

Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting
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MADRID DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY

The OSCE Ministerial Council,

Recalling the provisions of the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Maastricht Strategy) in the area of environment and security,

Recalling the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Concluding Document of the CSCE Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (Bonn Document), the 1999 Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit, the already-mentioned 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, other OSCE relevant documents and decisions regarding environmental issues, and the outcome of all previous Economic and Environmental Fora, which have established a basis for the OSCE's work in the area of environment and security,

Taking account of the environmental risks, notably those related to land degradation, soil contamination, desertification and water management, and the environmental impact of natural and man-made disasters, such as the Chernobyl accident, which may have a substantial impact on security in the OSCE region and which might be more effectively addressed within the framework of multilateral co-operation, and recalling the outcome of the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum,

Recognizing that climate change is a long-term challenge; acknowledging that the United Nations climate process is the appropriate forum for negotiating future global action on climate change, and the OSCE, as a regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, has a complementary role to play within its mandate in addressing this challenge in its specific region,

Recalling the final declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held in Belgrade, which recognizes that addressing common environmental problems offers opportunities for co-operation amongst governments diffusing tension and contributing to a greater co-operation and security, and that environmental co-operation may contribute to peace-building process, and also noting the continued work and the lessons learned from the demand-driven Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) in participating States,

Recognizing the importance of good environmental governance for the governments of participating States,

Reiterating the determination of all the participating States to further strengthen co-operation aiming at reducing environment-related security risks, amongst each other and with other international and regional institutions and organizations working in the area of environment, *inter alia*, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, programmes and conventions and the OSCE Partners, and focusing on the OSCE's added value and avoiding duplications,

Recalling the Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/06 on Energy Security Dialogue in the OSCE, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/06 on the Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE and welcoming the theme of the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum "Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment",

Affirming that co-operation on environmental issues may serve as a tool to prevent tensions, to build confidence and to promote good neighbourly relations in the OSCE region,

Has come to the following conclusions:

1. We highlight the importance of enhancing co-operation in the area of environment and security in the OSCE region.
2. Environmental degradation, including both natural and man-made disasters, and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be a potential additional contributor to conflict. Climate change may magnify these environmental challenges.
3. Environmental co-operation and the promotion of early warning could be useful tools in diminishing tensions as part of a broader effort to prevent conflict, build mutual confidence and promote good neighbourly relations.
4. The OSCE, within its mandate, financial and human resources and capacity has a potential for widening and deepening its co-operation with other international organizations working in the area of environment and thereby making contributions to deal with future relevant risks and challenges in the OSCE region.
5. The OSCE should consider bringing better focus to its existing activities on environmental matters and utilize more effectively its institutional capacity and its transboundary co-operative arrangements in this field.
6. The OSCE could raise awareness on the potential impact on security of environmental challenges, by using its forum for dialogue and exchange of experiences and best practices and also by integrating these considerations into its activities.
7. We commend the Spanish Chairmanship initiative to make the Madrid Ministerial Council a carbon neutral event and welcome any voluntary carbon offsetting programmes including other OSCE initiatives in this regard.

8. We reaffirm our commitment to improve environmental governance, *inter alia*, by strengthening the sustainable management of natural resources, especially water, soil, forests and biodiversity.
9. We underline the importance of further implementing the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the recommendations of the OSCE Handbook of the Best Practice Guides on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition in all aspects relating to the risks for the environment.
10. We commend the OSCE, in co-operation with relevant international organizations, to support, within existing resources, regional and transboundary co-operation on the rehabilitation of the land contaminated as a result of the Chernobyl disaster both to prevent the radionuclide migration and to promote the natural recovery processes.
11. We note the 2007 Spanish Chairmanship proposal of an action plan on the threats and opportunities in the area of environment and security.

Participating States may further elaborate, if deemed necessary, common response to environmental challenges, fully taking into account the OSCE mandate and capabilities and focusing on the OSCE's added value and avoiding duplication.