



Goran Svilanović/OSCE

CHAIR'S SUMMARY FOR 2011

On the cover: Khinalig, Azerbaijan, 2011, CASE Project (OSCE/ Zahra Ahmadova)

Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

Chair's Summary for 2011

“The importance of regional co-operation was also emphasized in the context of the role that sustainability played in the promotion of peace and security. The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) was highlighted as an important example of inter-agency co-operation and partnership between OSCE, UNEP, UNDP, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and ECE. The innovative structure of ENVSEC could serve as a model for other regions.”

Report of the UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (paragraph 72) Geneva, 1 and 2 December 2011

Executive Summary:

In 2011, under the Chairmanship of the OSCE, the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) continued to work in the countries of Southeastern Europe, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia in line with the work plan for 2010-2012 agreed by the partners and supported by the stakeholders.

The Chair identified four objectives for ENVSEC for 2011: (i) Stronger security focus within ENVSEC programming and projects; (ii) A more visible ENVSEC; (iii) A more effective mechanism for monitoring and reporting ENVSEC results; and (iv) A broader partner and donor base for ENVSEC. The recommendations of the ENVSEC evaluation conducted by the Government of Finland in November 2010 were addressed within the framework of these four objectives. Progress was made in 2011 in all four areas. Major achievements included: the initiation of the ENVSEC Security Study; a reference to “environment and security” in the Ministerial Declaration of the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference; a reference to ENVSEC as “an important example of inter-agency co-operation and partnership which could serve as a model for other regions” in the Co-Chair’s summary of the UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20; closer dialogue with the EU/European Commission on co-operation and partnership on environment and security matters in all four ENVSEC regions; the mobilization of additional resources in support of ENVSEC, including notably for Eastern Europe; a new website; and 11 new ENVSEC projects.

Chair acknowledges the excellent co-operation among the ENVSEC partner organizations in making 2011 a successful year for ENVSEC and thanks to the ENVSEC Co-ordination Unit and the members of the ENVSEC Secretariat for their good work throughout the year.

In 2012, the ENVSEC Initiative will continue to address several priority issues under the leadership of Mr. Jens Wandel, UNDP Deputy Regional Director for Europe and the CIS.

I. Highlights from 2011

In April, the ENVSEC Senior Programme Manager participated in a UNEP mission to Central Asia to validate the findings of a UNEP publication on environmental diplomacy and visit selected ENVSEC projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The mission observed that the ENVSEC projects were seen by communities and local authorities as an example of environmental diplomacy at work that takes into account the reality on the ground and

involves existing local governance structures helping in the long run to prevent potential local conflicts.

In May, the OSCE hosted the first ENVSEC Management Board meeting in Vienna. On the same occasion, the OSCE's Economic and Environment Committee which consists of representatives of all 56 OSCE participating States was presented with the ENVSEC Work Programme and briefed on the ENVSEC assessment of the Amu Darya River Basin.

In July, the Amu Darya assessment report was launched by UNEP in a press conference in Geneva with the participation of representatives from Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The report's main message was that enhancing co-operation between the countries sharing the waters of the Amu Darya, Central Asia's longest river, could be a key to future peace and security in the region.

In July, at the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in Chisinau, Moldova, the OSCE organized an Aarhus Centres Side Event with the participation of the Minister of Environment of Moldova and several ENVSEC partners. The side event brought together Aarhus Center stakeholders from many countries and demonstrated the successes and lessons learned in practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention. With its over 100 participants, the side event contributed to the visibility of ENVSEC. Role of Aarhus Centres and the ENVSEC support was acknowledged by several speakers at the Plenary as well as at the High Level Segment of the Meeting of the Parties. In the course of 2011, ten new Aarhus Centres in Armenia, Montenegro, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Tajikistan joined the network and negotiations were successfully concluded for opening an Aarhus Centre in Chisinau, to be followed by a Public Environmental Information Centre in Bender on the other side of Dniestr-Nistru River.

In August, the ENVSEC Initiative featured prominently on the agenda of the meetings between the OSCE and high-level Swiss authorities, including the State Secretary, the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment as well as several Ambassadors of Switzerland in the OSCE region at the occasion of the Annual Conference of the Swiss Ambassadors in Lucerne, Switzerland.

In September, the ENVSEC Chair visited Finland at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and met with high-level government representatives. In a seminar entitled "Environment and Security: Challenges and Opportunities in Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution", ENVSEC partners shared information and best practices with regard to international environment and security interventions in potential conflict and post-conflict situations and discussed ways to increase international, regional and local co-operation on environment and security issues in fragile regions. The meeting served to reinforce the partnership between ENVSEC and its main donor, Finland, and to define future areas for collaboration on environment and security.

