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SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM

DRAFT RESOLUTION

ON

**“NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AS A TOOL FOR
PREVENTING CONFLICTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRANTS”**

**PRINCIPAL SPONSOR
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DRAFT RESOLUTION

Natural Resource Management as a Tool for Preventing Conflicts and Environmental Migrants

Principal Sponsor: Ms. Cristina de Pietro (Italy)

1. Considering that:

(a) According to the United Nations data:

- 663 million people in the world have no access to drinking water sources and at least 1.8 billion people globally use a source of drinking water that is fecally contaminated,

- Water scarcity affects more than 40 per cent of the global population and is projected to rise: over 1.7 billion people are currently living in river basins where water usage exceeds the rate of recharge,

- 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines, and that each day, nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases,

(b) Due to climate change that is undoubtedly going to exacerbate desertification, an increasing number of countries will likely experience water stress and water-related disasters, not to mention that this phenomenon, especially in areas with a rapidly growing population, will give rise to millions of environmental migrants,

(c) According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), future forecasts vary from 25 million to 1 billion environmental migrants by 2050, moving either within their countries or across borders, on a permanent or temporary basis, with 200 million being the most widely cited estimate. This figure equals the current estimate of international migrants worldwide,

(d) Trans-boundary water resources are materially relevant to the OSCE as it is a security organization whose participating States share more than 150 rivers and lakes,

2. Considering also that:

(a) Lack of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as well as pollution often undermine socio-economic cohesion and development, fueling tensions and conflicts: as emphasized at various international fora, water insecurity is becoming increasingly interconnected with matters of international security,

(b) In the context of the sectarian fights affecting the MENA geopolitical order, the struggle for water supremacy could be seen as one of the root causes fueling the Syrian conflict,

3. Emphasizing that water is a strategic resource for human well-being and a key instrument used in strengthening security, in particular, sustainable water utilization measures and investments, which also represent a strategic sector in building up a broader regional stability through national development,
4. Being increasingly aware that enhanced collaboration on water management and genuine co-operation with regard to sharing environmental resources are powerful tools to smooth out tensions, prevent and reduce conflicts, as well as improve economic and political relations,
5. Noting that energy and environmental affairs have always represented a fundamental element of OSCE political and diplomatic action, as part of a broad and holistic vision of security in its regional dimension,
6. Taking into account the 2005 UN Draft Guidelines for the Realization of the Right to Drinking Water and Sanitation (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/25),
7. Welcoming the UN General Assembly Resolution 64/292 (28 July 2010) which recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights,
8. Bearing in mind the IOM's research and policy work, in particular the "World Migration Report 2008", the Migration Research Series No. 35 "Migration, Climate Change and the environment", and No. 42 "Climate Change, Migration and Critical International Security Considerations",
9. Having regard to the following OSCE PA resolutions: the Resolution on Water Management in the OSCE area (in the 2009 Vilnius Declaration); the Resolution on Sharing Expertise in Reclaiming Water Resources in Order to Strengthen Global Food Security (in the 2012 Monaco Declaration); the Resolution on Water Management as a Priority for the OSCE CIO in 2014 (in the 2013 Istanbul Declaration); the Resolution on Food Security, Limited Water Resources and Stability in the OSCE Area (in the 2014 Baku Declaration) and the 2nd Committee Resolution (in the 2015 Helsinki Declaration),
10. Reiterating the OSCE PA 2015 Helsinki Declaration's call for OSCE participating States to redouble their efforts to pursue comprehensive solutions to common environmental and economic challenges, including energy and water security,
11. Stressing the relevance of the international community's commitment to fully realizing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals,
12. Welcoming the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),
13. Recalling the UN Resolution "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" of 25 September 2015 (A/70/L.1), which sets the ambitious objective of combating desertification and restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, with the aim of achieving a land degradation-neutral world,

14. Expressing support for the work of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on water governance as well as for the OSCE water-related activities, including the cooperation with a wide range of partners in the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC),
15. Remaining fully committed to working in close collaboration with its global and regional partners,
16. Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Urges the participating States to increase their efforts in order to reduce wasteful water use as well as manage water resources and infrastructure assets in a sustainable way;
18. Asks the participating States:
 - (a) To actively work at consolidating the human right to water and sanitation as a primary value recognized and protected in the OSCE region;
 - (b) To keep making efforts in order to set up an increasingly shared and comprehensive Water Diplomacy action with the purpose of enhancing security through the area and preventing conflicts in water-stressed regions whose strategic value is relevant for the OSCE region;
 - (c) To provide financial resources for long-term programs and initiatives inclusive of capacity-building and technology transfer activities, aimed at addressing the root causes of water scarcity and working in close co-operation with third-party countries, in particular developing countries;
 - (d) To reinforce dialogue and implement innovative water policies aimed at preventing and de-escalating conflicts in the MENA region as part of a broader OSCE approach to security;
 - (e) To synergistically co-operate to fully implement the COP 21 Paris Climate Agreement;
19. Further asks the participating States to set up legislative and economic measures to effectively address the multi-faceted challenges posed by the growing flux of environmental migrants coming from Africa and Asia;
20. Invites the participating States to keep sharing significant experiences on water policies and management as well as in developing best practices in the field;
21. Encourages the participating States to foster public participation in decision-making processes over environmental choices, water resource management, and policies on environmental migrants;

22. Further encourages the participating States to make renewed efforts to set up an harmonic and coherent international legal framework for settling water conflicts and disputes and as well in dealing with the growing flux of environmental migrants.