



Climate, peace and security are deeply inter-connected and have many dimensions. Climate events and conflicts can cause human insecurity and forced migration, affecting mostly the vulnerable groups in developing and lower-income countries. Climate change (as well as environmental degradation) has a strong impact on food security and access to natural resources, such as land and water. Climate shocks threaten livelihoods, human health and well-being. They contribute to social unrest, economic inequalities, instability and insecurity. This exacerbates existing conflicts and governance challenges, disproportionately affecting women and children especially in fragile contexts.

12 of the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change¹ are also conflict-affected. In 2022, 250 conflicts were related to water related issues. By 2050, over one billion people could lack sufficient access to water, soil degradation might reach 90%, and food demand could increase by 60%.² Clearly, these factors combined are expected to **heighten geopolitical competition for resources.** In this scenario, the security implications of climate change are increasingly pressing, as highlighted by reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).³ The UN and NATO are actively incorporating these risks into their policy planning.

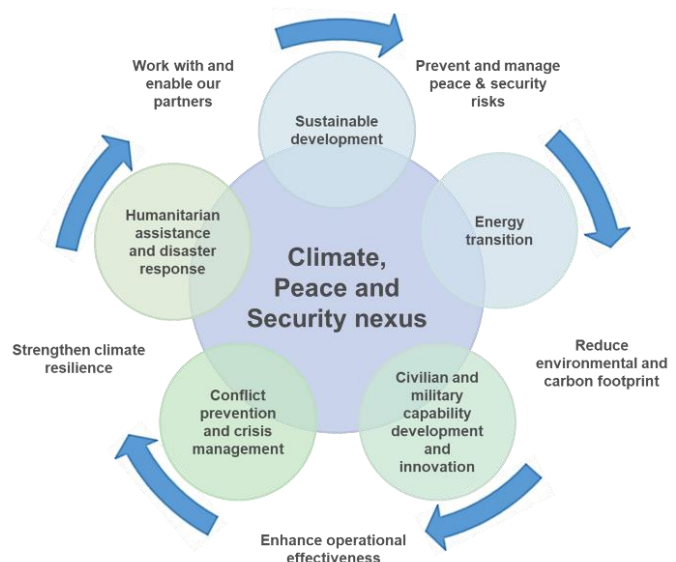
COP 29 Baku, Azerbaijan

Building on the work of previous COPs and following the **COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace⁴**, COP29 maintains the focus on the interplay between peace and climate and provides avenues for scaling up climate finance and support for the most vulnerable. At COP 29 an agreement was reached to provide developing countries with at least USD 300 billion annually and scale up finance to the amount of USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035⁵ for climate action.

The EU Approach to Climate, Peace and Security

The EU has recently revisited its policies to better integrate climate, peace, and security issues into its external action. The Council conclusions of March 2023 on Climate and Energy Diplomacy⁶ underscored the urgent need to **bolster the integration of the climate-security nexus within the EU's international partnerships.**

The **Council Conclusions** of October 2024⁷ reiterate concerns on the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Addressing these emergencies in an effective, integrated and coherent way through mutually beneficial strategies is key. While giving due attention to climate finance and emission reductions, **the crucial issue of climate adaptation, resilience and sustainable management of natural resources** should not be forgotten.



The June 2023 **Joint Communication on the Climate-Security nexus⁸** further aligned EU's objectives with the European Green Deal⁹, aiming for coherence between climate peace and security strategies. Emphasizing the need for effective climate adaptation and future-ready

¹ According to the UN, based on the [ND-Gain Index](#).

² See: SIPRI, [Environment of Risk: Security in a New Era of Risk](#) (2022) and the [Groundswell Report from the World Bank](#) (2021)

³ [IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, August 2021](#).

⁴ <https://www.cop28.com/en/cop28-declaration-on-climate-relief-recovery-and-peace>

⁵ <https://unfccc.int/news/cop29-un-climate-conference-agrees-to-triple-finance-to-developing-countries-protecting-lives-and>

⁶ [Doc. 7248/23, 9 March 2023](#).