Also in September, ENVSEC participated in the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan. As a result of ENVSEC efforts, a reference to environment and security issues was included in the Ministerial Declaration (Article 5). At the Conference, ENVSEC organized a side-event "Setting the bar for water and security risk management" chaired by the OSCE and attended by the Deputy Minister of Environmental

Protection of Kazakhstan and several experts, demonstrating the linkages between water and security, with a specific focus on the ENVSEC Amu Darya River Basin assessment.

Furthermore, in September ENVSEC participated actively in the Seminar on “Early Warning on Potential Trans-boundary Water Problem Situations in Central Asia” organized by the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) in Almaty, Kazakhstan that brought together representatives of relevant institutions from Central Asian states and Afghanistan, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, and officials from international and regional organizations. The Seminar aimed to review best practices in the use of early warning systems on potential problem situations on trans-boundary rivers, exchange views on the possible set of indicators to establish such a system in the region and challenges associated with the functioning of this mechanism in Central Asia.

In October, the ENVSEC Chair together with the Management Board members presented ENVSEC to the NATO Political and Partnerships Committee convened in Euro-Atlantic Partnership format at its headquarters in Brussels. NATO’s Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges concluded that ENVSEC provided its partner organizations with a unique platform for co-ordination and requested the NATO’s member countries to continue with their support for the Initiative. NATO also hosted the second ENVSEC Management Board meeting.

In October, ENVSEC organized the Environment and Security Partners’ meeting at the UN House in Brussels for 54 representatives of EU institutions, EU member states, UN agencies and other international organizations. The roundtable discussion was facilitated by the Government of Finland and the International Water Management Institute. The participants exchanged views on the current state of play of international co-operation on environment and security and shared experiences of how the environment and security approach works in responding to crises and security threats. At this meeting the Instrument for Stability of the European Commission expressed an interest to partner with the ENVSEC Initiative.

In December, ENVSEC participated actively in the UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20 that took place in Geneva. The report of the meeting included a reference to linkages between environment and security and accordingly to the role of ENVSEC in regional co-operation which could set a model for other regions. At the meeting, ENVSEC organized a side-event chaired by the OSCE entitled “Calling for co-ordinated action for sustainable development”, which provided an opportunity for governments to discuss economic, social and security challenges posed by climate change, examine potential areas of regional collaboration and identify institutional frameworks for sustainable development. The Environment and security issues and ENVSEC were included in the Co-chair’s summary.

II. Results in 2011

This chapter describes the results achieved by ENVSEC in 2011, also in response to the findings and recommendations of the evaluation conducted by the Government of Finland in late 2010. They relate to the four objectives identified by the Chair for 2011: (1) Stronger security focus within ENVSEC programming and projects; (2) A more visible ENVSEC; (3) A more effective mechanism for monitoring and reporting ENVSEC results and (4) A broader partner and donor base for ENVSEC.

Objective 1: Stronger security focus within ENVSEC programming and projects

The ENVSEC Security Study was initiated in the second half of 2011 with the objective of further reinforcing the security aspects of the ENVSEC Initiative. Adelphi – a Germany-based think tank - was contracted to develop the study, which is scheduled for completion in 2012. The Inception Report was presented at the ENVSEC side-event at the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference in Astana and at the Environment and Security Partners Meeting in Brussels. The outcome of the study will help to review and redefine, if necessary, the focus of the ENVSEC work programme in light of current and emerging linkages between environment and security. It will also provide guidance on how to better monitor and report on the security benefits of the ENVSEC Initiative. ENVSEC financial limitations did not allow for the parallel convening of a Group of Eminent People as originally envisaged.

Preparatory work for strengthening capacities of ENVSEC National Focal Points and other national stakeholders with respect to linkages between the environment and security was initiated in 2011 and will continue during 2012, in synergy with and based on the results of the ENVSEC Security Study.

Objective 2: A more visible ENVSEC

ENVSEC was highly visible at the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference in Astana and there was a reference to environment and security linkages in the Ministerial Declaration that concluded the Conference. Together with UNDP and the European Environmental Agency, ENVSEC had a highly visible stand located in the Conference Hall showcasing ENVSEC work and publications. Plenary statements by the ENVSEC partners and the reference by the OSCE to the ENVSEC Initiative at the press conference also served to raise the visibility of the Initiative.

ENVSEC was also visible at the Rio+20 Regional Preparatory Meeting in Geneva. In the Co-Chair’s Summary, ENVSEC was named as “an important example of inter-agency co-operation and partnership which could serve as a model for other regions.” The Co-Chair’s Summary was transmitted to the global Rio+20 discussions later in the year.

ENVSEC visibility was also raised at the Environment and Security Partners Meeting in Brussels in October with the support of the UNEP Liaison Office in Brussels and with the active participation of all ENVSEC partners.

Other workshops and meetings that enhanced ENVSEC’s visibility were the OSCE’s Chairmanship Workshop on Economic and Environmental Activities as Confidence Building Measures held in Vienna on 30 May, the OSCE’s 2011 Economic and Environmental Implementation Meeting held from 17 to 19 October in Vienna and NATO’s Political and Partnership Committee Meeting held in Brussels on 4 October.

