



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
The Secretariat  
The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia**

**Side Event**

**“Central Asia United: Forging a Climate-Resilient, Sustainable, and Secure Future”**

**COP28 SIDE EVENT**

**Central Asia United: Forging a Climate-Resilient, Sustainable, and Secure Future**

**5 December 2023, at 09.30-11.00**

**CENTRAL ASIA PAVILION, B2-15**

**Concept Note**

Central Asia, a region of stunning diversity, unique ecological systems, and extensive mountainous landscape is facing profound challenges due to the impacts of climate change. Rising temperatures are threatening the vital glaciers that feed the region's major rivers. It is impacting agriculture, food, water and energy supplies contributing to the loss of livelihoods and forcing people to leave their homes. Increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, droughts, wildfires and floods, are affecting the lives and the resilience of communities. Women and youth are particularly vulnerable. These in turn, have consequences for prosperity, sustainability, and security and stability of the region. Addressing these pressing challenges necessitates the broadest regional co-operation, as well as robust collaboration and partnerships both within the region and beyond.

Building on the **2021 OSCE Ministerial Council Decision “Strengthening Co-operation to Address the Challenges Caused by Climate Change”<sup>1</sup>**, the OSCE has forged a strong collaboration with the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, working collectively to tackle climate-related risks and challenges through regional co-operation. The **OSCE’s flagship project on climate change and security<sup>2</sup>** provides the avenue for this collaboration.

At COP28, the **OSCE** in partnership with the **Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)** will host the **Side Event “Central Asia United: Forging a Climate-Resilient, Sustainable, and Secure Future”** at the **Central Asia Pavilion<sup>3</sup>** bringing together high-level stakeholders from the region, representatives of project donors alongside experts and practitioners.

The side event will enable presenting project results to date and generate recommendations for future. More specifically, it will provide a forum for discussion on the following questions:

- How is climate change manifesting its effects in Central Asia, and what security implications derive from it?

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.osce.org/chairsteamship/507050>

<sup>2</sup> The OSCE project “*Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia*” implemented in partnership with adelphi and funded by Andorra, Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

<sup>3</sup> The OSCE supports the Central Asia Pavilion through its co-operation with CAREC within the framework of the project “*Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia*”.

- What opportunities exist for regional co-operation in enhancing climate resilience and adopting an integrated, collaborative approach to safeguard people, economies, the environment in the region?
- What more can the OSCE do to capitalize on these opportunities and harness the strengths within the region to advance climate resilience, prosperity, security and stability?

#### TENTATIVE DRAFT AGENDA

<b>09:00-09:30</b>	Welcome coffee
<b>09:30-09:35</b>	<p><b>Welcome remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Esra Buttanri</b>, Senior Climate Change Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, OSCE</li> <li>- <b>Zafar Makhmudov</b>, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)</li> </ul>
<b>09:35-09:55</b>	<p><b>Input presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•••On the road to COP28: Highlights of regional dialogue on climate change in Central Asia [CAREC] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Vladimir Grebnev</b>, Regional Climate Change Specialist, CAREC</li> </ul> </li> <li>•••OSCE project on climate change and security: Fostering regional co-operation to tackle climate-related challenges in Central Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Esra Buttanri</b>, OSCE</li> <li>- <b>Beatrice Mosello</b>, Senior Advisor, adelphi</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>09:55-10:55</b>	<p><b>Panel Discussion:</b> Advancing regional action for a climate-resilient, sustainable, and secure future in Central Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>H.E. Melis Turgunbaev</b>, Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>- <b>H.E. Aziz Abdulkhakimov</b>, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Republic of Uzbekistan (tbc)</li> <li>- <b>H.E. Bahodur Sheralizoda Ahmadjon</b>, Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection, Republic of Tajikistan</li> <li>- <b>Ambassador Akymradov Mahtumkuli</b>, Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan</li> <li>- <b>Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä</b>, Ambassador Designate of Finland to the United Arab Emirates</li> <li>- <b>Pia van Ackern</b>, Policy Officer, Climate, Peace and Security Division, German Federal Foreign Office</li> <li>- <b>Zoya Kretova</b>, NGO Students of Kyrgyzstan for the Green Economy</li> </ul> <p>To wrap up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Naser Nuredini</b>, OSCE Special Representative on Climate Change</li> </ul> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>What is at stake?</b> How is climate change manifesting its effects in Central Asia, and what social, economic, environmental and security implications derive from it?</li> <li>- <b>What opportunities exist?</b> How can regional co-operation enhance climate resilience, data and information sharing, access to climate innovation, technology and financing to safeguard people, economies, and the environment in the region?</li> <li>- <b>What more can the OSCE do?</b> How can the existing initiatives be strengthened and what are the new avenues to advance climate resilience, prosperity, security and stability in the region?</li> </ul>
<b>10:55-11:00</b>	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <p><b>Esra Buttanri</b>, OSCE</p>

This side event is supported through the OSCE project "[Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia](#)" implemented in partnership with adelphi and funded by Andorra, Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States