

Climate Change and Security:

Unprecedented impacts, unpredictable risks

Vienna, 28 October 2015

BIOGRAPHIES

Opening Session

Speakers:

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier of Italy took up the post of OSCE Secretary General on 1 July 2011. He is an Italian career diplomat. From June 2008 to June 2011, Ambassador Zannier was the UN Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). From 2002 to 2006, he was the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE. Previous senior positions include Permanent Representative of Italy to the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague (2000–2002), chairperson of the negotiations on the adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (1997–2000) and Head of Disarmament, Arms Control and Cooperative Security at NATO (1991–1997).



Ambassador Vuk Žugić, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE, 2015 OSCE Serbian Chairmanship



Ambassador Žugić is the Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE, 2015 OSCE Serbian Chairmanship. A career diplomat, Ambassador Žugić has served in various capacities, among them the senior positions of Permanent Representative of Serbia to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and other International Organizations in Vienna (since 2012); Assistant Foreign Minister/Director General, Directorate General for Multilateral Cooperation (2009-2012); Ambassador to India (2004-2009); Assistant Foreign Minister, Head of Sector for Multilateral Cooperation (2001-2004); and Minister Plenipotentiary,

Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Acting Head of Sector for Multilateral Cooperation (2000-2001). Ambassador Žugić holds a Master's degree in International Law and Relations from the University of Belgrade.

Session 1: Security implications of climate change

Speakers:

Ambassador Philippe Lacoste, Deputy Special Representative of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs for the 2015 Paris Climate Conference



Ambassador Lacoste is the Deputy Special Representative for the Paris Climate Conference (COP 21), a position which he assumed in 2014. Between 2011 and 2014 he was the Chief of Mission in Moroni (Comoros) and in 2009 -2011 he held the position of Assistant Director for Global Public Goods, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. A career diplomat, Amb. Lacoste held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Deputy Chief of Mission in Dakar (Senegal) (2005 – 2009), the Head of the Environment Division within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2002 – 2005), Political Counselor to the Mission in Washington (USA) (1999- 2002), Special Advisor to the Director General for International Development (1996-1998) and Desk Officer for South Africa (1994 – 1996). Amb. Lacoste holds a Master’s degree in Environmental Sciences from the National School for Public Infrastructures and is a graduate of the Paris Institute for Political Science and the National School of Administration.

Ms. Maia Bitadze, Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Georgia

Ms. Bitadze has held the position of Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia since 2014 and is the Chair of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and the Chair of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention. Between 2011 and 2014 she was the Head of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia. Ms. Bitadze has over 15 years’ experience in working as a legal expert on environmental topics, including for various international organizations, such as UNDP, OSCE and FAO. She is Associate Professor of Environmental Law at Tbilisi State University and the Caucasus School of Law and a visiting lecturer at the Georgian University and Grigol Robakidze University. Ms. Bitadze published various scientific articles on Environmental and Human Rights Law. She graduated with honors from Tbilisi State University International Law School in 1999 and was awarded the Doctorate Degree in Law in 2007, after defending her thesis in the field of Environmental Human Rights Law.





Ms. Dinara Kemelova, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic

Since September 2015, Ms. Dinara Kemelova has been serving as the First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic. Previously, she has held a number of positions at the Foreign Ministry, including Deputy Foreign Minister, Director of International Economic Cooperation Department, and First Secretary at the Kyrgyz Embassy to Japan. Also, Ms. Kemelova has lectured on international law at the Diplomatic Academy and the Faculty of Eastern Studies and International Relations in Bishkek. She holds a Master's Degree in Sustainability, Development and Peace from the United Nations University and a diploma on jurisprudence from the Moscow State University.

Dr. Wendell Chris King, Dean of Academics, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

Dr. King currently serves as the Dean of the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College and Chief Academic Officer of the Combined Arms Center's Leader Development and Education Program. In his previous assignments, he was the Chief, Environmental Health Engineering Division, US Army Environmental Hygiene Activity-West, Aurora, CO; Officer in Charge of the Southwest Asia Health Risk Assessment Team (1991). He was selected to be an Academy Professor and Program Director of the Environmental Engineering Program at the U.S. Military Academy (1991) and became Professor and Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering in 1998. Dr. King is a licensed professional engineer and is board certified by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers with a specialty in hazardous waste management. He is a founding member of the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change. Dr. King holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering (1972), an M.S. in Civil Engineering (environmental) (1974), a Ph.D. in environmental engineering at the University of Tennessee (1988) and an M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies at the Naval War College (2000). Dr. King has authored two books, 15 book chapters, published more than 30 journal articles and scientific reports, and lectured at more than 50 professional conferences.



