



**ELIAMEP-CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY
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**Address by
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Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for having invited me to this conference, and for the opportunity to link the environment with issues of security and development.

Environmental sustainability and development are two sides of the same coin; they can not be pursued separately and successfully. Unclean water is the world's second biggest killer of children: every year, 1.8 million children die because of inadequate access to clean water and adequate sanitation services. Millions of women and young girls are burdened with the tasks of collecting and boiling water for their families, reinforcing gender inequalities in employment and education.

It is now well understood that climate change is likely to have serious implications for peace and security, as well as for the environment. In the recent Security Council debate on climate change, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon outlined several "alarming, though not alarmist" scenarios. These included growing tensions over access to energy, food, and water, large international migratory flows, and increasing inequalities and conflicts within societies. The secretary general therefore called for a "long-term global response" to deal with climate change, based on coordinated efforts involving the Security Council, Member States, and other international bodies.

For these and other reasons, it should be common practice for those who defend the environment to speak and understand the language of others, since solving environmental problems almost always requires cooperation with those who are not environmentalists. Within the government, managing water resources requires action by many ministries, including Agriculture, Economic Development, Energy, Spatial Planning, Forestry, Transport, Internal and, in trans-boundary situations, Foreign Affairs. Environment ministers and partner organizations need alliances to achieve their goals. International organizations must also look for partnerships, in order to be effective.

This session, which examines environmental problems and their implications for international relations, provides a good opportunity to present the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) as an example of such a partnership. ENVSEC is joint efforts of a number of UN and other international organizations working with governments and other partners in Central and Southeast Europe, as well as the former Soviet Union, to better address the linkages between environmental, security, and development issues. ENVSEC is a cooperative arrangement between OSCE, UNDP, UNEP, UNECE and the REC for Central and Eastern Europe. In association with NATO's Public Diplomacy Division,

these partners assist countries in Central and Southeast Europe, as well as the former Soviet Union, to address environmental problems that pose security risks.

Within ENVSEC, collaboration between UNEP and UNDP helps both partners to focus on the socio-economic drivers behind environmental risk and secure government engagement in both the donor and recipient communities. UNDP's extensive field presence of country offices and regional centre in Bratislava facilitate the delivery of environmental services on the ground. The OSCE helps the initiative work closely with ministries of foreign affairs in politically sensitive areas—including those associated with environmental risk. NATO's expertise helps ENVSEC to better address the environmental and security risks associated with obsolete and abandoned military facilities, mines, old Soviet-era weapons, obsolete pesticide stocks, and other hazardous chemicals. The UNECE's regional conventions—particularly pertaining to trans-boundary waters and lakes, industrial pollution, and public participation in environmental policy making—provide the overarching policy framework that guides ENVSEC's work. The expertise and resources of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe provide access to EU policies, directives and related implementation support.

In addition to NATO's \$20 million portfolio of activities categorized as ENVSEC projects, ENVSEC at present consists of over 60 projects with an aggregate budget of close to \$27 million. Many ENVSEC interventions are catalytic and generate support from other sources, such as the Global Environmental Facility.

ENVSEC offers governments a menu of instruments to address environmental problems that pose security risks. These instruments include participatory assessments of environmental threats, information exchange, political dialogue, joint programming, and the provision of technical assistance on the ground. Through combining their expertise, field presence and collaborative networks, the ENVSEC partners have broadened their clients' access to human and financial resources and made programme delivery more cost effective. Environmental concerns in foreign and security policy have become more visible—and vice versa. ENVSEC has also generated results in terms of institution building, notably in Central Asia (with regards to community disaster risk management), but also in supporting water management structures in the Dniestr and Kura-Aras river basins.

We believe that ENVSEC has created structural changes for the better and opened up new avenues for environmental management and peacebuilding. I therefore recommend the Initiative for your full attention and support.

Thank you for your kind attention.