

## **European Union External Action, GCCA+ and Institute for Environmental Security Session at COP25**

### **Session Title: Climate and Security - Emerging trends and adaptation strategies**

**Venue:** EU Pavilion, room Brussels

**Time/Date:** 10:30-12:00 on 11 December

#### **Background**

Climate change acts as a threat multiplier with serious implication for peace and security across the globe. Over the last decade, insecurities induced by climate change have been part of shaping our understanding of climate change as an urgent global issue with real impacts beyond the realm of ecological degradation. Climate security has also cast a wider light on the causes and implications of challenges of particularly vulnerable countries, connecting climate with discussions about regional stability, state fragility, and forced displacement.

Some key aspects of the climate-security nexus include:

- Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Islands States (SIDS) are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;
- Climate Change presents special challenges to environmental and human security in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific;
- Direct security impacts may include diminished access to fresh water, local food supply and coastal infrastructure damage;
- For atoll island nations, climate-related sea level rise is an existential threat;
- LDCs and SIDS should promote and exploit opportunities for regional collaboration to better manage mitigation, adaptation and response to climate change, and to develop and disseminate better knowledge in support of those activities;

Climate change will present a growing challenge to LDCs and SIDS security for the foreseeable future. LDCs, SIDS and associated territories must seize opportunities for regional collaboration to plan and implement adaptation strategies, and to develop and disseminate science-based knowledge to meet the threat. The European Union (EU) is actively integrating “climate security” in its strategic and political approaches to tackling climate change in external relations. The EU has been incorporating climate-related factors into initiatives designed to predict and prevent conflicts, including by improving governance in resource-stressed states.

On all levels climate change is amplifying global security challenges and increasing the need for accelerated implementation of the Paris Agreement, e.g. the 2007-2010 drought in Syria has caused massive exodus from the rural areas to the cities, which has been considered a key driver for the extreme violence and destruction of the country; droughts in the Sahel pit pastoralists against farmers with deadly conflicts as a result; climate change aggravating water deficits in the “Dry Corridor” are an important push factor contributing to migration from Central America to the U.S.

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In South Asia, a fraught geopolitical environment combines with a burgeoning population and scarce resources impacted by climate change, to urgently require leaders to embark upon a cooperative, regional approach to reduce widespread human suffering and dangerous instability caused by climate change.

### Session Objectives

This session will explore current challenges and opportunities to address the climate-security nexus in LDCs, SIDS and associated territories. In addition, this session will discuss the local and regional approach to tackle climate-security issues and analyse how various climate conflict resolution approaches could be integrated in current and future climate programs.

In particular, this session objectives are:

1. Review current and emerging the climate-security nexus in key development sectors, as well as across various environmental and social sectors;
2. Discuss the technical, management and financial elements for successful and sustainable climate change - security approaches;
3. Stimulate technical and management cooperation for peacebuilding and conflict resolution among various stakeholders.
4. Promote regional cooperation and an integrated all-of government / all-of-society approach
5. Discuss the integration of the impact of climate change in each stage of the conflict cycle.

During this session we hope to expand our understandings of the ways in which climate change interacts with international, regional, national, and human security by examining themes that can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Case studies of how climate change adaptation has been utilised in cooperation or peacebuilding efforts;
- Climate induced conflict as a factor in communities' vulnerability as well as their struggle to gain greater adaptive capacity;
- The multiple forms of mal-adaptation including divergent adaptations that tend to increase resentment and conflict
- Political ecological approaches and interactions in relation to adaptations and conflict State-led or state-sponsored adaptations that lead to greater human insecurity;
- The role of the Military in assessing the security implications of a changing climate, in adaptation and in responding to climate change related natural disasters

### Speakers

**Mr. Stefano Signore**, Head of Unit Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DEVCO

**Ms. Signe Vikaer Leth Olsen**, Policy Officer, EU Climate Diplomacy

**Dr. Krampe Florian**, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

**Lieutenant General Tariq Waseem Ghazi (Ret)**, Former Defence Secretary, Government of Pakistan / Member, Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change

**Lieutenant Commander Oliver-Leighton Barret**, U.S. Navy (Ret), Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Climate and Security

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## Resource Material

- [Climate Change Challenges to Security in the Pacific Islands Region and Opportunities for Cooperation to Manage the Threat](#), J. Scott Hauger
- [The European Security and Defence College \(ESDC\): Climate Change and the impact on security](#)
- [Climate change and fragility in the Asia-Pacific region](#), The Center for Climate and Security
- [Climate Change and Security in South Asia: Cooperation for Peace](#) by Lt. General Tariq Waseem Ghazi (Ret.), Maj. General A.N.M. Muniruzzaman (Ret.) and Air Marshall A.K. Singh (Ret.), The Hague, Institute for Environmental Security, May 2016
- [GCCA+ Factsheet](#)

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