Ms. Jen Maman, Senior Peace Advisor, Greenpeace International



Ms. Maman is Greenpeace International's Senior Peace Advisor. She leads the integration of peace and security issues into Greenpeace campaigns, with special focus on climate change and human security. Ms. Maman further supports and advises national and regional Greenpeace offices across the world on issues of peace. Ms. Maman previously worked for over a decade as human rights lawyer and researcher, specializing in migration and asylum and for different agencies and NGOs including UNHCR, Asylum Aid, Oxfam and the ICMC. She is currently living in Istanbul and was previously based in Brussels, London and Tel-Aviv.

Moderated by:

Mr. Francesco Femia, Co-Founder and Director, Center for Climate and Security

Mr. Femia is Co-Founder and Director of the Center for Climate and Security, where he leads the Center’s policy development, analysis and research programs, and facilitates the primary forum for climate-security dialogue in the U.S. national security community. Mr. Femia previously served as Program Director at the Connect U.S. Fund. He has over a decade of experience conducting research and policy development on the intersection of climate change, national and international security. Mr. Femia published extensively, including in the seminal report “The Arab Spring and Climate Change” as well as in the SAIS Review of International Affairs Defense News, the Reuters Foundation, the National Journal, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, Climate Progress and e-International Relations. He holds a master’s degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he focused on EU security and defense policy.



Speaker:



H.E. Andr  Rupprecht, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

Federal Minister Rupprecht took up his position in December 2013. From 2007-2013, he served in the European Civil Service, where he held the position as Director for Rural Development at the General Secretariat of the EU Council and later as Director for Transparency at the Council Secretariat. From 2002-2007, he was Head of the Department for Agriculture and Nutrition at the Ministry of Life and headed the Austrian delegation at the Agriculture Council of the EU. Before that, Rupprecht acted as Deputy Head of the Department for International and EU Affairs at the newly created Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the previous Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Previously, he was Head of the Division for EU Coordination and Planning at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and acted at the EU Council as the Austrian spokesman at the Special Committee on Agriculture. He studied agricultural economics at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna.

Moderated by:

Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yiğitg den, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yiğitg den from Turkey assumed the post of Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities on 1 February 2013. Dr. Yiğitg den served from 1997-2003 as the Under-Secretary of the Turkish Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, responsible for energy, water and mining policy. He took a leadership role in Caspian region energy diplomacy and in implementing energy market reforms. Prior to that, he held the position of CEO of Fenis Holding in Istanbul; he served as Chairman and Director General of the State Airports and Air Traffic Authority, and as Deputy Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Most recently Dr. Yiğitg den was a consultant on energy economics, energy efficiency, renewable energy and Caspian geopolitics and board member of the steel pipe manufacturer Borusan Mannesman. Dr. Yiğitg den is an Eisenhower Fellow and holds a diploma and doctoral degree in engineering from RWTH Aachen University. He has published numerous articles on energy security and energy economics.



Session 2: Climate Diplomacy: an avenue for confidence building and conflict prevention

Speakers:

Mr. Lukas Rüttinger, Senior Project Manager, adelphi

Lukas Rüttinger is a Senior Project Manager at adelphi. His research and consulting work focuses on the links between environment, climate change, fragility and conflict. He has advised development organizations on sustainable development in post-conflict countries, and devised policies and strategies for tackling complex challenges relating to the environment, fragility and conflict, including by managing the most recent international consortium of research institutions to analyze climate-fragility risks for the G7 foreign ministries. Before joining adelphi, Mr. Rüttinger worked for GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), in the area of corporate development and renewable energies in Senegal and Germany. He went on to become a project manager for the “Biodiversity in Good Company” Initiative run by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), working on strategic environment dialogues with emerging economies. Mr. Rüttinger studied Political Science in Würzburg and Potsdam, where he concentrated on development cooperation, security policy and the environment.



