

OSCE PA Autumn Meeting 2025

Report to the Standing Committee on Climate Change

Special Representative on Climate Change Ms. Ainur Argynbekova

17-19 November 2025

Istanbul, Türkiye

The State of the Climate: a Planet under Pressure

The climate crisis is no longer a future threat; it is a defining driver of instability, vulnerability, and conflict across the OSCE area and beyond. Evidence from the latest [State of the Climate Report published in BioScience \(2025\)](#)¹ and the [World Meteorological Organization's \(WMO\) Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update \(2025\)](#)² shows a world entering a period of accelerating disruption, where environmental stresses are reshaping the foundations of security itself.

Over the past five years, the global climate system has crossed multiple warning thresholds. The BioScience (2025) report identifies that twenty-two of the planet's thirty-four vital signs — from ocean heat and glacier retreat to biodiversity loss and atmospheric carbon concentration — are now at record extremes. The year 2024 was the hottest in recorded history, with average surface temperatures 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels, a degree of warming not seen since before the rise of human civilization. The WMO projects that every year between 2025 and 2029 will remain between 1.2°C and 1.9°C above 1850–1900 baseline, with an 86 percent probability that at least one year will exceed 1.5°C. The Arctic continues to warm more than three times faster than the global mean, driving permafrost melt, rising sea levels, and disruption to weather systems across the Northern Hemisphere.

The human consequences of these shifts are already profound. [The 2025 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change](#)³ shows that droughts and heatwaves have driven an additional 124 million people into moderate or severe food insecurity in 2023 alone. Between 2000 and 2024, climate-related disasters have cost the global economy an estimated 18 trillion US dollars, deepening inequalities and undermining governance capacity.

The OSCE region, encompassing both high-emission industrialized economies and climate-vulnerable zones, is at the heart of these transformations. In the **Mediterranean**, prolonged droughts and record-breaking heatwaves in 2023–2024

¹ The 2025 state of the climate report: a planet on the brink

<https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/advance-article/doi/10.1093/biosci/biaf149/8303627>

² <https://wmo.int/publication-series/wmo-global-annual-decadal-climate-update-2025-2029>

³ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)01919-1/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)01919-1/abstract)

have intensified wildfire seasons, devastated crops, and driven water scarcity that now threatens urban centers and rural communities alike. **Central Asia** faces shrinking snowpacks and declining glacier-fed rivers, heightening transboundary water tensions and jeopardizing agriculture and energy security. **The Arctic** experiences unprecedented permafrost thaw, threatening infrastructure and indigenous livelihoods. While, **Europe's urban centres** face record heat and air pollution episodes affecting millions of citizens.

If unmanaged, these changes will erode the foundations of peace and prosperity.

The Environmental Cost of War

The environmental damage caused by conflict multiplies these risks. Modern wars inflict immense environmental damage, releasing pollutants, destroying ecosystems, and disabling the very institutions needed to manage recovery. Armed conflicts starkly illustrate this dynamic: industrial contamination, deforestation, soil and water pollution, and the destruction of energy infrastructure have produced long-term ecological consequences alongside a massive humanitarian catastrophe. In Gaza, military operations have destroyed over two-thirds of water infrastructure and 96% of agricultural land, generating tens of millions of tonnes of contaminated debris, spreading disease, and threatening livelihoods with ripple effects that extend far beyond the immediate conflict zone.

The scale and complexity of environmental devastation caused by conflicts underscore a critical truth: security and sustainability are inseparable. Environmental restoration, resilience-building, and climate-conscious reconstruction must be integral to peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery.

The OSCE PA will continue to advocate for the recognition of environmental accountability as a necessary principle of modern security policy.

Global Response and the Need for Acceleration

Despite these daunting realities, the world's collective response, though insufficient, is gaining momentum. [The UN Climate Change Secretariat's Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDC\) Synthesis Report \(October 2025\)](#)⁴ finds that nearly 90 percent of countries now include economy-wide climate targets, and three-quarters integrate adaptation strategies. Many NDCs now address social dimensions — gender equality, just transitions, and loss and damage — aligning climate action with the broader goals of sustainable development.

Global emissions are beginning to decline modestly — by approximately 10 percent by 2035 — marking the first visible downward bend in decades. [Renewable energy](#)

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs/2025-ndc-synthesis-report>

[overtook coal as the largest source of electricity in 2025](#), and [global investment in clean technology surpassed 2 trillion US dollars](#).

