcoming asymmetries that were root causes of tensions in the region. **(c)** Referring to the OSCE’s role, he drew attention to the importance of raising awareness and basing official communications on solid scientific facts. The joint climate change initiative of the UfM and the OSCE could help to enhance stability in the region. In response to a question on plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea, he observed that a lot had been done in that respect but still it was not sufficient. He therefore

advocated a plastic-free economy, which would both protect the environment and ensure a healthy food chain.

**Dr. Malin Mobjörk**, Director, Climate Change and Risk Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), **(a)** stressed that the Mediterranean region was one of the regions in the world most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which manifested itself in increasing temperatures, seasonal variations in weather patterns and reduced rainfall. Those effects of climate change had the potential to aggravate water shortages, further impair water quality and adversely impact agricultural productivity and fisheries. Sea-level rise was also likely to contribute to saltwater intrusion, affecting agriculture while increasing the frequency and intensity of droughts. She pointed out the public health challenges associated with climate change, also in relation to the current pandemic. Noting the transboundary dimensions of climate change, she referred to issues such as food security and migration, adding that climate change with its short-term, rapid-onset impacts combined with its gradual impacts on the humanitarian situation would affect the Mediterranean region and neighbouring areas. There was increasing demand for humanitarian assistance and also a greater need for capabilities to take humanitarian action in conflict settings. **(b)** Noting that the stress factors associated with climate and environmental challenges could be addressed through collaborative efforts, she gave an overview of SIPRI's research programme on climate change and risk, which focused on the linkages between climate change, conflict and peace-building, and on the role and involvement of regional organizations in that field. She also referred to the creation of the Climate Security Mechanism in the United Nations (UN) and to the meeting of the Expert Working Group on Climate-related Security Risks that SIPRI hosted during the Swedish presidency of the UN Security Council. Furthermore, she elaborated on SIPRI's work on the Environment of Peace 2022 initiative, which was led by an international panel of experts and sought to analyse the drivers of environmental change and its social dimensions. The initiative covered climate change, the loss of biodiversity, water insecurity and land degradation. **(c)** Tackling transboundary environmental issues required collaboration. Given that it operated in a climate-vulnerable region, the OSCE was well placed to step up its efforts to address climate and security challenges, building on its relevant experience – including that gained through the Environment and Security Initiative – and in partnership with various multilateral actors and local partners. In the light of SIPRI's work on regional organizations, she drew attention to the importance of awareness-raising, leadership, funding, building institutional and staff capacities, and practices on the ground.

**Ambassador Hinrich Thölken**, Director for International Climate and Energy Policy and Digital Transformation, Federal Foreign Office, Germany, **(a)** noted that addressing the impacts of climate change on security was a top priority for his country. Indeed, one of Germany's strategic goals was to enable addressing climate related security risks in the context of the UN Security Council. As part of those efforts, he referred to Germany's support for the UN Climate Security Mechanism and to the Global Climate and Security Risk and Foresight Assessment, which would be released in 2023. Underlining the importance of regional strategies on climate and security, he welcomed the co-operation between the OSCE and the

UfM on climate change and security. The Mediterranean region was directly and disproportionately affected by climate change, notably because of the significantly higher temperatures and loss of precipitation there, which translated into development and stability risks in different parts of the region. Referring to the indirect impacts of climate change, he highlighted its contribution to migratory pressures and to global food price volatility, which was particularly alarming because the Mediterranean region was among the biggest importers of food. Increasing competition over water resources in the region and more frequent droughts were both potential drivers of conflict. **(b)** Understanding the different dimensions of climate-related security risks was the first step towards mitigating those risks. Noting its implications for climate security, he emphasized the importance of water diplomacy and of an approach that took due account of the water-energy-food-climate nexus. Germany was helping to promote political dialogue in various regional contexts, notably among riparian States with shared river basins. For many years, Germany had been supporting co-operation in the Nile Basin on a technical level, which also fed into work at the diplomatic level. Similarly, Germany was engaged in climate security in Central Asia and Afghanistan through the Green Central Asia initiative. When exploring policy solutions to climate security risks in the Mediterranean, it was advisable also to look beyond the region itself. **(c)** As for the OSCE's role, he drew attention to the interlinkages between climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, stressing the importance of biodiversity conservation and combating illicit trafficking in wildlife. The narrative of competition for resources should be changed to one of "resource co-operation": the OSCE was ideally placed to help bring about such a paradigm shift.