Ms. Ganna Vronska, Deputy Minister on EU Integration, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ukraine



Ms. Vronska took up the position of Deputy Minister on EU Integration at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine in May 2015. In this capacity she co-ordinates bilateral cooperation between Ukraine and other countries in the field of environmental protection as well as the adaptation and implementation of Directives and Regulations under the Association Agreement between Ukraine, of the one part, and the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the other part. She is also in charge of presenting Ukrainian interests in the sphere of environment at the international level and coordinating official meetings with representatives of foreign embassies and international organizations (UNIDO, UN, FAO, UNECE, EU, and SEPA). Before she was appointed to this position she had been engaged in private law practice. She was a senior partner at the law firm “Vronskiy, Vronskaya & Partners” for 10 years (2003- 2013); between 1996 and 2003 she was an attorney at the “Vasil Kisil & Partners” law firm. Ms. Vronska graduated from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, Institute of International Relations, International Law.

Ambassador Thierry Béchet, Permanent Representative of the European Union to the OSCE

Ambassador Béchet is Permanent Representative of the European Union to the OSCE since February 2013. He started his career as a national diplomat and joined the External Relations department of the European Commission in 1989 to deal with Middle-East issues. In 1991 he became member of the cabinets of two successive members of the European Commission, dealing mainly with foreign policy, energy and institutional matters. He was the European Commission's (EC) head of delegation in Jerusalem from 1996 to 1999 and went on to serve as deputy chef-de-cabinet for the EC commissioner in charge of development between 1999 and 2003. He then spent four years in Geneva in charge of the EC's relationship with the United Nations agencies. Between 2008 and 2013 he served at the European External Action Service headquarters in Brussels on various issues, notably the Eastern Partnership, conflict resolution and regional cooperation, including the OSCE, in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate. Ambassador Béchet holds a law and public law degree from the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He teaches at the College of Europe (Natolin).

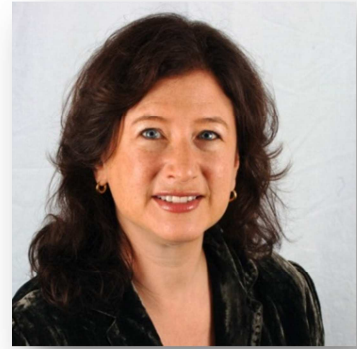


Ms. Desirée Schweitzer, Deputy Co-ordinator, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Desirée Schweitzer assumed the position of Deputy Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities/Head of Environmental Activities, with responsibility for energy security matters, in 2011. A career diplomat, she was Deputy Head of the Austrian Permanent Mission to the OSCE as well as Deputy Head of Division in the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs for OSCE and Council of Europe Affairs from 2008. Prior to that, she was responsible for European Union (EU) enlargement issues. Her overseas postings have included Washington, D.C., New York and Islamabad. She holds a Doctor of Law degree from the University in Vienna and is an alumna of the Austrian Diplomatic Academy.

Moderated by:

Ms. Suzanne Goldenberg, Environmental Correspondent,
The Guardian



Ms. Goldenberg is an award winning journalist for The Guardian, covering the environment. Her work spans the realms of climate science and politics, international negotiations, energy, food, water, and wildlife. She has reported from Alaska to Florida and from Washington to Yokohama. She covered the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, the Japanese earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in 2011, and Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Prior to her current role, she served as The Guardian's US correspondent, covering the 2008 presidential election campaign. Earlier, she was The Guardian's correspondent in South Asia and the Middle East, and led the coverage of the 2003 war on Iraq and the war between Israel and Lebanon (2006). She has won several awards for her work in the Middle East, and been shortlisted for her work on the environment. Her work is regularly cited in the US and international media, and she has been a guest on various television and local radio outlets.

Conversation with Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs



Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Millennium Development Goals

Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Millennium Development Goals, having held the same position under former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He is Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He is co-founder and Chief Strategist of Millennium Promise Alliance, and is director of the Millennium Villages Project. Prof. Sachs is also one of the Secretary-General's MDG Advocates, and a Commissioner of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Development. He has twice been named among Time Magazine's 100 most influential world leaders. He is co-recipient of the 2015 Blue Planet Prize, the leading global prize for the environment. Professor Sachs serves as the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. Prior to joining Columbia, Prof. Sachs spent over twenty years at Harvard University, most recently as Director of the Center for International Development and the Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade. Prof. Sachs received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard.

