

CHAIRMANSHIP CONFERENCE
The Security Implications of Climate Change in the OSCE Area
Closing session

Address of Mr. Cornel Feruță, Permanent Representative of Romania to the OSCE

- These two days of conference have been exceptionally rich in terms of content and range of the contributions. We learnt that it was not so long ago that the link between security and climate change started being explored. In the roughly two years since it was clearly acknowledged that climate change poses risks to security, we have seen efforts at global and regional level. We noted, in this respect, the report of the Secretary General of the UN which addresses this phenomenon from the global perspective.
- Additionally, the Swedish ambassador shared with us the EU's views on the matter, including through the joint efforts of the EU Council Secretariat and European Commission in identifying the security implications of climate change.
- The range of contributions was, rightfully, not confined to the security implications of climate change. We have taken stock of the current state of play in the negotiations paving the way for a Kyoto-2, a new binding agreement in Copenhagen.
- From the global level we descended to the regional and local level and we heard first hand experiences from some of the countries which are among the most affected by this phenomenon: Kyrgystan and Kazakhstan.
- We also got a glimpse at the potential cross-dimensional aspects -that we are very fond of in the OSCE - of climate change and learnt about the use of imagery and the Open Skies Treaty framework.
- Not least, we saw this morning that, when talking about energy, we need to have the climate change perspective in mind.
- The main question ahead of us at the end of these two days is WHAT NEXT? How do we capitalize on this when we go back to Vienna, including on the road to Athens? And, from my own perspective, how shall we tackle this topic in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Committee?
- We believe that this event has shown that there is both willingness and potential for the OSCE to further explore and eventually contribute to combating the security risks of climate change. The OSCE is a security oriented organization – it is our business to see the security implications of this phenomenon that already affects our lives right now.

- After having analyzed the security implications, the OSCE can make use of its toolbox for conflict prevention and management in tackling this issue.
- One thing we heard several times is that there is a knowledge gap on what exactly the implications of climate change are. On the other hand, we were reassured that, at grassroots level, there is a clear understanding of the phenomenon. Maybe it is time actually to put together the information we have at various levels (global, regional and local) and come up with a coherent vision. And again, the OSCE is uniquely equipped for this kind of exercise due to the field presences, on the one hand, and the political framework of the 56 participating states in Vienna, on the other hand.
- Having said that, we should start working at both levels right away in order to get a better picture of how the OSCE can contribute to tackling the security implications of climate change.
- We took note of the generous offer of the Office of the Economic and Environmental coordinator to develop a program related to climate change which we hope to hear more about soon. Also, we expect that the project developed by Mr. Svilanovic's team will be part of that larger endeavour.
- Therefore, I look forward to extracting the gist of our discussions here and make best use of them in Vienna and capitals. I hope that the delegates from capitals will also put his conference to good use, including by sending meaningful instructions to our colleagues in Vienna.
- I would like to thank once again the Chairmanship and the Office of the Economic and Environmental Coordinator for their great efforts in co-organizing this conference and to all the speakers and participants.