## Statements by delegations and participants

The representative of **Spain** emphasized the dramatic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for a "green" and inclusive recovery. The fight against climate change was a top priority for Spain, and the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development together constituted a road map for relevant efforts. Referring to the importance of environmental co-operation, the representative gave a number of examples of international initiatives in that field, including some conducted under the aegis of the UN and the European Union. The OSCE provided an excellent platform for such co-operation – also with the Mediterranean. In closing, the representative drew attention to the Málaga Decalogue of recommendations that had been adopted at the 2017 OSCE Youth Conference, and which called on the OSCE participating States, the Partners for Co-operation and the OSCE executive structures to support young people in their contribution to the transition to a green economy and in their sustainable, innovative and greener initiatives.

The representative of **Switzerland** referred to the crucial role of water in security, peace and the very survival of human beings in the OSCE area and the Mediterranean region. Promoting co-operation was important in an era of climate change, especially as the world was tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. Switzerland supported the Blue Peace in the Middle East Initiative and its implementation in Jordan. The initiative sought to transform water from a source of

conflict to a catalyst for socio-economic development, co-operation and peace in the region. Environmental co-operation played an important part in ensuring the security of both the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners, and Switzerland stood ready to join in the efforts to strengthen such co-operation.

The representative of the **United Kingdom** reflected on the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic had posed but also on the opportunities it offered for bringing about a green global recovery. The representative referred to the Climate Summit that the UK Prime Minister and the UN Secretary-General would co-host, alongside Chile, France and Italy, on 12 December 2020 to mark the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The representative invited all participating States to use that anniversary as an opportunity to announce or reaffirm their commitment to meeting the Paris Agreement's ambitious goals. Noting that the United Kingdom was doubling its contribution to international climate finance, the representative expressed the hope that many other donor countries would make similar commitments at the summit.

The representative of the **European Union (EU)** highlighted the close links between good environmental governance, sustainable development, economic growth and competitiveness. The European Green Deal was a road map for making the EU's economy sustainable and for turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities. Those goals were also the cornerstones of the EU's plan for the post-COVID-19 recovery. The representative stressed the importance of resource efficiency and a circular approach in water management, and also the need for enhanced dialogue between civil society, the private sector and governments, notably through the Aarhus Convention. Furthermore, the representative underlined the significance of women's participation in decision-making processes and labour markets, and their crucial role in responding to climate change, as evidenced by the recently published OSCE guidance note *Gender Mainstreaming in Water Governance in Central Asia*. The OSCE's forthcoming project on combating climate change and security threats in the Mediterranean deserved to be supported, as did the Organization's projects to foster young, green and social entrepreneurs in the region. As the world's largest regional security organization, the OSCE was well placed to address the security impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, and to promote regional dialogue and environmental co-operation.

The representative of the **Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre** – of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) – spoke about the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention), which had been created 45 years ago bringing together the 21 Mediterranean countries and the EU. The Convention constituted the only legally binding set of instruments and policies for the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean, thereby contributing to the sustainable development of the entire region. The Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre under UNEP/MAP served as a regional observatory of the interactions between the environment and development. The Centre had recently released a report for policymakers on the state of the environment and development in the Mediterranean. In closing, the representative pointed out that regional co-operation on environmental issues

was an opportunity to overcome tensions and maintain dialogue at a time of crisis, and confirmed the readiness of UNEP/MAP to pursue such co-operation with the OSCE.