ENVSEC was also highly visible at the Aarhus Centres side-event at the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in Chisinau, Moldova on 29 June, with the participation

of the Minister of Environment of Moldova and representatives of UNECE and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. Over 100 people attended.

The 2011 fall issue of the OSCE quarterly magazine which is also available in an electronic version on the OSCE website had a wide coverage of ENVSEC and Aarhus Centres. It was distributed to all 56 OSCE participating States, the 12 Partners for Co-operation, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as to participants at various OSCE events.

The role of ENVSEC was highlighted by the OSCE at the South Eastern European Co-operation Process (SEEC) Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers held in Belgrade on 31 January, which included an agenda item on environmental protection, prevention and elimination of the consequences of all types of disasters.

The ENVSEC website was renewed and major ENVSEC events and news continued to be posted regularly.

Objective 3: A more effective mechanism for monitoring and reporting ENVSEC results

ENVSEC applied the Programme and Project Guidelines consistently throughout 2011. Improvements were recorded in monitoring the ENVSEC work programme and reporting. The user-friendly templates developed by the ENVSEC Co-ordination Unit for project fiches and regional snapshots have contributed to enhancing the Management Board's decision-making process.

Objective 4: A broader partner and donor base for ENVSEC

In 2011, the ENVSEC Management Board approved 11 new projects and two amendments to projects. It also approved the Resource Mobilization Strategy, in October.

Thanks to the efforts of the ENVSEC Regional Desk for Eastern Europe, ENVSEC received funding in the amount of 15 million Swedish Kronor (approximately 2 million US dollars) from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) in support of the SIDA Programme for Belarus. The funds will support promotion and application of regional environmental instruments; improvement of public awareness on regional and global environment and security challenges and hot spots; and implementation of the UNECE Aarhus Convention.

In 2011 ENVSEC presented three proposals to the Ministry of the Environment of Belgium for possible funding, and Belgium agreed to provide support to the ENVSEC project on water quality in the Amu Darya River Basin in Central Asia. A meeting is scheduled between the Ministry of the Environment of Belgium and the ENVSEC for early 2012.

ENVSEC organized six technical briefings with the European Commission in 2011. It met with: representatives of the European Neighborhood Programme Instrument (ENPI) on co-operating on disasters reduction and waste management in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus; the Instrument for Pre Accession (IPA) and the Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) on streamlining regional disaster risk reduction strategies in South-Eastern Europe; the

Development Co-operation Instrument in Central Asia on water conflict early warning systems; the European Neighbourhood Programme on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) on co-operating on forest management; and the Instrument for Nuclear Safety on co-coordinating uranium waste management. ENVSEC submitted a project proposal entitled “Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia” to the Instrument for Stability (IfS) for consideration under the Annual Action Programme for 2012.

ENVSEC also developed a project proposal for consideration by the International Climate Initiative on Climate Change Adaptation and Security in Central Asia. The project proposal was submitted by UNDP in early January 2012.

III. Follow up actions for ENVSEC in 2012

Stronger security dimension:

- (i) Finalization of the ENVSEC Security Study and development of an action plan for its follow-up;
- (ii) Organization of a training of National Focal Points and other national stakeholders, including Aarhus Centre Managers in line with the findings of the Security Study;
- (iii) Enhancement of ENVSEC’s programmatic involvement in the area of climate change and security.

Enhanced visibility:

- (i) Following up on the mentioning of ENVSEC in the Co-Chair’s Summary of the December 2011 Regional Preparatory meeting for Rio+20 by ensuring collective ENVSEC action to integrate the environment and security dimension into the global negotiations leading up to the Rio+20 Conference and facilitating the representation of ENVSEC at Rio+20, through appropriate means;
- (ii) Exploring possibilities to render the Friends of ENVSEC Network operational .

More effective monitoring and reporting:

- (i) Ensuring that the findings of the ENVSEC Security Study related to monitoring, measuring and reporting on security impacts of the ENVSEC work programme and projects are incorporated into the overall ENVSEC monitoring, reporting and evaluation framework;
- (ii) Consistent use of regional snapshots to facilitate discussion at the Management Board meetings on the role that ENVSEC plays in the regions through individual projects;
- (iii) Encouraging continued advancement in the application of the ENVSEC Project and Programme Guidelines, particularly in relation to project monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

A broader partner and donor base for ENVSEC:

- (i) Continuing resource mobilization efforts with a particular focus on exploring synergies with the projects and programmes of the European Union in all ENVSEC regions;
- (ii). Exploring opportunities for enhanced collaboration with initiatives specialized in peace building, conflict prevention and conflict mediation and security,
- (iii) Finalizing the resource mobilization strategy and action plan.