

Editor's Note

The current issue of the Caucasus Strategic Perspectives (CSP) journal entitled “*Climate, Environment, Peace and Security in the South Caucasus*” is dedicated to the different aspects of the environment and climate policy, notably in the post-conflict situation and with evolving geoeconomic changes in the South Caucasus region.

The CSP's new issue includes 6 articles. The CSP's current authors analyzed Azerbaijan's green energy policy, new opportunities in the region for this country's renewable energy capacity, impact of landmines on rehabilitation and reconstruction works in Azerbaijan, international humanitarian law providing for the protection of the environment during armed conflict, compensation for environmentally harmful acts committed by Armenia, the environmental repercussions of the occupation of Azerbaijan's territories in the past by Armenia, the environmental aspects of the reconstruction effort, role of multilateral diplomacy in shaping the international environmental regime, Caspian Green Energy Corridor, etc.

The new issue's **Highlight** is the comprehensive article of **Shahmar Hajiye**v titled “*Azerbaijan's growing role in the regional green energy transition and COP29*”. This article examines Azerbaijan's green energy policy following the liberation of its occupied territories during the Second Garabagh War, including new opportunities for its renewable energy capacity in those territories. By analysing different cooperation initiatives, author argues that Azerbaijan's green growth strategy and green energy projects aim to transform the country into a ‘green energy hub’ in the South Caucasus region.

The new issue's **Articles Section** starts with the co-authored article of **Maurizio Geri, Leyla Gasimova, Aydan Huseynova and Luisa Canciello** titled “*Landmine legacy in Azerbaijan: A threat to reconstruction and sustainable development*”. This article aims to shed light on the impact of landmines and the

importance of addressing this issue promptly. Furthermore, it emphasizes the strategic significance of rapid demining for post-conflict reconstruction in the South Caucasus and underscores the need for concerted efforts to ensure development, environmental protection, and stability in the region.

Valentina Chabert's article of "*Reaching peace through responsibility: The role of international arbitration's stance on the South Caucasus' environmental post-war recovery*" explores the current framework of international humanitarian law providing for the protection of the environment during armed conflict, as well as the relationship between the law of occupation and natural resource exploitation. Against this background, the ultimate objective of the article lies in the investigation of Azerbaijan's requests for inter-state arbitration pursuant to the Bern Convention and the Energy Charter Treaty. This is what the present author considers to be potentially the most successful option for Azerbaijan to get compensation for environmentally harmful acts committed by Armenia.

Orkhan Baghirov's article of "*Environmental aspects of the reconstruction process in Garabagh and Eastern Zangezur regions*" aims to analyse the environmental dimensions of the reconstruction process in Azerbaijan's liberated territories. Following the initial analysis of the environmental repercussions of the occupation, the article delves into the environmental aspects of the reconstruction effort, showcasing various measures and projects aimed at revitalizing the region's flora and fauna, promoting renewable energy sources such as wind and solar energy, establishing 'Green Energy Zones' and 'Smart Villages', and employing smart agriculture techniques.

Najiba Mustafayeva's article of "*Multilateral Diplomacy for Shaping the International Environmental Regime: Key Landmark Conferences and COP29 in Azerbaijan*" examines the role of multilateral diplomacy in shaping the international environmental regime and highlights the necessity of shared responsibility and collective efforts. It emphasizes the evolution of international environmental law and the importance of flexible, adaptive treaty frameworks in addressing global environmental problems.

Agha Bayramov's investigates the Caspian–European Union Green Energy Corridor - the corridor that hinges on large-scale renewable energy projects, like the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Electricity Cables, facilitating green energy exports from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan to Europe – as an a strategic initiative to bolster energy security and diversification in a tense geopolitical climate. The present author also explores the current status, potential for, and obstacles to the Caspian Green Energy Corridor and argues that substantial challenges, including geopolitical instability, technical hurdles, and significant investment needs, threaten the initiative's success.

Finally, on behalf of the CSP team, we hope this issue provides food for thought and contributes to and enriches the discussion on subject-matter issue.

Sincerely
Farid Shafiyev
Editor-in-Chief of CSP Journal