



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
GENEVA

Ambassador Verros' Presentation of the Greek Chairmanship of the Human Security Network

Chairman, Ambassador Logar,
Professor Penheiro,
Distinguished guests,

Let me first of all thank you Ambassador Logar for organizing this lunch. Slovenia has carried out its duties as chair of the Human Security Network in an exemplary manner while giving a significant impetus in the overall scope and objectives of the Network. It will be a hard task for us to follow but we shall try our best.

Let me quickly give you an overview of the Greek objective on this issue and a tentative time plan of scheduled activities.

Greece, as agreed in Slovenia, will focus on one signature topic, namely to enhance political awareness on the Human Security implications of Climate change while paying special attention to its impact on the vulnerable population groups of children, women and persons fleeing their homes due to climate change.

More specifically the objectives of the Greek Chairmanship will include:

- Calling for a “long-term global response” to deal with climate change. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon stated that projected climate changes can have not only serious environmental, social and economic implications, but also implications for peace and security. This is essentially true in vulnerable regions and groups that face multiple problems at the same time – pre-existing conflict, poverty and unequal access to resources, weak institutions, food insecurity and increasing of diseases. The Secretary-General outlined several “alarming” scenarios, including limited or threatened access to energy increasing the risk of conflict, a scarcity of food and water transforming peaceful competition into violence, as well as floods and droughts sparking massive human migrations, polarizing societies and weakening the ability of countries to resolve conflicts peacefully.

- We believe that the above are problems that need to be addressed also in this forum. Thus in its capacity as a cross-regional platform of communication, the HSN is an appropriate forum that can raise awareness both up and top down approach of the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups from a human security perspective and promote international synergies to find relevant solutions.

The Greek Chairmanship objectives on the issue will include:

- A.- The presentation, in a concise format, of the up to date studies on the impact of climate change on specific regions of the world with focus on those primarily affected.
- B.- The elaboration of three policy papers, one for each vulnerable group (children, women, persons fleeing their homes due to climate change).
- C.- An overall policy paper on development cooperation and the impact of climate change (on vulnerable groups).

These studies will be elaborated in cooperation with the relevant international bodies, think tanks and research institutes and experts (and we would be grateful to our HSN partners for their eventual contributions).

Here is a preliminary program of main events to take place.

1. The main event of the Greek Presidency will be to organize the Annual Ministerial Meeting as a Policy Forum in May 2008 in Greece. Invitations will be extended to ministers of like-minded countries beyond the membership of HSN. A major International Conference dedicated to Human Security and Climate change will take place in parallel.
2. An informal ministerial breakfast or lunch will take place in New York during the UNGA.
3. The New York and Geneva missions will organize one major event each (the Geneva one in early 2008), on Human Security Network and climate change.
4. Presentation of the HSN and the priorities of its chair will be introduced in the summit of the African Union in Banjul, Gambia.
5. The senior officers' meeting is scheduled to take place in Athens. The date will be announced in the coming weeks.

Thank you.