



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT

**In response to the address by the Special Representative
of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on
Climate and Security, Ms. Kerstin Stendahl
delivered by Ambassador Andranik Hovhannisyan
at the 1538th meeting of the Permanent Council**

16 October 2025

Mr. Chair,

The Delegation of Armenia warmly welcomes the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Climate and Security, Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, to the Permanent Council and thanks her for her comprehensive address.

The impacts of climate change are no longer distant forecasts; they are lived realities. Climate change represents one of the defining security challenges of our time, acting as a threat multiplier that exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and contributes to instability at the local, regional, and global levels.

Security risks linked to climate change include disruptions to food, water, and energy security; increased competition over natural resources; and the loss of livelihoods. The UNHCR identifies climate change as a major driver of forced displacement, exacerbating conflict dynamics and rendering certain regions increasingly uninhabitable. According to its data, 90 million of the 120 million forcibly displaced people globally live in countries highly exposed to climate hazards. At the same time, ongoing armed conflicts hinder global climate action, undermining efforts to address the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change.

Despite growing recognition of the interlinkages between climate change, peace, and security, integrated programmatic approaches that address the specific risks they pose still lag behind. In particular, peacebuilding and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts too often overlook climate-related impacts and vulnerabilities.

Most threats associated with climate change are transnational; they do not recognize or respect borders. Our responses must therefore be concerted, inclusive, and comprehensive. In this regard, Madam Special Representative, we agree that the OSCE can continue streamlining its work on climate and security across all three dimensions. We would appreciate it if you can further elaborate on the OSCE's capacity to integrate climate risk into its early warning and conflict prevention tools.

The OSCE already has a record of advancing discussions on the climate-security nexus. This was recognized at the 2021 Stockholm Ministerial Council and has since been advanced through a series of initiatives, including the recent Climate and Security Conference organized by the Chairperson-in-Office last June in Espoo, Finland. Armenia believes that this momentum should be maintained and built upon. We see merit in further mainstreaming the climate and security theme within the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension, particularly through the activities of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. Hence, we would be glad to know if there are any specific plans or projects that can become part of the activities of the Co-ordinator's office.

Mr. Chair,

Armenia remains committed to collective efforts aimed at securing a greener, safer, and more sustainable future for our planet. We have adopted a proactive stance in aligning with the global climate agenda, recognizing that the transition towards climate neutrality is fundamental to our national strategies for energy independence, energy security, and sustainable economic growth.

As the incoming Presidency of COP17 on Biodiversity, Armenia is dedicated to advancing the biodiversity and climate agendas, acknowledging their intrinsic interlinkage with sustainable development and security. COP17 in Armenia will serve as a critical milestone addressing issues of resource mobilization and the establishment of a permanent financial mechanism under the Convention.

We are grateful for the opportunity provided to the Deputy Minister of Environment of Armenia, Mr. Aram Meymaryan to present Armenia's priorities as the host country of the COP17 at the recent OSCE Chairmanship Forum in Prague.

We stand ready to contribute meaningfully to global and regional efforts aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change and ensuring that these challenges do not further deteriorate the security environment in our region or beyond.

Thank you.