Environmental Security from NATO’s Point of View, in Peace Time and During Operations

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- Ladies and Gentlemen … …

- Security has traditionally been defined as the protection of territorial integrity, political sovereignty and national interests.

- However, over the recent years, our understanding of security has evolved, particularly by putting greater emphasis on non-military factors, such as the economic or environmental dimensions.

- The most recent manifestation of this evolution is the new Division in NATO’s International Staff that has been stood up last August, and of which I have the pleasure to be the Deputy Assistant Secretary General: the Emerging Security Challenges Division.

- The portfolio of this new Division includes environmental security. Nothing could underline more clearly that NATO, as a modern security organisation, does indeed have a stake in this issue.

- In my brief remarks this morning I want to provide you with an overview of the key elements of NATO’s approach to environmental security.

- In general terms, NATO addresses environmental security from two angles: civilian and military.

- On the civilian side we make extensive use of our partnerships with non-member countries …

- One key programme through which we deal with environmental security is the Science for Peace and Security Programme (SPS).
  
  - SPS also supported ENVSEC assessments in the four regions Balkans, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia.

- Another major partnership tool with an environmental security dimension is the so-called Partnership for Peace (PfP) Trust Fund.
  
  - Trust Fund projects deal with demilitarisation and therefore with environmental security.

- Let me now say a few words on the military angle of NATO’s approach to environmental security.
• Over the past years, NATO has developed an “acquis” of military guidelines, standards, and best practice on environmental security.

• The expert group in NATO in charge of setting up these guidelines and standards, so called STANAGs, is the Joint Environmental Protection Management Group (JEPMG).

• This management group has, for example, facilitated consensus among the Allies on:
  
  o STANAG 7141, that directs the operational planners to take environmental protection issues into account. In other words, when planning an operation, our military should also look at measures to reduce risks to the environment; and
  
  o STANAG 2510 that gives directives for land operations to implement proper waste management and energy efficiency.

• Let me conclude with a practical example of applying best practices in NATO’s operations: The NATO/EUFOR compounds in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
  
  o In the framework of NATO’s cooperation with the EU, an environmental officer has been in charge of applying best practices to all NATO/EUFOR compounds.
  
  o Michele Righi, who was the environmental officer in charge, is here today. He will speak later about his experience and I don’t want to steal his thunder.
  
  o Let me just say that our experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina offers some interesting lessons:
    
    o environmental protection does not cost more in the long run;
    
    o environmental protection makes the compounds safer; and
    
    o environmental protection enhances the reputation of our military in the country, especially amongst local authorities.

• Ladies and Gentlemen,

• Environmental protection in military operations is a young discipline and it still needs tender parent-ship to mature.

• That is why the collective expertise gathered in ENVSEC is such an important and valuable asset. I am looking forward to further deepening our cooperation.

• Thank you.