



Permanent Mission of Italy  
OSCE

## STATEMENT

### 12TH MEETING OF THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP STRUCTURED DIALOGUE IN CAPITALS FORMAT

Session 2: Other Current and Future Challenges and Risks to Security

Cluster IV: Contingency planning to prevent the unforeseen  
impacts of global crises on our common security. Climate change  
and security

VIENNA, 23 MARCH 2021

Mr. Chair,

first of all, allow me to thank you for your efforts in convening this meeting, despite the constraints we all are still facing. Thank you also for inviting us to reflect on an issue that has been figuring increasingly in the agenda of other international organizations, as well as within the OSCE. I am referring to the nexus between climate and security in our region.

It is of particular interest to this working group the extensive focus that military and security institutions have been devoting to security risks ensuing from climate change, increasingly factoring in such risks in their assessments, plans and policies. As to the guiding question on “How climate change is a threat multiplier that can have an unforeseen impact on our common security”, we can certainly assert that

Climate change is indeed both a driver for instability and a direct threat “per se”.

When it comes to instability, it is indisputable that climate change is already having a dramatic impact on the security of certain areas of the globe, exacerbating existing political and social vulnerabilities and thus leading to destabilization, conflict and terrorism. And the instability it causes does turn into multiple security threats whose outreach go well beyond the areas initially affected.

We should also not forget the impact that climate change has on human security, as well as the uneven cost borne by women and children in terms of their peace and security in conflict and post-conflict environments.

International cooperation on this issue - and a clear understanding of the added value that each multilateral platform can provide – should be part of our common endeavor.

In an effort to focus on the added value that this working group could provide, we should try and answer the guiding question number 4 of this cluster – that is what are the implications of the climate crisis for the role of the military of the OSCE Participating States.

Climate change does affect the environment in which our military forces may find themselves operating and in the kind of assets they need in areas increasingly affected by climate change.

Our Countries are also increasingly called to address the issue of the footprint of our military in terms of current emissions of the assets in the areas of operations. A response based upon principles of cooperative security would imply a stronger cooperation on possible mitigation efforts.

Indeed, the quest for “climate-proofing” of international security, including its military components, will require a renewed commitment toward promoting confidence-building measures and an approach driven by the principles of cooperative security.

The OSCE, given its founding principles and its comprehensive approach to security, should step up its efforts in building awareness, capacity of its Participating States and confidence alongside an enhanced spirit of cooperation, within the larger global climate and security dialogue.

In this endeavor, we should favor the involvement of the OSCE partners for cooperation, as it is in our interest to engage and support them in addressing the security implications of climate change and the resilience of their States and societies.