## 2.5 Concluding remarks

*Report by Mr. Emiliano Alessandri, Senior External Co-operation Officer, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE Secretariat*

### **Moderator:**

Mr. Luca Fratini, Director of the Office of the Secretary General, OSCE Secretariat

### **Speakers:**

Ambassador Petra Lärke, Head of the task force for the incoming Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship

Mr. Pascal Allizard, Vice-President and Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

H.E. Mr. Adam Hałaciński, Permanent Representative of Poland to the OSCE

The Director of the Office of the Secretary General, **Mr. Luca Fratini**, explained that the “concluding remarks” session was an opportunity to wrap up that day’s discussions and to outline the way forward for the Mediterranean Partnership. He underscored the continuing relevance of the Partnership Fund as a concrete instrument for supporting capacity-building projects that the OSCE conducted together with the Partners for Co-operation. He also invited the participants to approach with an open mind a discussion on how the Partnership worked in practice, with a view to making the existing procedures easier and maximizing the opportunities for co-operation, especially on projects taking place in the Partner countries themselves.

**Ambassador Petra Lärke**, head of the task force for the incoming Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship, noted that the Mediterranean Conference had once again attracted high-level political participation, thereby confirming the Mediterranean Partnership’s value as a platform for regional dialogue. International co-operation and solidarity were key to sustainable development and growth, and the pandemic had made the case for international co-ordination even more compelling. She reiterated Sweden’s priorities for its 2021 OSCE Chairpersonship as outlined by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ann Linde. The first priority was to adopt a “back to basics” approach, namely to focus the OSCE’s resources and efforts on the fundamental task of preserving a security order inspired by a comprehensive notion of security. Environmental co-operation and the empowerment of women, the two main themes covered by the Mediterranean Conference, would rank high on the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship’s agenda. In closing, she cited the constructive statements by several high-level political representatives from both Partner countries and participating States as confirmation that the OSCE could serve as a platform for defusing tensions and translating challenges into opportunities for dialogue and co-operation.

**Mr. Pascal Allizard**, Vice-President and Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, congratulated Sweden for its successful organization of the conference. Sustainable development and economic growth based on a more equally balanced North-South relationship were prerequisites for a stable and secure Mediterranean region. A more sustainable type of development would alleviate existing challenges in the region, notably by mitigating migratory pressure. Recalling a number of events and activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the economic and environmental implications of the COVID-19 crisis, he noted how the Assembly had called for international solidarity to prevail in view of the economic disruption and the urgent need for medical supplies and equipment triggered by the pandemic in so many countries. Certain ongoing dynamics in the Mediterranean region were alarming, as they seemed aimed at intensifying strategic competition, rather than pursuing co-operation among key littoral States and stakeholders. He noted that the pandemic was the latest addition to a long list of still unresolved crises in the region, from Syria to Libya, and argued that the OSCE should help to de-escalate tensions and reclaim the Mediterranean space as a catalyst for trade, development and, thereby, common prosperity and security.

**H.E. Mr. Adam Halaciński**, Permanent Representative of Poland to the OSCE, addressed the audience in his capacity as the incoming Chairperson of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group. He noted that the high-level political discussion had revealed widespread willingness to co-operate, based on clear recognition of the fact that security in the OSCE area and the Mediterranean region could only be effectively maintained through international dialogue. The participants had reiterated the need to address security comprehensively in view of the complex security challenges, which spanned all three of the OSCE's dimensions of work. Environmentally sustainable economic development and connectivity lay at the heart of stability. The Conference had demonstrated that the Partners for Co-operation and the participating States were overwhelmingly committed to multilateralism. In closing, he emphasized that the Mediterranean Partnership had proved to be a highly successful format, and that the OSCE had likewise proved its worth as a platform for the exchange of insights and as a catalyst for action-oriented projects. Looking ahead, he referred to pandemics; illegal migration; radicalization and terrorism; water, food, energy, climate and environmental security; social inequalities; and cybersecurity as the main issues that it was essential for the OSCE to address and that merited joint responses.

