



# LITTLE GREEN BOOK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**osce**   
NORTH MACEDONIA 2023

IT'S  
ABOUT  
PEOPLE



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Climate Change:  
Today's Challenge for  
Tomorrow's Security

---

6 2023 OSCE Chairpersonship  
of North Macedonia's  
engagement in the field of  
climate change and security

---

8 Fostering political dialogue  
on climate change and  
security in the OSCE

---

12 Engaging in high-level  
discussions and fostering  
partnerships

---

14 Vision for the future:



# CLIMATE CHANGE: TODAY'S CHALLENGE FOR TOMORROW'S SECURITY



**Introduction by the 2023 OSCE  
Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Bujar Osmani**

The effects of climate change are manifold and what's even more concerning, have become increasingly evident during recent times through extreme weather events, environmental degradation and overall rising temperatures. Acting as a threat-multiplier, its widespread impact threatens to influence the very stability and fabric of our societies, by altering overall living conditions for humankind. This may affect security and stability in the entire OSCE region in different ways, while potentially driving insecurity and conflict, as well triggering migration from most vulnerable regions.

The OSCE offers great value as a platform to foster exchange between officials from participating States in trying to find overarching and collaborative solutions to tackle common threats effectively.

To put an emphasis on this important issue with its broad security implications, climate change has been part of North Macedonia's Chairpersonship priorities since the beginning of the year. By adopting the landmark Ministerial Council Decision on "Strengthening co-operation to address the challenges caused by climate change" in 2021, the OSCE and its executive structures received a comprehensive mandate for its operational engagement in the entire Organization's geographical area.

In the same spirit, I have appointed the first ever CiO Special Representative on Climate Change, Mr. Naser Nuredini, demonstrating our strong commitment to this cause. There is still much more to be accomplished: We need to make best use of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security in seeking co-operative solutions to the complex challenges created by climate change; We need to find innovative ways to ensure an integrated, coherent and coordinated OSCE response to climate change; and If we are serious about addressing the climate crisis and its security implications, we need continuous dialogue, co-operation, partnerships, and resources. This work must keep the people in mind, because it is who we represent and for who we strive to make a real difference on the ground.



## **2023 OSCE CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF NORTH MACEDONIA'S ENGAGEMENT IN THE FIELD OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY**

Climate change poses profound challenges to societies, economies, and the environment, manifesting in a spectrum of interconnected impacts globally and in the OSCE area. Climate-induced extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods and fires as well as slow-onset events are leading to food insecurity, heightened risks to health and critical infrastructure, jeopardizing livelihoods and pushing people to move their homes. The vulnerable segments of the society, including women and youth, are affected the most. Economically, the repercussions are vast, affecting sectors such as energy, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. The environmental consequences are equally severe, with rising global temperatures contributing to the melting of glaciers, sea-level rise, and disruptions in ecosystems. Biodiversity loss further exacerbates the ecological toll. All these multifaceted impacts have implications for security and stability as well and addressing them effectively requires a comprehensive approach that integrates social, economic, and environmental considerations, fostering resilience, sustainability, prosperity, security and stability in the face of an evolving climate landscape.

The 2023 OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia, as part of its motto “***It’s about people***”, included climate change as one of its priorities and worked throughout the year to raise further awareness about the consequences of climate change on security.

## **ADVANCING IN INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS IN THE OSCE**

In 2023, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office appointed **the first OSCE Special Representative on Climate Change**, Mr. Naser Nuredini.

*“Aware of today’s burning challenges, but also in support of our commitment to their mitigation, as OSCE Chairman-in-Office, I have appointed a Special Representative on Climate Change to raise further awareness, offer ideas and potential solutions, while making the role and relevance of the OSCE visible. I believe I can count on your support for this novel and innovative position”,* said the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia Bujar Osmani in his address at the 2023 Prague Forum on the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE.

## FOSTERING POLITICAL DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY IN THE OSCE

In 2023, the OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia further strengthened the political dialogue on climate change and security by including the topic on the agenda of several events.

