



**PARLIAMENTARY CALL TO GLOBAL ACTION  
IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Ahead of the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference  
(UNFCCC COP 29)**

**By OSCE PA Vice-President and Special Representative on  
Climate Change**

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## **Introduction**

As the world prepares for the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, we are confronted with the defining challenge of our time: the pressing need to accelerate climate transition. The stakes could not be higher: the steps we take—or fail to take—will shape the future of humanity and the planet for generations to come.

In this critical moment, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) emphasizes the urgent need for bold and coordinated global action to confront the climate emergency and accelerate an energy, climate and social transition with the focus on addressing the growing and undeniable connection between climate change and security

## **The Climate Emergency is a Security Threat**

Climate change continues to act as a "threat multiplier," exacerbating existing tensions, driving mass migration, and increasing the likelihood of conflict, especially in regions already vulnerable to instability. This climate-security nexus must be addressed with the seriousness it demands, and COP29 offers a critical platform to link climate action with global security efforts.

The COP Truce Initiative is a commendable first step in fostering global cooperation. It underscores a shared commitment to addressing the climate emergency and accelerating climate transition by putting aside geopolitical tensions, even if temporarily, to focus on the survival of our planet. While we applaud this spirit of unity, we must make it clear: a temporary truce is not enough. Our goal must be a lasting peace, one where the health of the planet is safeguarded for future generations. This requires comprehensive, long-term solutions that extend beyond the diplomatic arenas of climate conferences and into the fabric of our global economies, energy systems, and societies.

## **From Climate Emergency to Climate Collapse**

The current state of global climate action is deeply concerning. We are no longer merely facing a climate emergency but are dangerously close to the climate collapse.

The physical impacts of climate change—extreme weather events, rising sea levels, droughts, and floods—are increasing in intensity and frequency, with devastating consequences for communities, economies, and political systems. Every year, 7 million people die from the impacts of air pollution. 19 of the 20 warmest years in recorded history have occurred in the last two decades, underscoring the acceleration of global warming.

In the OSCE region, the effects of this climate emergency are already being felt in the daily lives of citizens. We have already seen how climate-related resource scarcity can exacerbate political instability, fuel social unrest, and drive populations to migrate. These dynamics not only threaten the stability of the countries directly affected but also have far-reaching implications for regional and international security.

The situation is particularly serious in the Arctic, where warming is occurring at a rate of almost 4 times the global average. Melting ice is not only disrupting the traditional livelihoods of indigenous communities but is also opening up new geopolitical and economic frontiers, leading to rising tensions over access to resources and shipping routes. Other regions in the OSCE area, including Southeastern Europe, Mediterranean, and Central Asia, are experiencing severe droughts, floods, and desertification, which contribute to economic hardship and social fragmentation. This, in turn, increases the likelihood of conflict.

Wars and conflicts, on the other hand, are increasingly intertwined with ecological factors. The war in Ukraine has caused immense environmental destruction. According to the report, published by Ukraine's environment ministry in collaboration with climate NGOs, the conflict has led to the emission of 175 million tonnes of carbon dioxide - equivalent to the annual emissions of 90 million cars or the entire Netherlands. In Gaza, the ecological devastation caused by the ongoing conflict has similarly profound environmental consequences. In both cases, these are not only wars of aggression but also wars that have far-reaching environmental impacts, further accelerating the climate crisis.

Migration driven by climate change is another growing concern. It is estimated that by 2050, as many as 200 million people may be displaced by climate impacts<sup>1</sup>. These movements of people will place significant strain on receiving countries, which may already be struggling with political and economic challenges. Without a co-ordinated, security-conscious approach to managing climate migration, we risk seeing these pressures translate into increased conflict and instability.

### **A Call for Accelerated Action**

The 2021 Stockholm Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening Co-operation to Address the Challenges Caused by Climate Change<sup>2</sup> reaffirms that the OSCE has a complementary role to play, within its mandate, in addressing the challenge of climate change within the OSCE area, notably by facilitating collective and co-operative responses. As an organization that received observer status in the UNFCCC process in 2023, the OSCE is well-positioned to engage directly in global climate discussions, strengthening its role in fostering international cooperation. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, representing over 1 billion citizens from 57 countries, is uniquely positioned to complement the efforts of the OSCE by driving decisive political action at local, national and international levels.