⁷ [Council Conclusions October 2024 on the preparations for the 29th Conference of the Parties \(COP29\) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#)

⁸ [Doc. JOIN/19, 28 June 2023](#).

⁹ [Doc. COM\(2019\) 640, 11 December 2019](#).

policies for peace and security, it underscores collaboration with international partners to develop effective multilateral solutions. The EU is committed to:

- strengthen **climate and environment informed planning, decision-making and implementation**, through enhanced evidence-based analysis and foresight¹⁰;
- enhance **climate adaptation and mitigation measures** for the development of Member States' civilian and military capabilities¹¹, and related infrastructure, while strengthening disaster risk reduction, preparedness and anticipatory action;
- **reinforce international partnerships** and the EU's work within multilateral fora, consistent with the EU's wider multilateral climate and environment agenda¹².

Through the **EU Green Deal**, the EU mainstreams climate, environment and disaster risk reduction in all EU policies, in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Global Biodiversity Framework. In this view, the Commission has issued its **New Greening Toolbox**¹³. This guidance provides entry points for **“greening” the intervention cycle of actions and our international partnerships**.

Implications for Partnerships

Tackling climate-related security risks requires a **long-term, holistic, and anticipatory strategy**. This entails building resilience at all levels and across sectors to enable partners to cope with climate and environmental stressors and shocks from the onset.

Entry-points for empowering **Peace and Resilience** through the climate-security nexus are:

- enhancing **governance of natural resources** to promote sustainable utilization of climate-sensitive resources; if done in a conflict-sensitive and inclusive way, good governance can also strengthen relationships across societies and promote gender equality and women's empowerment;
- fostering **social cohesion and trust** by involving conflicting groups and governmental actors in the design and implementation of adaptation measures;
- developing resource efficient, **climate-resilient and sustainable livelihoods** to mitigate scarcity, bolster economic security for vulnerable populations, and offer viable alternatives to youth susceptible to joining armed groups.

Climate and Conflict Sensitivity

DG INTPA has developed a series of [Guidance Notes on Conflict Sensitivity](#), which integrate considerations on climate change, the environment, and natural resources (chapter 9), as well as sustainable agriculture, land issues, and food security (chapter 10). However, fostering peace through the climate-security nexus requires **further integration of climate considerations into Conflict Analysis screenings, Conflict Early Warning Systems, and Resilience Analysis**. This approach aims to enhance the climate- and conflict-sensitivity of resulting conclusions and recommendations, which are then utilized to drive project programming and implementation.

The UN has also developed several specific tools to tackle the climate, peace, and security nexus. Tools such as the [Climate-Security Mechanism Toolbox](#), the [Climate Change and Security project Toolbox](#) serve as valuable references.

Conclusions and main takeaways

- **Fostering partners' resilience** is the optimal strategy for preventing profound crises stemming from climate-related shocks and stressors.
- Climate-related security risks frequently present opportunities to **advance social inclusion, gender equality and peace**.
- Climate-related considerations over analytical data and models need to be **increasingly integrated into every conflict-related assessment**, in order to better reflect the intricate interplay between climate impacts and conflict dynamics into conclusions and recommendations.

Useful Links

[INFORM Climate Change](#); [UN Climate Change and Security Project toolbox](#) (data sources links on pages 29-31); [UN Climate Security Mechanism toolbox- data sources](#); Copernicus' Emergency Management Service for [droughts](#) and [flood risks](#); [Copernicus Land Monitoring Service](#); [Copernicus Climate Change Service \(C3S\)](#)

For more information, please contact: INTPA G5 – INTPA-G5@ec.europa.eu or INTPA F1 – INTPA-F1@ec.europa.eu

¹⁰ A “Climate and Environment Security Data and Analysis Hub” to be developed by SatCen (delivery in 2027); annual Climate and Security Trend Analysis to be released by EEAS; key indicators (e.g. GRCI) & early warning systems to be integrated with additional climate considerations

¹¹ As with the CSDP-Climate Package

¹² The J.C. encourages the EEAS and relevant Commission services to engage joint initiatives and to integrate the nexus into dialogues with bilateral partners and regional organizations

¹³ [New Greening Toolbox](#)