Yet progress is still too slow. The current NDCs cover only about one-third of global emissions, and even when extended to include new pledges, global emissions are projected to fall by just 10% by 2035 — far short of the 45% reduction needed by 2030 to keep 1.5°C within reach.

As [UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell](#) noted, we are “in a new era of climate action and ambition,” but one that must now work faster and fairer. He urged nations to “accelerate implementation across all sectors” and to “connect climate action to people’s lives.” This acceleration must be driven not only by scientific necessity but also by social equity and economic opportunity. Science demands urgency; justice demands inclusion.

From Threat to Opportunity: Innovation, Equity, and Human Development

Technological innovation — in clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and carbon capture — has advanced faster than even optimistic projections suggested a decade ago.

At the same time, a growing body of evidence urges a recalibration of priorities. While emission reduction remains essential, the global community must devote equal focus to adaptation, resilience, and human development. The urgency of the climate crisis, compounded by recent energy shocks and geopolitical shifts, demands that we accelerate this transition — faster, more collaboratively, and with greater political will. However, we must ensure that this transition is not only swift but also fair. As some leading voices have argued, the central objective of climate action must be to improve lives — to prevent suffering, enhance well-being, and expand opportunity, particularly for those in the poorest and most exposed regions.

Decarbonization is not merely an environmental imperative — it is an economic and social opportunity. The transformation of the energy sector can drive job creation, economic growth, and a more resilient planet. It is a chance to build societies that are cleaner, healthier, and more just, improving livelihoods, enhancing well-being, and expanding opportunity, particularly for those in the poorest and most exposed regions. Thus, the most effective climate strategies are those that simultaneously address vulnerability — improving agriculture, health care, education, and infrastructure.

COP30 and the Way Forward

The upcoming COP30 in Belém offers a critical opportunity to accelerate this agenda. The conference’s focus on **equity, adaptation, and human development** aligns closely with the OSCE’s comprehensive security concept — one that recognizes environmental stability as essential to peace and prosperity.

Multilateralism is essential to translating climate ambition into real-world action. When the Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015, it established a bottom-up system

of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) designed to collectively limit warming to 1.5°C. COP30 in Belém, Brazil, builds on this foundation through the [Baku-to-Belém Roadmap](#)⁵, a joint effort of the outgoing Azerbaijani COP29 presidency and the incoming Brazilian COP30 presidency. This roadmap aims **to scale climate finance** for developing countries to at least US\$1.3 trillion annually by 2035, enabling them to implement ambitious climate policies, build resilience to climate impacts, and transition away from fossil-fuel–driven development models.

[The journey from the Bonn intersessionals to Belém](#) has reinforced the importance of multilateral cooperation. Despite geopolitical turbulence — from wars to recessions and trade tensions — Bonn produced broad consensus on nearly all agenda items, including measurable pathways to finalize the Global Goal on Adaptation and advance the Just Transition Work Programme, now expanded to include development and equity dimensions. Discussions also integrated forests and waste as core mitigation priorities. The overarching message: climate multilateralism can still deliver, even amid global uncertainty.

However, gaps remain. COP29’s New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) of US\$300 billion per year by 2035 for developing countries is widely regarded as insufficient. Developing nations continue to call for public finance commitments that reach the trillion-dollar scale, addressing mitigation, adaptation, and loss-and-damage needs. The Baku-to-Belém Roadmap seeks to complement this target with systemic reforms, including innovations in multilateral development banks, global taxation, and dedicated instruments like the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, ensuring that nature-based solutions receive the financial support they require.

COP30 is expected to give adaptation the political and financial weight it deserves, elevating it alongside mitigation and embedding Indigenous Peoples’ rights, ecosystem protection, and forest conservation at the core of climate governance. With global emissions needing to fall by 42 percent by 2030 to stay on a 1.5°C pathway — yet current NDCs projecting only a 2.6 percent reduction — the credibility of the Paris Agreement depends on ambitious, well-funded, and inclusive implementation.

The Role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can play a vital role in this context.

The OSCE PA has long recognized the direct link between climate change and security, emphasizing that environmental instability acts as a **“threat multiplier,”** exacerbating conflicts, migration pressures, and social unrest across the region.

