



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”

5 December 2023, at 09.30-11.00

CENTRAL ASIA PAVILION, B2-15
COP28, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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”¹**, 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 security²** 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 Pavilion³** 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?
- 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?

¹ <https://www.osce.org/chairmanship/507050>

² 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.

³ 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](#)”.



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TENTATIVE AGENDA

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| 09:00-09:30 | Welcome coffee |
| 09:30-09:35 | Welcome remarks by the OSCE and CAREC |
| 09:35-09:50 | <p>Input presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OSCE project on climate change and security: Fostering regional co-operation to tackle climate-related challenges in Central Asia - On the road to COP28: Highlights of regional dialogue on climate change in Central Asia |
| 09:50-10:55 | <p>Panel Discussion: Advancing regional action for a climate-resilient, sustainable, and secure future in Central Asia</p> <p>Panelists: Ministers and high-level representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan as well as representatives of project donors, youth and think-tanks</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is at stake? How is climate change manifesting its effects in Central Asia, and what social, economic, environmental and security implications derive from it? - What opportunities exist? 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? - What more can the OSCE do? How can the existing initiatives be strengthened and what are the new avenues to advance climate resilience, prosperity, security and stability in the region? |
| 10:55-11:00 | Conclusions and closing |

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