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Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí České republiky
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
In co-operation with the OSCE Group of Friends on the Environment

Security Implications of Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe *Contributions to the region's climate resilience by the OSCE as well as by Czechia*

Side event organised on the occasion of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the 30th anniversary of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum held since its initiation in 1992 in Prague

30th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
Thursday, 8 September 2022, 13:45 – 14:45

Venue: Great Hall of the Czernin Palace, Loretánské náměstí 5, Prague 1

The event will be held **in English** without interpretation **for registered participants of the 30th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in a blended modus** with either physical presence at the Czernin Palace or virtual participation via Zoom.

Moderator:

- **Amb. Bronislava Tomášová**, Chair of the MFA Working Group on Climate and Green Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Opening remarks:

- **Mr. Jan Dusík**, Deputy Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic for Climate Protection (3 min)

Speakers:

- **Mr. Lukas Rüttinger**, Senior Advisor, adelphi, Germany
Climate Change, Security and Peace - Understanding the links (5 – 7 min)



- **Ms. Esra Buttanri**, Senior Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
The presentation will focus on the OSCE's work in the field of climate change and security, including with a focus on the SEE component of the OSCE project on climate change and security, and how these activities contribute to strengthening climate resilience and regional co-operation in line with the relevant global and regional policy frameworks. (5 – 7 min)

- **Mr. Mihallaq Qirjo**, Director, Resource Environmental Center - Albania
Vulnerability and Security Implications of Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe (5 – 7 min)

- **Ms. Hana Volná**, Deputy Director of the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
The presentation will focus on disaster risk reduction in the context of fragility, where compound risk factors such as ecosystem degradation, climate change, conflict and epidemics, forced displacement and unregulated urbanisation can affect people's resilience against natural disasters and climate change impact. Both policy frameworks and practical examples for action from the South-Eastern European region will be presented. (5 – 7 min)

Followed by a **Question and Answer session** (15 – 20 min)

Concluding remarks: *Amb. Florian Raunig*, Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE, Chair of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee

While climate change does not directly cause conflicts, it has a number of indirect implications on security, which is why climate change and its implications for security have been increasingly discussed at the international level. The adoption of the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/21 “Strengthening Co-operation to Address the Challenges Caused by Climate Change” in 2021 in Stockholm has been a major breakthrough for the OSCE and the international community in recognising this link between climate and security and need to mitigate its worst effects. Furthermore, the OSCE’s extra-budgetary project “Strengthening responses to security risks from climate change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia” aims to enhance regional co-operation in addressing climate-related security risks. The Czech Republic is one of the voluntary contributors to this project, focusing on its programming in South-Eastern Europe.



The topic of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience in the context of fragility and climate change is one of the key priorities for the Czech EU Presidency within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and other global initiatives such as the OECD/DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus (triple nexus). One of the regions that the Czech Republic supports in this context is South-Eastern Europe.

During the side event, the participants shall be informed about the current results and future plans of the above-mentioned OSCE project, as well as relevant activities of the Czech Republic in this area, in both cases with a particular focus on the South-Eastern European region.

The side event shall address the following questions:

- *How does climate security impact humanitarian challenges and development progress and how does it inhibit peace?*
- *What are the specific examples of how the OSCE's activities in the field of climate change and security in the South-Eastern European region contribute to strengthening climate resilience and implementation of the global policy framework highlighted above?*
- *What might be the practical implications of the OSCE project for the strengthening of regional co-operation?*

This side event is organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and its Permanent Mission to the United Nations, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna in co-operation with the OSCE Group of Friends on the Environment.