



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Villars Seminar

**New Strategy for Enhancing Security in the Economic and
Environmental Dimensions**

Organized by the UNECE in cooperation with OSCE

Annotated Outline

**7-8 July 2003
Hotel du Golf, Villars, Switzerland**

Background

Economic and environmental factors have increasingly become recognized as being amongst the major causes of conflicts and insecurity. While the media has often focused on the ethnic and religious factors behind conflicts, research has demonstrated the importance of underlying economic factors, *inter alia*, the appropriation and distribution of rents, economic crime and corruption, competition over scarce resources, land and water etc., as being of greater significance in explaining why violent conflicts takes place. In the overall framework of post Cold War Europe, increasing globalization and economic integration, and the constant threat from international terrorism, the economic and environmental aspects to the security of states are of important concern. National and international bodies such as UNECE, and OSCE, are working closely to develop more effective strategies for conflict prevention and security, and looking at new responses to addressing risks in the economic and environmental dimension. In this regard, the OSCE Porto Ministerial Conference (December 2002), under the Chairmanship of the Government of the Netherlands, agreed to elaborate a New Strategy Document in the economic and environmental dimensions, with a view to defining new commitments.

The New Strategy Document is expected to consist of three main parts:

Part 1 – *An Analytical Part*: addressing the key threats to security, including the ongoing work of other international and regional bodies involved in these issues;

Part 2. *The Commitments**; with a focus on good governance;

Part 3. *Implementation of the Commitments*: dealing with the monitoring of threats and early warning, risk assessment reviews, exchange of experience on national security strategies and public-private partnerships.

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an input into the New Strategy Document and to help in particular with the preparation of Parts 1 and 3 of the Document. Other related objectives include: to improve understanding of the relationship between the economic and environmental dimensions and security (so that work done in all relevant international bodies, particularly the OSCE and UNECE, is well coordinated and does not lead to duplication); to examine what needs to be done to overcome some of the high risk factors in the economic and environmental dimension; and to consider a sensible division of labour between the various national, international agencies and other stakeholders – enabling each to exploit their comparative advantage and the synergies between different actions and programmes, to address these threats.

* OSCE's normative principles are called commitments. Governments commit to implementing these agreed principles. They allow their performance in implementation to be the subject of reviews by other participating states. Commitments thus are more than general statements of good practice. They have serious follow up implications for states that agree to be parties to these commitments.

It is intended that a revised document will be drafted at this meeting and that afterwards it will be submitted to the OSCE, where the intergovernmental process of negotiations is taking place.

Nature of the Meeting and Participation

This meeting will be an informal expert meeting. The Villars event follows on from a previous initiative by UNECE and OSCE (Villars Switzerland in November 2001). The aim of the 'Villars process' is to provide wider expert analysis to security issues in the economic and environmental dimensions, to strengthen conflict prevention in this dimension and to bring new actors, civil society and private sector into contributing concretely and in a results orientated way to conflict prevention.

The World Bank, UN agencies, EBRD, NATO, OECD have been invited as well as representatives of NGOs and the private sector. Governments, who are also involved in the negotiations over the New Strategy document, will also participate. The meeting is designed to ensure the maximum involvement of experts and to ensure a high quality debate and contribution.

Documentation

UNECE will prepare a background text corresponding to the content of Part 1 and 3 of the expected New Strategy Document above which will be the basis for the discussion at the meeting and its outcome.

Programme

Monday July 7

11.30 Opening session: “Tour de table” (open to contributions from all the participants). What are the key threats to security faced by our region in the economic and environmental dimension?

Moderator: Mr. Paolo Garonna, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, UNECE

Mr. Marcin Swiecicki, Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE

13.00–14.30 Lunch

14.30–16.00 Session 1.

Topic: Key factors causing insecurity in the economic and environmental dimensions.

Background: In this session, the UNECE will propose a framework for the analysis of the key factors in the economic and environmental dimensions contributing to insecurity. The framework identifies four major clusters:

Socio-economic dimension;

Environmental dimension;

Gaps in institutional framework;

Globalisation and regional economic cooperation.

Work will then be organized in sessions corresponding to the different clusters. Working Groups will be formed to deliberate on each of the sub-items. Each Group will appoint a chairperson, and a rapporteur. The provisional nominations for the office bearers of the above mentioned groups are as follows:

Socio-economic dimension;

Chairman: Mr. Patrick Hardouin, NATO

Rapporteur: Mr. Daniel Linotte, OSCE

Environmental dimension;

Chairman: Mr. Kaj Barlund, Director of ENHS, UNECE

Rapporteur: Ms. Mijke Hertoghs, UNECE

Gaps in institutional framework;

Chairman: Mr. Johannes Schachinger, EC

Rapporteur: Ms. Louisa Perrotta, DFID, UK

Globalisation and regional economic cooperation

Chairman: Mr. Sergiu Celac, ICBSS

Rapporteur: Ms. Lisa Smirl, UNDP

The final outcome of these deliberations, it is hoped, will be a text identifying the key factors causing insecurity in the economic and environmental dimensions.

Presentation by Paolo Garonna and Geoffrey Hamilton, UNECE.

16.00–18.00 Session 2. Working Groups Session Begin

Topic: What are the economic/environmental threats to security in the region?

What are the obstacles to reducing the security risks in the economic and environmental dimension?

Participants in working groups should endeavor not only to list existing and potential threats to security, but also to clarify the structure of the logical, cause – effect relations between these threats. How do the four clusters of groups mentioned in the UNECE paper relate to one another. What are the underlying causes, the triggers, and the contributory causes of conflicts?

Using the economic and environmental threats developed in session 2, participants should identify all the obstacles to reducing or eliminating these threats. Again participants should identify the hierarchy of obstacles.

18.00–18.30 Session 3.

Chairman: Ms. Larissa Kapitsa, Director of CUOA, UNECE

Progress Report from Working Group Session 3.

19.00–20.30 Dinner

21.00–22.00 Session 4.

Moderator: Mr. Kaj Barlund, Director of ENHS, UNECE

Brainstorming on Monitoring and Early Warning: What practical steps should be undertaken? Introduced by Geoffrey Hamilton and Paolo Garonna, UNECE. Background document to be distributed

Tuesday July 8

10.00-10.30 Sessions 5. Working Group Sessions Resume

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00– 12.00 Session 6. Information session on the Status of the Negotiations surrounding the Part of the New Strategy Document dealing with Commitments to Good Governance

Chairman: Mr. Igor Sevastianov, Russian Federation

Presentation by Mr. Denis Siderenko, Chairman of the Group of Friends of OSCE

Discussion

12.00 -13.00 Session 7. Progress Report from Working Group Sessions, Summary of Results and Discussion.

**Chairmen: Mr. Victor-Yves Ghebali, Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies
Mr. Dennis J.D. Sandole, Professor, George Mason University**

13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–16.00 Session 8.

Chairman: H.E. Mr John R de Fonblanque CMG, United Kingdom

Topic: Monitoring, Implementation and Early Warning: Comparative Advantage of different organizations and partnerships

16.00–16.30 Coffee Break

16.30–18.00 Final Session. Summary of Results; Conclusions and Next Steps

Chairman: Ms. Yvonne Stassen, Netherlands

19.00 – Working Dinner: during the dinner the Netherlands Chairman in Office of the OSCE will present a “Vision on the Prospects for effective conflict prevention in the economic and environmental dimensions in Europe”

Discussion and Drinks

Wednesday 9 July

Departure from Villars