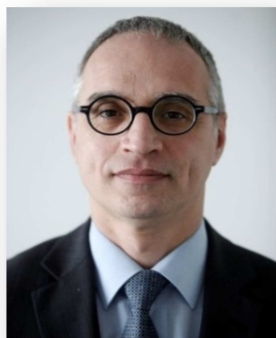
Moderated by:

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General

Session 3: Mobilizing joint action for climate change and security

Speakers:

Mr. Goran Svilanović, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council



Mr. Svilanović took office as the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council on 1 January 2013. Mr. Svilanović is a Serbian diplomat and politician, who served as Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (2008 – 2012). From 2004 to 2007, he was the Chairman of Working Table I (democratization and human rights) of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. Previously, he was member of the Senior Review Group of the Stability Pact, which proposed the transformation of the Stability Pact into the Regional Co-operation Council, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia between 2000 and 2004, which was renamed to Serbia and Montenegro in 2003. Between 2000 and 2007, he was a Member of Parliament and President of the political party “Civic Alliance of Serbia” (1999-2004). Mr. Svilanović holds a Ph.D. from the Union University in Belgrade as well as Masters and undergraduate law degrees from the University of Belgrade. Mr. Svilanović has also studied at the Institute for Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, the University of Saarland in Germany, and the European University Center for Peace Studies in Stadtschlaining, Austria.

Ms. Teresa Ribeiro, Deputy Secretary General for Energy, Union for the Mediterranean

Ms. Ribeiro was appointed Deputy Secretary General for Energy at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2013. Of Portuguese nationality, she was Secretary of State for European Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal between 2008 and 2009. She has held different positions in the fields of communication and international relations and has long work experience with European Union institutions. Ms. Ribeiro was Executive Director of AICEP (Portuguese Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade), Director General of the Portuguese Institute for the Media (Instituto de Comunicação Social) for eight years and Director for International Affairs of the same Institute. She was also auditor at the Institute for National Defence (Ministry of National Defence) in Lisbon. She holds a Master’s in Philosophy and a Certificate of “Driving Government Performance” by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.





Mr. Halldór Thorgeirsson, Director for Strategy, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Mr. Thorgeirsson is Director for Strategy at the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, where he coordinates substantive support to the negotiations of the Paris Agreement to be adopted under the UNFCCC in Paris in December. He oversees the development of the secretariat's strategic approach to enhance the real impact of the newly established infrastructure for implementation, including the Green Climate Fund, as well as efforts to unlock the potential to reduce emissions before 2020 through enhanced cooperation and climate action. Previously, he coordinated the support to the negotiations leading to the Cancun Agreements and the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. Before that, Mr. Thorgeirsson directed the Sustainable Development Mechanisms programme, which supports the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI). He has worked on global environmental issues for the Ministry for the Environment in Iceland and before that on ecological research and science policy.

Ambassador Thomas H. Meister, Head of Division, Climate and Environmental Foreign Policy, Sustainable Economy, German Federal Foreign Office

Ambassador Meister took up the position of Head of the Division on Climate and Environmental Foreign Policy, Sustainable Economy at the German Federal Foreign Office in 2015. Previously he held various positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland (2012 -2015), Ambassador to New Zealand, also accredited to the Cook Islands, the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Independent State of Samoa, the Kingdom of Tonga, to Tuvalu (2009-2012). Between 2006 -2009, he was the Head of the Division "International Energy Policy" at the Federal Foreign Office. Between 2003 -2006 he was the First Counsellor for Political Affairs



in the German Embassy in Madrid, Spain, while previously holding the position of Consul General in Recife, Brazil. His previous positions include Deputy Head of Division, International Technology Cooperation, Federal Foreign Office (1996- 1999), Counsellor, Head of Cultural Affairs, Consulate General New York, USA (1992 -1996), First Secretary, European Affairs Division, Federal Foreign Office (1989-1992) and First Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy in Kampala (Uganda) (1987- 1989).

Moderated by:

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General