### 3. List of participants

The list of participants contains entries generated by the online registration.

State / Organization / Affiliation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Position
<b>OSCE Participating States</b>				
ALBANIA	Mr	Agron	Tare	Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania
ALBANIA	Mr	Igli	Hasani	Permanent Representative of Albania to the OSCE/Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council
ALBANIA	Ms	Blerta	Derhemi	Head of Unit
ALBANIA	Ms	Viola	Kaloshi	First Secretary
ANDORRA	Ms	Marta	Salvat	DHoM, Special Envoy on Policy and Security issues
ANDORRA	Mr	Jaume	Serra	Ambassador HoM
AUSTRIA	Mr	Florian	Raunig	Austrian Delegation
AUSTRIA	Mr	Marion	Gratt	Austrian Delegation
AUSTRIA	Mr	Florian	Raunig	Austrian Delegation
AUSTRIA	Mr	Andreas	Riecken	Austrian Delegation
AUSTRIA	Mr	Philipp	Warum	Austrian Delegation
BELGIUM	Mr	Didier	Nagant	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
BELGIUM	Mr	Cedric	Schampers	Attaché
BELGIUM	Ms	Ann-Sophie	Vermeersch	Attaché
BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA	Mr	Sinisa	Bencun	Ambassador

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA	Mr	Bisera	Turkovic	Deputy Chairperson of Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina
BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA	Ms	Biljana	Josic-Bajic	Counsellor
BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA	Mr	Miloš	Prica	Coordinator for SDGs
BULGARIA	Ms	Emilia	Kraleva	Head of Mission
BULGARIA	Ms	Vanya	Andreeva-Malakova	DHoM
CANADA	Ms	Jocelyn	Kinnear	Ambassador and Permanent Representative
CANADA	Mr	Rick	Steenweg	First Secretary
CANADA	Mr	Graham	Townsend	
CROATIA	Mr	Mario	Horvatic	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
CROATIA	Mr	Jan Kresimir	Isic	Deputy Permanent Representative of Croatia to the OSCE
CROATIA	Ms	Marina	Kovacec	First Secretary
CROATIA	Ms	Ivana	Loncar Pavlinic	I Secretary
CROATIA	Ms	Andreja	Metelko-Zgombic	State Secretary for Europe
CYPRUS	Ms	Elena	Rafti	Permanent Representative
CYPRUS	Mr	Nicos	Argyrides	
CYPRUS	Mr	Nikos	Christodoulides	

State / Organization / Affiliation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Position
CYPRUS	Ms	Demetra	Christodoulou	Deputy Permanent Representative
CYPRUS	Mr	Chrysostomos	Stavrou	Counsellor
CZECH REPUBLIC	Mr	Ivo	Šrámek	Ambassador, Head of Delegation
CZECH REPUBLIC	Mr	Martin	Kubecek	
CZECH REPUBLIC	Mr	Petr	Martinek	
CZECH REPUBLIC	Mr	Ondrej	Pavlík	
ESTONIA	Mr	Sander	Soone	
ESTONIA	Ms	Maria	Golova	
EUROPEAN UNION	Mr	Fernando	Gentilini	
EUROPEAN UNION	Mr	Jocelyn	Guitton	
EUROPEAN UNION	Ms	Marion	Neumann	Policy Officer
EUROPEAN UNION	Ms	Rasa	Ostrauskaite	
EUROPEAN UNION	Ms	Zuzana	Tomankova	Policy Officer
EUROPEAN UNION	Ms	Besime	Vatansever	
FINLAND	Mr	Pekka	Haavisto	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland
FINLAND	Mr	Jouni	Hirvonen	

