



# International Cooperation

**Thematic Session – 17 May 2023**

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## **Co-operation on wildfire management for enhancing climate resilience and security: Experiences and perspectives of the OSCE**

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Environmental Activities



**8<sup>TH</sup>**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**WILDLAND FIRE**  
**CONFERENCE**



Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe

# OSCE's comprehensive approach to security

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- World's **largest regional security organization**
- **57 participating States** in Europe, Asia and North America
- Asian and Mediterranean **Partners for Co-operation**
- **3 Dimensions:**
  - Politico Military Dimension
  - **Economic and Environmental Dimension**
  - Human Dimension

# OSCE – disasters, climate change and security

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- Disasters affect the **security of people and nations**. Climate change increases disaster risks and also acts as a **threat multiplier**.
- Co-operation on disaster risk reduction and tackling climate change can contribute to **good neighbourly relations, conflict prevention** and **confidence-building**.

# OSCE – disasters, climate change and security



Offers a **platform** for political dialogue

Implements **activities on the ground**

(South Caucasus, Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia)



# Political dialogue

## 2014 OSCE Ministerial Council Decision “Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction”



Acknowledges (among others) that:

- **Disasters** could be a potential **additional contributor to conflict**.
- **Conflicts**, poor governance, mismanagement and degradation of natural resources as well as migratory pressures can **affect the vulnerability of society to disasters**.
- **Co-operation in disaster risk management** is important in order to diminish tensions as part of a broader effort **to prevent conflict**, and to build **mutual confidence** and promote **good neighbourly relations**.

Calls for (among others):

- an **integrated approach to disaster risk management**
- promoting **good governance and transparency** in the field of disaster risk reduction.

Includes a reference to **fire management**

# Political dialogue

## 2021 OSCE Ministerial Council Decision

### “Strengthening Co-operation to Address the Challenges Caused by Climate Change”

Acknowledges (among others) that:

- effects of climate change can exacerbate **economic challenges and environmental degradation**, which may negatively affect **prosperity, stability and security** in the OSCE area.
- effective **co-operation by the OSCE participating States** in addressing the challenges caused by climate change can be useful in building **mutual confidence** and promoting **good neighbourly relations** and thereby contribute to **stability, resilience, and prosperity** in the OSCE area.

Calls for (among others) **co-operation**:

- on **analysis** of climate-related risks and impacts
- on **early warning**
- to foster **climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation**
- on **disaster risk reduction and management**
- on **technology and innovation**



# OSCE activities on the ground

## *Landscape fire management and wildfire risk reduction*

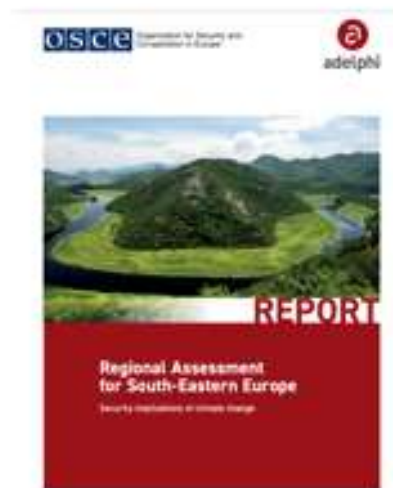
- Forest fire **vulnerability assessments**;
- Support for developing **national fire management policies** and **early warning systems**;
- Regional and cross-regional **trainings on preparedness, prevention and response to wildfires**;
- Dedicated trainings and exercises to **manage fires burning on areas contaminated by radioactivity or unexploded ordnance and land mines**;
- Support for establishing a **Regional Fire Management Resource Center for Central Asia**, based in Mongolia.



# OSCE activities on the ground

## *Climate change and security*

- **Raising awareness** on potential security risks stemming from climate change;
- Regional **climate security risk assessments** and **hotspot mapping** using a participatory methodology;
- Developing **co-operation strategies** to reduce climate-related security risks and **implementation plans** for **selected hotspots** and pilot implementation of selected measures;
- **Capacity building and networking** within and across regions.





# OSCE activities on the ground

## *Wildfire management to enhance climate resilience and security*

### In the **South Caucasus:**

Facilitate cross-border co-operation in two shared hotspots in *Northern Armenia and Southern Georgia* and *North-west Azerbaijan and North-East Georgia*.

### In **South-Eastern Europe:**

Strengthen fire prevention and preparedness capacities and promote community-based fire management in the *Shar/ Šara Mountains and Korab Massif area* – a shared nature protection area.

### **Cross-regional:**

Raise awareness on integrated approach to landscape fire management and facilitate networking and best practice sharing across regions.





## International Cooperation

# THANK YOU

For more information

<https://www.osce.org/oceea/446296>

<https://www.osce.org/node/521965>

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