

Responding to Environmental Challenges with a View to Promoting Cooperation and Security in the OSCE Area



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Review Report on the Implementation of OSCE Commitments

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Content



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- **Disaster Risk Management in the OSCE Area**
- **International Perspective of Disaster Risk Reduction**
- **Implementation of OSCE Commitments in the Area of Disasters**
- **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Prevailing Disasters in the OSCE Area



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- **Geologically Related Disasters** - earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, mudflows, sea erosion
- **Water and Climate** (Hydro-meteorological origin) - floods, droughts, cyclones, tornadoes, hurricanes, cloudburst, snowing, heat & cold waves
- **Biologically Related Disasters** - epidemics, cattle epidemics
- **Technological Disasters** - chemical, industrial and nuclear related, mine accidents, dam failure
- **Forest Fires**

Disaster Profile of the OSCE Area (1990 – 2014)



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- Storms (34%) and floods (31%) are *the most frequently occurring* disasters in the OSCE area.
- Floods (35%), storms (29%) and drought (19%) *affected the maximum number of people*
- Earthquakes (54%), floods (26%) and storms (16%) *lead to maximum number of homeless people*
- Extreme temperature events have resulted in *maximum deaths* (77%) in the OSCE area
- Storms are *the costliest* disaster faced in this area, constituting 62% of total damages

Floods Affect the Highest Number of People



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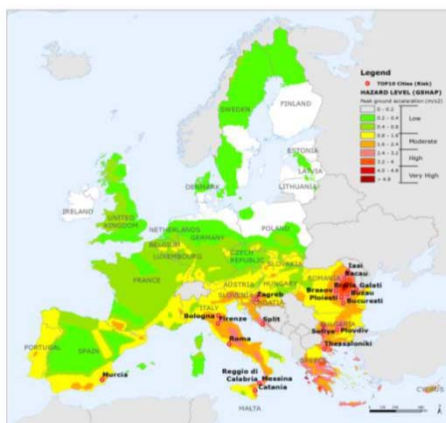
Balkan floods in 2014:

- Total affected: 3.14 mln people
- Total evacuated: 87,000 people
- 3,800 houses destroyed
- Over 100,000 houses damaged
- More than 3,000 landslides reported
- 70 per cent of the flood-affected area is suspected to contain mines and UXOs.

Earthquakes



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Main fault line: Eurasian plate meets African plate and runs through Mediterranean sea

- Five CA capital cities have 40% or higher probability of XI MSK earthquake in the next 20 years
- Lack of awareness and knowledge of modern seismic construction techniques, and weak reinforcement of construction norms.

Impact of Climate Change



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- Enhances the frequency and intensity of hydro-meteorological disasters
- Has impact on: public health, sea level rise, flora and fauna, infrastructure and migration
- Cost of adaptation to climate change in EU:
 - min cost from €100 billion by 2020 to € 250 billion in 2050
 - Min cost of damage from river floods is €20 billion by 2020 to €46 billion by 2050
 - each Euro spent on flood protection could avoid six Euros of damage costs

Security Concerns of Climate Change

(as per the Climate Change and Security in the OSCE Region - Scenarios for Action and Co-operation report, 2013, Adelphi)



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Western Balkans:

Water and energy sectors were identified as priority. Inefficient management of trans boundary rivers and insufficient adaptation. Action should focus on the particularly vulnerable coastal and urban regions.

Eastern Europe:

Food security was clearly identified as the priority for the region. This includes specific action to enhance food security and adaptation of agricultural sectors.

Southern Caucasus:

Water, agricultural and energy sectors are priorities, with water being the most pertinent challenge. Extreme weather events and disaster preparedness and management.

Security Concerns of Climate Change

(as per the Climate Change and Security in the OSCE Region - Scenarios for Action and Co-operation report, 2013, Adelphi)



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Central Asia:

Water-energy-agricultural nexus with its regionally integrated infrastructure poses the biggest challenge for the region. The water sector is highly politicized, but also key to adapting to the challenges posed by climate change. In addition, disaster preparedness and management was also identified as a key priority.

International Framework for DRR



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- **MDGs/SDGs** – UN works on development of DRR indicators for SDGs
- **Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)** - adopted 2005, at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction by 168 Governments; global blueprint for DRR: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters
- **HFA 2** currently negotiated by UN member states and international DRR stakeholders under UNISDR coordination. To be adopted at World DRR Conference in Sendai, Japan in March 2015.