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
FINLAND	Ms	Anu	Konttinen	Counsellor
FINLAND	Ms	Päivi	Laivola de Rosière	Ambassador
FINLAND	Ms	Mari	Neuvonen	
FINLAND	Mr	Juho	Takkunen	Special Adviser
FRANCE	Ms	Christine	FAGES	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
FRANCE	Mr	Fabien	Patry	Consellor
GEORGIA	Ms	Ketevan	Tsikhelashvili	Permanent Representative
GEORGIA	Ms	Mariam	Burduli	Acting Head
GEORGIA	Ms	Tamar	Tchitanava	Acting Head
GERMANY	Mr	Hinrich	Thoelken	Director for International Climate and Energy Policy and Digital Transformation
GERMANY	Mr	Fritz	Martin	MilPolAdv
GERMANY	Mr	Peter	Sonnenhol	Counsellor
GREECE	Mr	Nikos	Dendias	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic
GREECE	Mr	Alexios	Zannos	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE
GREECE	Ms	Christina	Alexopoulou	Head of the OSCE Department - D3 Directorate for OSCE and the Council of Europe
GREECE	Ms	Ariadni	Begliti	Attache at the Minister's Diplomatic Cabinet

State / Organization / Affiliation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Position
GREECE	Mr	Georgios	Daskalopoulos	First Counsellor / Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the Osce
GREECE	Mr	Ioannis	Tsaousis	Director of the Minister's Diplomatic Cabinet
HOLY SEE	Msgr.	Janusz	Urbanczyk	Head of Mission
HOLY SEE	Mr.	Alberto	Cerri	Adviser
HOLY SEE	Msgr.	Joseph	Grech	Deputy Head of Mission
HOLY SEE	Msgr	Dominic	O'Toole	Rev. Fr., Advisor
HUNGARY	Mr	Peter	Sztáray	State Secretary for Security Policy
HUNGARY	Mr	Bence	Dobri	
ICELAND	Mr	Olafur	Sigurdsson	Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative
ICELAND	Mr	Gudni	Bragason	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
IRELAND	Mr	KEvin	Dowling	Head of Mission
IRELAND	Mr	Adam	Greene	Attaché
ITALY	Ms	Marina	Sereni	Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
ITALY	Mr	Alessandro	Azzoni	Permanent Representative
ITALY	Mr	Mario Alberto	Bartoli	Head of the OSCE Division
ITALY	Mr	Giuseppe	Cavagna	Head of Secretariat
ITALY	Mr	Giovanni	Davoli	Press Office
ITALY	Ms	Giulia	Gullotti	Segretario di Legazione

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
ITALY	Mr	Marco	Lapadura	First Counselor/DPR
ITALY	Ms	Loredana	Massimi	Assistant
ITALY	Mr	Giovanni	Orfei	Spokesperson
ITALY	Ms	Benedetta	Romagnoli	Deputy Head of Secretariat
KAZAKHSTAN	Mr	Abzal	Alibekov	First Secretary
KYRGYZSTAN	Mr	Ulanbek	Dyikanbaev	Deputy Permanent Representative
LATVIA	Ms	Katrina	Kaktina	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
LATVIA	Mr	Valerijs	Romanovskis	Deputy Permanent Representative
LITHUANIA	Ms	Dangira	West	DHoM
LUXEMBOURG	Mr	Christian	Steinbach	Secrétaire de Légation
MALTA	Mr	Evarist	Bartolo	Minister
MALTA	Mr	Daniel John	Attard	Communications Co-ordinator
MALTA	Mr	Matthew	Grima	Counsellor
MALTA	Ms	Natasha	Meli Daudey	Ambassador/Permanent Representative
MONACO	Mr	Frédéric	Labarrère	Ambassador and Permanent Representative
MONACO	Mr	Lorenzo	Ravano	Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative
MONTENEGRO	Mr	Ambassador Vladimir	Radulovic	State Secretary