The upcoming COP29 offers a critical opportunity to accelerate global efforts to address the climate emergency. This call to action aims to galvanize all stakeholders to address the key challenges of climate finance, adaptation, and mitigation, while promoting transparency, cooperation, and leadership at all levels.

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<sup>1</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (2019). The cost of doing nothing. The humanitarian price of climate change and how it can be avoided: <https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/2019-IFRC-CODN-EN.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> DECISION No. 3/21 STRENGTHENING CO-OPERATION TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/2/f/507050.pdf>

**In this context, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly urges to:**

1) Recognize Climate Change as a Security Threat

Governments and international organizations must formally recognize climate change as a direct threat to global security. This means integrating climate risks into national security strategies and regional security frameworks.

2) Enhance Climate Resilience

We must build resilience in vulnerable communities by investing in climate-resilient infrastructure and strengthening local capacities. Both adaptation and mitigation financing must be scaled up to match the urgency of the crisis. The Global Stocktake has shown that adaptation efforts are not on track. It is essential that all Parties develop and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) by 2025, ensuring that by 2030 we are fully equipped to deal with the impacts of climate change.

3) Ensure a Fair Transition and combat denialist narratives

The transition to a zero-emissions economy must be just and equitable. If climate action disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations while allowing corporations and wealthy elites to profit, it will not only exacerbate inequality but also fuel populist movements that threaten democratic stability. Climate action must work for everyone—not just the privileged few. We must be brave and reiterate the danger of the skeptical and denialist approach to climate change and transition that is present in political narratives in many of our countries. Combating this discourse of denying a scientific reality must also be one of the priorities in the coming years. At COP29, the adoption of the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) would be a landmark achievement. This is the first major financial target since the Paris Agreement, and it represents a crucial test of our collective will to take bold, decisive action. This new framework must be fair, ambitious, and transparent.

4) Address Climate-Induced Migration

Climate change is already driving mass migration, and this trend will only worsen as the planet warms. COP29 must develop strategies for managing climate-induced migration in a way that respects human rights and preserves global stability. The international community must provide support to countries experiencing large-scale climate displacement and ensure that migration does not lead to further insecurity and conflict. Accelerated operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, ensuring that funds are disbursed quickly and effectively to the communities that need them most, could directly reduce the drivers of climate-induced migration and provide the support necessary to protect vulnerable communities from being uprooted by the impacts of climate change.

5) Prioritize Mitigation to Reduce Long-Term Risks

Immediate mitigation efforts must be at the forefront of global climate action to slow down the impacts of climate change and avoid its worst consequences. Scaling up efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—especially through the transition to renewable energy, the phase-

out of fossil fuels, and energy efficiency measures—will be critical in stabilizing climate patterns. COP29 must ensure that mitigation efforts and investments in clean energy technologies are prioritized to curb the escalating risks of climate collapse and reduce pressures such as climate-induced migration.

6) Scaling Up Ambition: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

COP29 must be the moment when we decisively shift course to limit global warming to 1.5°C. This requires enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that reflect the scale of the crisis and the need for deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in emissions. The science is clear: we are running out of time, and the window to avoid the most catastrophic impacts is closing fast.

7) Foster International Co-operation and Innovation.


At COP29, all key stakeholders must commit to working together to share best practices, technology and financial resources for climate adaptation and mitigation. The OSCE PA stands ready to work with our counterparts around the world, sharing experiences and insights on how to best integrate climate action into national security and development strategies. We are committed to supporting national parliaments in overseeing their governments' climate action and ensuring that promises made on the global stage translate into concrete outcomes at home.

**Conclusion: A Defining Moment for Climate Leadership**

COP29 represents a pivotal moment in the global fight against climate change. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly calls on all Parties at COP29 to rise to the challenge. The world is watching, and future generations are depending on us. Together, we can build a green, sustainable, and secure future.

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