Hosted by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Osmani, **the 2023 Struga Conference on the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE** in Struga, North Macedonia, on 13 and 14 June underscored a dedicated focus on climate change. The session **“Strengthening co-operation to address challenges caused by climate change, which may negatively affect stability and security in the OSCE area** triggered in-depth discussions on the following topics:

- ▶ Stepping up co-operation and partnerships for climate action to strengthen security, stability, resilience and prosperity;
- ▶ Promoting integrated approaches to tackling climate change and enhancing nature conservation;
- ▶ Strengthening early warning and prevention capacities to tackle climate-related risks;

- ▶ Promoting regional and cross-regional co-operation to address shared climate-related challenges through joint action



*“OSCE as a regional security organization already plays an important role in raising awareness on potential climate related security risks, in capacity building and in assessing and addressing these risks in a participatory manner with the engagement of all relevant stakeholders. This regional and participatory approach contributes to enhanced regional cooperation around the topic of climate change”, said Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia Kaja Shukova in the opening session of the Forum.*



Climate change was also in the spotlight of the **2023 Prague Forum on the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE**.

*“Climate change is by far the most pressing challenge of today and tomorrow”* stated the OSCE Chairman-in-Office at the opening of the Forum. The Forum included a session on **“Intensifying co-operation to combat climate change for sustainable and climate-resilient development”** prominent speakers exchanged views on the following topics:

- ▶ Regional responses to tackling climate-related challenges
- ▶ Early warning and strategic foresight to foster preventive and risk-informed policy-making in a changing climate
- ▶ Fostering holistic climate action: Mainstreaming climate change into policy strategies, and institutional frameworks
- ▶ Regional co-operation for preparedness and response to climate-related hazards



## ENGAGING IN HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS AND FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS

On 7 July 2023, the OSCE Secretary General Helga Maria Schmid hosted the **OSCE High-Level Conference on Climate Change** in Vienna, which brought together Ministers, Climate Envoys and other high-level political actors from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation along with representatives of international organizations and civil society, climate security experts and practitioners to discuss the wide-array challenges caused by climate change, taking stock of the OSCE's accomplishments in tackling these challenges and generating ideas for further action.

“ Given the OSCE's focus on comprehensive security, it is especially worth noting that these factors are important drivers of insecurity and conflict, as well as potential triggers for migration from most vulnerable regions. It is indeed a vicious circle and we must strive towards a holistic approach to find the way out. North Macedonia, through its people-oriented approach and commitment to human security, stands ready to steer initiatives aimed at helping people face the challenges of today and tomorrow,” said the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Bujar Osmani at the High-Level Conference on Climate Change.

“*The first ever OSCE High-Level Conference on Climate Change, which occurred earlier this year, is yet another testament of the relevance and the added value the OSCE could bring in this area. Therefore, the OSCE must stay engaged.*” said the OSCE Chairman-in-Office later on at 2023 Prague Forum.

Re-capping on climate change as one of the priorities of the programme of the 2023 OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia and building on the political dialogue on climate change throughout the year, the 2023 OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia organized a dedicated **side event on climate change** at the **30th OSCE Ministerial Council** in Skopje on 30th November. The side event provided an opportunity to reflect on the interlinkages between climate change and security in the OSCE area and how to carry this focus further to tackle climate-related risks through the Organization's work in upcoming years.

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE:

- ▶ Continue to **make best use of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security** in seeking **co-operative solutions** to address the complex challenges created by climate change;
  - ▶ Use **innovative ways** to ensure an integrated, coherent and co-ordinated OSCE response to climate change;
  - ▶ Continue to enhance OSCE's essential role as a platform for **dialogue, co-operation, partnerships, and resources** to address the security implications of climate-related challenges in the OSCE area;
  - ▶ **Build on OSCE's wide regional coverage** and make best use of the OSCE Field Operations in promoting regional co-operation for joint activities on the ground in identifying and addressing multiple risks and challenges caused by climate change;
  - ▶ Continue to **foster inclusive approaches** to ensure the engagement of women and youth in climate action.
- 