<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
MONTENEGRO	Ms	Brankica	Cmiljanovic	Head of Directorate of Horizontal Legislation
MONTENEGRO	Mr	Ambassador Veselin	Sukovic	Permanent Representative
MONTENEGRO	Ms	Bosiljka	Vukovic-Simonovic	First Secretary
NORTH MACEDONIA	Ms	Evgenija	Ilieva	Minister Counselor
NORWAY	Mr	Torstein	Bøe	Intern
POLAND	Mr	Boguslaw	Winid	Plenipotentiary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Poland's OSCE Chairmanship 2022
POLAND	Mr	Adam	Halacinski	Permanent Representative
POLAND	Mr	Pawel	Jablonski	Undersecretary of State
POLAND	Ms	Karolina	Kazula	Attaché
POLAND	Ms	Joanna	Klepacka	First Secretary
POLAND	Mr	Zenon	Kuchciak	
POLAND	Ms	Joanna	Pawelek-Mendez	
POLAND	Ms	Olga	Piaskowska	
PORTUGAL	Ms	Maria Teresa	Ribeiro	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
PORTUGAL	Mr	Miguel	Silvestre	Head of Cabinet
PORTUGAL	Mr	Jorge	Lobo Mesquita	Permanent Representative / Ambassador

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
PORTUGAL	Mr	Carlos	Brito	Deputy Permanent Representative
PORTUGAL	Ms.	Blenda	Ribeiro	Advisor
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Ms	Natalia	Strigunova	Deputy Director
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Mr	Andrey	Demin	Senior Counsellor
SAN MARINO	Mr	Federico	Zanotti	Adviser
SERBIA	Mr	Sasa	Ojdanic	First Counsellor
SERBIA	Ms	Tamara	Ognjanovic	Second Secretary
SLOVAKIA	Mr	Radomír	Bohác	Ambassador/Permanent Representative
SLOVAKIA	Mr	Rastislav	Križan	Director of the Department for Disarmament and Counter-terrorism
SLOVAKIA	Mr	Juraj	Kubla	Head of OSCE Unit
SLOVAKIA	Ms	Janka	Makušová	Desk Officer, OSCE Unit
SLOVAKIA	Mr	Michal	Vanco	Second Secretary
SLOVAKIA	Ms	Katarína	Žáková	Deputy Permanent Representative
SLOVENIA	Mr	Anže	Logar	Minister of Foreign Affairs
SLOVENIA	Ms	Barbara	Žvokelj	Ambassador - Permanent Representative
SLOVENIA	Ms	Alenka	Verbole	Minister Plenipotentiary
SLOVENIA	Ms	Živa	Ceglar	Assistant Adviser
SPAIN	Ms	María Aranzazu	González Laya	Minister of Foreign Affairs

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
SPAIN	Mr.	Juan Armando	Andrada-Vanderwilde Parada	Deputy Permanent Representative
SPAIN	Ms.	Clara	Cabrera Brasero	Ambassador at large for Gender Policy in Foreign Policy
SPAIN	Mr.	Luis	Cuesta Civís	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
SPAIN	Ms	Alejandra	del Río Novo	Adviser
SPAIN	Mr.	Marcos	Gómez Martínez	General Director
SPAIN	Ms.	Victoria	Scola Pliego	Advisor
SWEDEN	Ms	Ann	Linde	Minister for Foreign Affairs
SWEDEN	Ms	Ulrika	Funered	Ambassador, Head of Delegation
SWEDEN	Ms	Lenita	Freidenvall	Director
SWEDEN	Mr	Tobias	Lorentzson	Ambassador, Deputy Head of Delegation
SWEDEN	Ms	Petra	Lärke	Ambassador
SWEDEN	Ms	Tove	Wennergren	Spokesperson
SWEDEN	Ms	Vanda	Czifra	Deputy Head of Delegation
SWEDEN	Mr	Alexander	Ahlfont	Communication Adviser
SWEDEN	Ms	Isabella	Björkman	Administrative Officer
SWEDEN	Ms	Isabella	Björkman	Administrative Officer
SWEDEN	Ms	Agnes	Fälldin	
SWEDEN	Ms	Maria	Lunander	Senior Adviser

