Climate Change and Security in the OSCE Context

Esra Buttanri
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

24 October 2019
OSCE at a glance

57 participating States

Comprehensive approach to security

3 Dimensions
Politico-military
Economic and Environmental
Human dimension

Secretariat
Conflict Prevention Centre
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)
Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
Transnational Threats Department

Field Operations

Decision-making bodies
Summits/Ministerial Councils
Permanent Council
Forum for Security Co-operation

3 Institutions
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
High Commissioner on National Minorities
Representative on Freedom of the Media
OSCE and the environment

Linkages between environment and security:

- **Environmental degradation** can be a potential source of tensions

- **Environmental co-operation** can contribute to good neighbourly relations, conflict prevention and confidence-building
OSCE and climate change

Offers a platform for political dialogue

Implements activities on the ground
Project on Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus

Objectives:

- Create **awareness** on potential security implications of climate change and the need for **regional and transboundary co-operation** in adaptation.

- Strengthen **capacities** to anticipate, prevent and mitigate potential security risks resulting from climate change.

Partnership:

- ENVSEC Initiative: OSCE, UNDP, UNEP, UNECE, REC
- European Union (Instrument for Stability)
- Austrian Development Agency
Project on Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus

Climate security hotspots
Project on Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus

Transboundary adaptation strategy for the Dniester River Basin

Endorsed by Ukraine and Moldova at the ministerial level
Lessons learned

- Climate change co-operation, joint action and climate diplomacy can be good entry points for facilitating good neighbourly relations and strengthening trust.

- Addressing climate change at regional level is critical as it links the efforts undertaken at the global and national levels.

- The inherent complexity of climate-security challenges require “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approaches to balance the interests of different sectors.

- Climate-security hotspots need further research and in-depth analysis.

- The Dniester co-operation process can be used as a good practice example.

- Awareness-raising on potential security implications of climate change should continue.
What is next?

• Participatory risk assessment in the South Eastern Europe region

• Awareness-raising targeting national authorities, parliamentarians, media

• Partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
For more information:


esra.buttanri@osce.org