Recently, through the work of the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment and Special Representative on Climate Change the OSCE PA has focused on advancing climate resilience through its parliamentary instruments, and fostering inclusive and forward-looking societies where all voices are

⁵ <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/workstreams/baku-to-belem-roadmap-to-13t>

heard. This includes setting the political agenda on climate-related issues, encouraging national parliaments to engage with international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and facilitating exchanges of policy experiences among member states on adaptation, disaster preparedness, and sustainable development.

At the 2nd Committee **Special Debate on Climate Change and Migration** during its [2025 Winter Meeting](#) it was highlighted that climate change is already reshaping migration patterns and resource dynamics, while also underscoring that migration can serve as an adaptive and resilient response when supported by inclusive, rights-based policies. The discussion reaffirmed the Assembly's commitment to linking climate and security agendas with the protection of human rights and social stability.

Notably, building upon its [Parliamentary Plea for Resolute Climate Action](#) issued ahead of COP26, which urged world leaders to redouble efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change while shaping a sustainable, carbon-neutral development model, the OSCE PA made another ambitious call ahead of COP29. This [Parliamentary Call to Global Action](#)⁶ emphasized the urgent need for bold and coordinated global action to confront the climate emergency and accelerate energy, climate, and social transitions, focusing on the undeniable connection between climate change and security.

Through its Resolution on [Climate Change, Corruption, and Security](#)⁷ adopted at the 2025 Annual Session in Porto, the OSCE PA has further emphasized the interplay between climate risks, governance, and transparency. These efforts underline the need for accountable management of climate finance, the integration of anti-corruption safeguards, and the protection of environmental defenders and journalists, recognizing that effective climate action depends on strong, inclusive, and transparent governance.

The OSCE PA has actively coordinated and synergized with the OSCE governmental side. This includes contributions to numerous initiatives such as the OSCE High-Level Climate Conference in Vienna in 2023, the Maltese Chairpersonship's High-Level Conference on Climate Change in Malta in June 2024, and the COP29 Official Side Event in November 2024, focused on advancing a climate-resilient, green, and just energy transition. Through these engagements, the Assembly has worked closely with governmental actors to align parliamentary initiatives and priorities with OSCE-wide climate strategies, strengthen policy coherence, and support regional and international climate resilience efforts. This coordination ensures that parliamentary perspectives contribute directly to shaping actionable climate policies and that OSCE efforts across the governmental and parliamentary dimensions reinforce each other.

⁶ <https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/special-representatives/climate-change>

⁷ <https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/annual-sessions/2025-porto/declaration-31>

Looking ahead, the OSCE PA continues to integrate climate-security analysis into all areas of parliamentary dialogue and oversight, support environmental accountability and green recovery in post-conflict settings, encourage transparent and data-driven national reporting aligned with the Paris Agreement, and promote climate diplomacy as a bridge for dialogue in times of geopolitical division.

By combining political influence, parliamentary diplomacy, and regional cooperation the OSCE PA seeks to help translate multilateral climate frameworks into tangible outcomes, strengthening resilience, security, and democratic governance while advancing global climate leadership.

Political Recommendations for OSCE PA Members

In light of these challenges and opportunities, members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are encouraged to strengthen national and regional responses by:

- Advancing legislation that accelerates decarbonization and supports clean technology innovation, ensuring that transition is human-centered, inclusive, and fair, leaving no one behind;
- Promoting large-scale electrification of transport, heating, and industry to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, improve public health and energy affordability;
- Embedding emission-reduction targets and climate adaptation priorities more prominently in national political agendas and long-term development planning;
- Expanding support for families and communities most affected by the transition, ensuring a fair and inclusive pathway toward climate neutrality;
- Enhancing oversight of climate-related spending and ensuring transparency, integrity, and accountability in the use of public and international climate finance;
- Championing human-centered and inclusive climate governance, ensuring that the voices of women, youth, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable groups are meaningfully represented in decision-making.

Together, these actions can help parliaments drive the systemic transformation needed to meet international commitments, protect citizens' well-being, and reinforce the OSCE's vision of comprehensive and cooperative security in a changing climate.

Conclusion

The climate crisis is now the defining test of international cooperation. It challenges our capacity to act collectively, to link environmental protection with peace and prosperity, and to balance urgency with fairness. For the OSCE region, the stakes are existential: energy security, food stability, migration management, and democratic resilience all depend on our response.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly reaffirms its commitment to integrating climate action into every dimension of its work — political, economic, and human. We will

continue to advocate for science-based policy, equitable adaptation, and the protection of future generations.