Multilateral DRR Environmental Agreements



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- **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** - 55 OSCE participating States
- **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** - 55 OSCE participating States
- **UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses** - 17 OSCE participating States
- **UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents** - 40 OSCE participating States
- **UNECE Convention on Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (Espoo Convention)** - 46 OSCE participating States
- **UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki Convention)** 38 OSCE participating States

International Practices for DRR



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- **Mainstreaming DRR into Development:** Health, Education, Land Use Planning, etc.
- **Mainstreaming DRR into Security** - a step toward building disaster resilience.
- **DRR and CCA:** a focus on vulnerability reduction and the enhancement of resilience.
- **Community based DRR and CCA is key:** Local Level Risk Management (LLRM) practice of UNDP (Armenia, Moldova, etc.)

Main DRR Stakeholders



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- **Governments** - hold primary responsibility of protecting the lives and livelihoods of citizens of their country from disasters
- **Local authorities** – responsible for community preparedness and implementing local DRR
- **Communities** – first responder and can substantially reduce the damage caused by the disaster
- **Civil society** – provide link b/w disaster management agencies and the affected community
- **Private sector** – availability of expertise and resources, flexible in terms of procedures and rules
- **Other** – armed forces, academia, think-tanks, research and training institutions and media

OSCE Commitments in the Area of DRR



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- OSCE's comprehensive approach to security
- **The Helsinki Final Act (1975)** calls for harmonization of policies in relation to the environment - "*study and forecasting of earthquakes and associated geological changes; development and research of technology of seism-resisting construction*", as well as "*human adaptation to climatic extremes*"
- **1989 Sofia** - recognized the importance of establishing regional or sub regional mechanisms for response, assistance, and exchange of information in environmental emergencies
- **1992 Helsinki** encouraged creation of national environmental arrangements, such as task forces to coordinate expertise and equipment to countries in emergencies, to the United Nations Centre on Urgent Environmental Assistance.
- **1995 Budapest** "A New Concept for a New Security" participating States decided that the Chairman-in-Office will organize the work *inter alia* by "*co-operation in solving environmental problems and managing disasters*".

OSCE Commitments in the Area of DRR



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- **1996 Lisbon** “interaction with regional, sub regional, and transborder cooperative initiatives in the economic and environmental field should be enhanced.”
- **1999 Istanbul** - “we need to strengthen the international community’s ability to respond to such events (7.6 magnitude earthquake in Turkey), by improving the coordination of the efforts of participating states, international organizations, and NGOs”.
- **2002 Porto** - “on participating States, the International Maritime Organization and other relevant international organizations to enhance their efforts to ensure the protection of the marine environment against disasters”.
- **2003 Maastricht** - “ecological disasters resulting from natural causes, economic activities or terrorist acts may pose a serious threat to stability and security.”
- **2004 Sofia** - “possibility to exchange views on how Civil Military Emergency Planning (CMEP) activities could serve as a confidence- and security-building measure with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-Operation”.

OSCE Commitments in the Area of DRR



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- **2005 Ljubljana** - “facilitation of cross-border cooperation in case of natural disasters or serious accidents in border zones” is being encouraged.
- **2007 Madrid** - notes that environmental degradation, including both natural and man-made disasters, and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be an additional contributor to conflict.
- **2008 Helsinki** - “need to step up regional, sub-regional and inter-regional efforts, in particular in addressing the challenges and opportunities related to emergency situations and the need for joint emergency responses”.
- **2009 Athens** - “the problems of refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the OSCE area, including resulting from ... natural or human made disasters, requires enhanced co-operation of all participating States”.
- **2010 Astana** - a call to intensify dialogue, exchange best practices, and step up efforts to enhance protection of the environment, including by fostering cooperation on collective responses to natural and man-made disasters.

OSCE Commitments in the Area of DRR



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- **2011 Vilnius** - “Elements of the Conflict Cycle” that “threatens environmental security, including environmental degradation, natural and man-made disasters and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be potential contributors to conflict”.
- **2013 Kyiv** - “the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to further follow the cross dimensional aspects of the environmental impact of energy-related activities when exacerbated by natural or man-made disasters, and to assist participating States upon their request in making best use of the OSCE as a platform for a broad dialogue, co-operation, exchange of information and sharing of best practices on these aspects”.

While strong institutional commitment, there is a need to strengthen the operational and financial basis of the OSCE to work on DRR.

Regional Focus



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- Europe has been facing disasters with the world's highest level of losses.
- The importance of regional cooperation in the area of climate change, disaster risk reduction and security has been realized by the OSCE participating States.
- To overcome the challenge posed to the security of these countries from disasters there are several organizations, which have dedicating efforts to reduce the impact of such events in their respective regions.

Implementation of OSCE Commitments by Participating States: co-operation and coordination



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Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) agreement of collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made disasters in 1998 - seismic risks, forest fires and floods

Council of Europe (CoE) European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) -collaboration on the issues like hazard and risk analysis, risk prevention, risk management post crisis analysis and rehabilitation of affected areas

European Union (EU) promotes disaster risk evaluation, prevention and mitigation from hazards, information to the public, preparedness and response, and analysis after the disaster; Common Emergency and Information system; the second-largest global humanitarian aid donor beside from its work on civil protection and the third largest funder of UNISDR, contributing more than \$19 million between 2000 and 2011

Implementation of OSCE Commitments by Participating States: co-operation and coordination



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North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) recognizes extreme weather conditions and depletion of natural resources as factors, which may lead to disasters and regional tensions. Established Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Co-ordination Centre.