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
SWEDEN	Ms	ulrika	Sundberg	Ambassador
SWEDEN	Ms	Linda	Wallberg	Meeting Coordinator
SWEDEN	Ms	Anna	Wikner	Deputy Head of TF
SWEDEN	Ms	Petter	Hagman	Trainee
SWITZERLAND	Mr	Wolfgang Amadeus	Brühlhart	Ambassador, Head of Mission
SWITZERLAND	Ms	Riccarda	Torriani	Minister, Deputy Head of Delegation to the OSCE
SWITZERLAND	Ms	Stéphanie	Pier de Raveschoot	Coordinator Global Water Programme
SWITZERLAND	Mr	Pierre Laurent	Della Bianca	Deputy Coordinator
SWITZERLAND	Ms	Rascha	Osman	Regional Coordinator MENA
SWITZERLAND	Mr	Frédéric Henri	Clément	Trainee
SWITZERLAND	Ms	Anne-Catherine	Stolz	Trainee
TURKEY	Mr	Faruk	Kaymakçı	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
TURKEY	Ms	Berna	Kasnakli Verstedden	Deputy Director General
TURKEY	Mr	Engin	Soysal	Permanent Representative, Ambassador
TURKEY	Mr	Cemil	Tahralli	Counsellor
UNITED KINGDOM	Mr	Justin	Addison	Second Secretary Political
UNITED KINGDOM	Ms	Natalie	Bereuter	Support/ Communications Officer

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
UNITED KINGDOM	Ms	Sue	Vierny	Second Secretary Political
UNITED STATES of AMERICA	Ms	Jessica	Beck	Second Secretary
UNITED STATES of AMERICA	Ms	Zantana	Ephrem	
UNITED STATES of AMERICA	Ms	Michelle	Ngirbabul	
UNITED STATES of AMERICA	Mr	Bahram	Rajae	Second Secretary
UNITED STATES of AMERICA	Ms	Kathleen	Samuel-Ahl	U.S. Mission to the OSCE
<b>Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation</b>				
ALGERIA	Ms	Faouzia	Mebarki	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
ALGERIA	Mr	Abdelmalek	Tigharghar	Minister Counsellor
EGYPT	Mr	Mohamed	ElMolla	Ambassador / Permanent Representative
EGYPT	Mr	Ehab	Fawzy	Ambassador / Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security
EGYPT	Mr	Mohamed	Hanafy	Second Secretary
EGYPT	Mr	Yasser	Sorour	Ambassador / Deputy Assistant Minister
ISRAEL	Mr	Mordechai Denis Paul	Rodgold	Permanent Representative
ISRAEL	Mr	David	Aaronson	Senior Advisor to the Minister

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
ISRAEL	Mr	Ofir	Akunis	His Excellency
ISRAEL	Ms.	Silvia	Berladski Baruch	Deputy Permanent Representative
ISRAEL	Ms	Hana	Rado	
ISRAEL	Mr	Christian	Schwarz	Political Advisor
ISRAEL	Mr	Ariel	Shafransky	Director
JORDAN	Mr	Ayman	Safadi	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
JORDAN	Ms	Leena	Al Hadid	Ambassador and Permanent Representative
JORDAN	Mr	Essam	Al-Raggad	Second Secretary
MOROCCO	Mr	Azzeddine	Farhane	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
MOROCCO	Ms	Malika	Alaoui	Minister Counsellor
MOROCCO	Mr	Nasser	Bourita	Ministry of Foreign Affairs African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates
TUNISIA	Mr	Mohamed	Mezghani	Ambassador
TUNISIA	Ms	Arwa	Lahrizi	Attachée
<b>OSCE</b>				
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Tuula	Yrjölä	Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General
OSCE Secretariat	Mr	Luca	Fratini	Ambassador, Director

