



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

2023 PRAGUE FORUM ON THE OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION
“Promoting security and stability in the OSCE area through achieving sustainable
development and resilient and inclusive economic growth”
Prague, 14-15 September 2023

SESSION I
INTENSIFYING COOPERATION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE FOR SUSTAINABLE
AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

Mr Chair,

Italy aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add some additional remarks in a national capacity.

Recent news of increasing and recurring natural disasters linked to or exacerbated by climate change are a stark reminder that the international community urgently needs to redouble its efforts towards the goal of containing global warming to within 1.5 degrees and to increase its ambition in the area of mitigation. Due to its nature, multilateral efforts remain the only viable way to effectively address climate change issues.

The landmark 2021 Stockholm Ministerial Council decision has given the OSCE a solid mandate to support participating States in the fight against climate change. The OSCE High Level Conference on Climate Change has successfully brought forward new ideas on the role and added value of the Organisation in this area.

The OSCE has an important role to play in the fight against climate change, both in terms of support to the cross-regional exchange of best practices and lessons learned and in terms of multi-stakeholder engagement. By bringing together participating States from different regions but with similar challenges, as well as representatives from international organisations, national and local authorities and civil society organisations, the OSCE can offer a significant contribution to strengthen security in our region.

As noted by the Secretary General in her conclusions of the High-Level Conference, climate change considerations should be mainstreamed in all OSCE activities. We have a

new opportunity to actively look at both the carbon footprint of our meetings and activities, as well as at new ways to implement the Stockholm Decision.

Building on the results of the successful project on “Climate Change and Security”, which Italy has supported since the beginning, the OSCE should pursue new and innovative initiatives and projects, to bring tangible and effective results in the fight against climate change. Projects like “Climate change and security of critical energy infrastructure” and “Women economic empowerment in the energy sector in Central Asia and Afghanistan” are excellent examples of what the OSCE can achieve and should aim for.

Two areas of action are of particular interest in this area.

First, support efforts to collect and share reliable data and analysis on the impact of climate change at regional level, as well as initiatives to communicate them effectively to the wider public, with the aim to inform evidence-based decision-making and to foster climate preparedness and regional cooperation.

Second, actively involve and enhance the participation in climate action of key stakeholders and agents of change, like women and young people. In this context, allow me to recall that Italy organised in 2021, back to back with the Pre-Cop hosted in Milan, the Youth4climate event, where young people from all over the world were able to discuss climate-related issues of concern, among each other and later with the Ministers. Youth4climate is now a permanent platform for dialogue and takes place every year, with a permanent Secretariat hosted in Rome at the UNDP Centre for Climate Change and Energy Transition. Italy also funds youth training initiatives on climate change and ecological transition, such as a peer-to-peer training project for activists in over 80 countries implemented with the International Renewable Energy Agency - IRENA.

The nexus between energy transition, security and climate change is increasingly evident. We should continue working towards common solutions to the shared challenges of energy sustainability, climate change, environmental protection, as well as social and territorial cohesion.

Thank you