South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), Sofia, 2000 - launched a Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI SEE). DPPI SEE fosters regional cooperation and coordination in disaster preparedness and prevention across borders of the SEE. In 2007, World Bank, the WMO and the United Nations, through the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), also initiated the **South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme.**

Cooperation between OSCE Participating States



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- **Central Asia Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Coordination Centre** established in 2013 in Almaty as a bilateral mechanism between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan for capacity building of stakeholders in the area of DRR and response. Joint collaboration of UNDP, UNOCHA and ISDR.
- **Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative** – established by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and UNISDR under the umbrella of CAREC. In line with the HFA and aims at reducing the vulnerability of countries to security issues and the risks of disasters.

Cooperation between OSCE Participating States



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- **Central Asia Climate Risk Management Programme (CA-CRM)** run by UNDP. Assists Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to adjust their national development processes to address risks posed by current climate variability and future climate change.
- **Central Asia Regional Risk Assessment (CARRA I)** – provided umbrella platform for an interagency donor DRR work plans, embracing all major donors, as well as national partners in Central Asia and Afghanistan
- **Central Asia Resilience Alliance (CARRA II)** - aims at enhanced regional DRR capacities and knowledge, risk management in uranium legacy sites and vulnerability reduction, targeting especially vulnerable social groups

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Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction at National Level



- 46 participating States have nominated an HFA focal point and 29 participating States have created national platforms
- 548 cities in 26 participating States of OSCE are part of the "Making Cities Resilient" movement of the UNISDR
- enacted or amended legislation to address DRR
- efforts to move from a culture of reactive response and recovery after a disaster to proactive risk reduction, security and safety
- disaster management well institutionalized – special ministries

However:

remaining challenge is to sustain long-term commitment and adequate resources for DRR

gaps in the overall capacity of national hydro-meteorological services; insufficient resources, capacity-building for DRR and climate change adaptation often remain underdeveloped

ENVSEC Initiative and DRR – over a decade of partnership



The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) partnership between OSCE, UNDP, UNEP, UNECE, REC and NATO to strengthen national capacities, regional co-ordination mechanisms and international co-operation for environment and security risk reduction. Priority areas:

- Natural Resources and Security Risk Management
- Hazardous Substances and Security Risk Reduction
- Climate Change Adaptation and Security Risk Reduction
- Information on Environment and Security and Participation in Risk Management

56 Aarhus Centres - environment and security public outreach facilities in 14 countries in support of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and a platform to promote community based disaster risk reduction.

Potential DRR Areas for OSCE Contribution (recommendations)



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1. **Improved systematic cooperation** between the OSCE participating States on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
2. **More coordinated activities on DRR** with other international and regional organizations active in this field taking into account the added value of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and regional coverage and should further strengthen its engagement in ENVSEC as a robust mechanism for co-ordination and co-operation among international organizations.
3. **Stronger engagement** with UNDP and other partners in reducing the risk and improving the security aspect around Uranium Tailings in Central Asia

Potential DRR Areas for OSCE Contribution (recommendations)



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4. Explore possibilities of **joining** the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) inter-agency DRR capacity assessment platform
5. Encourage participating States **to establish and/or strengthen the national multi-stakeholder co-ordination mechanisms** for DRR while providing participating States with support in such endeavors, including through joint efforts with other international organizations.
6. **Institutionalise its position** on DRR and CCA by developing the organization's position paper to address disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Potential DRR Areas for OSCE Contribution (recommendations)



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7. Further **integrate DRR into the organization's work** by mainstreaming DRR in relevant projects and activities and by recruitment of DRR practitioners.
8. Explore **possibilities for practical engagement** in the work on DRR capacity development for the CACDRRR, as well as other regional and sub-regional operational and information networks
9. **Advocate for inclusion of DRR** considerations in the work of government agencies and the private sector

Potential DRR Areas for OSCE Contribution (recommendations)



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10. Consider more **substantial and regular engagement into the local-level work on DRR** through, inter alia, strengthening of the respective capacities of Aarhus Centres and the CASE NGO Small Grants Programme
11. Consider **substantial and sustainable engagement with global DRR stakeholders** to contribute a security perspective to the shaping of global DRR Agenda, such as HFA 2 (World Conference on DRR, Sendai, Japan, March 2015 (<http://www.wcdrr.org/>); DRR Indicators for SDGs; engage in DRR Political Champions Process (UN, WB, US, UK, EU +)



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Thank you