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
OSCE Secretariat	Mr	Vuk	Zugic	Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities
OSCE Secretariat	Mr	Philippe	Tremblay	Head of the External Co-operation Section
OSCE Secretariat	Mr	Emiliano	Alessandri	Senior External Co-operation Officer
OSCE Secretariat	Mr	Xhodi	Sakiqi	External Co-operation Officer
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Dania	Cossa	Senior External Co-operation Officer
OSCE Secretariat	Mr	Luca	Pianese	Senior Migration Security Expert
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Teresa	Albano	Economic Affairs Officer
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Sylvi	Bratten	Adviser on Gender Issues
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Esra	Buttanri	Senior Adviser
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Sogol	Jafarzadeh	Environmental Affairs Adviser
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Zhongwei	Sun	Junior Professional Officer
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Faduma	Ali	Junior Professional Officer
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Aldona	Szymanski	Senior External Co-operation Assistant
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Anita	Alidemaj	External Co-operation Assistant
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Liliya	Buhela	External Co-operation Office Clerk
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Eugenia	Reznikowa	Gender Focal Point

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Elke	Lidarik	Supervisor, Meetings Support and Documentation Unit of the OSCE
OSCE Secretariat	Mr	Mikko	Patokallio	Mediation Support Officer
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Stanka	Kazimirova	
OSCE Secretariat	Ms	Annette	Schröter	
OSCE Secretariat	Mr	David	Ilioski	Intern
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Mr	Pascal	Allizard	Vice-President
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Mr	Marc	Carillet	Senior Advisor
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Mr	Roberto	Ferrari	
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Mr	Fabrice	Hugot	Administrator French Senate
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	Mr	Ilias	Trochidis	Research Assistant
<b>International Organizations</b>				
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	Mr	Yuri	Bobruiski	
Economic Cooperation	Mr	Rovshan	Mirzayev	Director



<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Organization (ECO)				
Eurasian Economic Community (EEC)	Mr	Denis	Lobkov	
League of Arab States (LAS)	Ms	Nada	El Agizy	Minister Plenipotentiary
League of Arab States (LAS)	Ms	Khadija	El Shafei	Project Coordinator
League of Arab States (LAS)	Mr	Mahmoud	Fath-Allah	Director
League of Arab States (LAS)	Mr	Mohamed Samir	Koubaa	Ambassador/ Head of Mission
League of Arab States (LAS)	Mr	Mustapha	Laatigue	Counselor
OFM Secretariat	Ms	Mafalda	Gomes	
Organization of Islamic Cooperation	Ms	Nassima	Baghli	Ambassador, Permanent Observer
Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)	Ms	EBRU	BARUTÇU GÖKDENIZLER	Ambassador, First Deputy Secretary General
Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIS)	Ms	Perihan	Cengiz	Secretary
Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIS)	Mrs	Ismat	Jahan	Ambassador, Permanent Observer

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)	Mr	Vladimir	Kirushev	Program Officer - Political and Security Related Cooperation
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)	Ms	Irene	Pasqua	Program Officer - Economic and Environmental Cooperation
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)	Mr	Alain	Perea	PAM Vice President, Rapporteur on Environment
Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)	Mr	Michael	Fazekas	Executive Coordinator
Union for the Mediterranean	Mr	Arnault	Graves	
Union for the Mediterranean	Mr	Nasser	Kamel	Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean
Union for the Mediterranean	Mr	Grammenos	Mastrojeni	Senior Deputy Secretary General
United Nations (UN)	Ms	Sona	Jacinova	Associate Liaison Officer
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Mr	François	GUERQUIN	Director
United Nations Environment	Mr	Julien	Le Tellier	Programme Management Officer - Socio-economic Affairs

<b>State / Organization / Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
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