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**Statement by Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj,  
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to International Organisations in Vienna,  
on Secretary General's thematic report "Stepping up the OSCE's  
efforts to address challenges caused by climate change"  
at the 1355th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

**Vienna, 17 February 2022**

*Mr. Chairperson,*

First, allow me to thank you for putting this highly relevant issue on our PC agenda today.

*Madam Secretary General,*

We commend you for stepping up the OSCE efforts in addressing climate change and welcome your thematic re-port.

Climate change indeed is one of the most pressing issues of our time. We agree with you that we need to address more systematically the interlinkages between climate change and security in terms of situational analysis and awareness. The interplay of different factors underlying or contributing to conflicts must be considered comprehensively.

In this sense, related OSCE Ministerial Decision adopted in Stockholm indeed represents a major breakthrough, especially for the OSCE. The Organization has a unique role to play in our collective responses to climate stability threats, in close cooperation with other international organizations.

As we move towards implementation, we must keep in mind that climate change is a global challenge requiring a global response. Enhancing co-operation in implementation of this decision with our Mediterranean as well as Asian Partners in this field is therefore a must.

Concerning the ideas on how to strengthen the OSCE's efforts in this field, we would like to note that we too see the Economic and Environmental Forum, Committee, as well as the Implementation Meetings as relevant ones for exchange of information. We would also welcome a more in-depth-expert level exchange on selected topics.

Additionally, we believe that the OSCE's niche could be the promotion of multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder approach to climate change.

Furthermore, an exchange with other regional and inter-national organizations, particularly with Vienna based Organizations, would not only be valuable but necessary, also in order to avoid possible duplication of work.

Madam Secretary General, as we take into consideration all the good proposals aimed to enhance our work in this field, which one in your opinion would add most value to the existing international efforts? Your thoughts would be much appreciated.

Finally, Slovenia would also like to welcome the High-Level Conference on Climate Change to be held on 25 March. We look forward to the productive exchange.

*Thank you.*