



8th Meeting of the Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy

EU and UN Action on Climate Diplomacy – The Year Ahead

Wednesday - 23 January 2019
Foundation for European Progressive Studies, Rue Metoyer 40, 1000 Brussels

Recommended Reading

Featured Publications:

[Reinforcing Environmental Dimensions of European Foreign and Security Policy](#)

By Marianne Kettunen (IEEP), Dominique Noome (GMACCC) and Johanna Nyman (IEEP), Brussels, BDCD / GMACCC / HBF / IEEP, December 2018

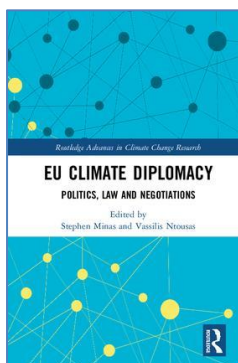
The impacts of a degrading environment and a changing climate on national and international security are becoming more and more apparent. Combined with an increasing world population, the pressure on and competition over natural resources can be considered as one of the key peace and security challenges of the 21st century.

Acknowledging the role environment and ecosystems play in underpinning security – both in terms of national and human security – means a departure from the security and defence policy as traditionally perceived. It requires a more holistic regime that goes beyond military preparedness or response, with due links to a range of sectoral activities that impact the environmental and ecosystem quality and resilience.



[EU Climate Diplomacy: Politics, Law and Negotiations](#)

Edited by Stephen Minas, Vassilis Ntousas, London, Routledge, 24 April 2018



The European Union has long played a leadership role in the global response to climate change, including the development and dissemination of climate-friendly technologies such as renewable energy. EU diplomacy has been a vital contributor to the development of international cooperation on climate change through the agreement of the United Nations Climate Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and, most recently, the Paris Agreement. In addition, the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States means that the EU contribution to climate diplomacy will become more important still, both in filling the leadership gap (together with other major economies) and in responding to any sabotage by the Trump administration.

This book will extend knowledge of the EU as a key actor in climate diplomacy by bringing together leading practitioners and researchers in this field to take stock of the EU's current role and emerging issues. Contributions will be grouped into three strands: 1) the interplay between EU climate diplomacy and internal EU politics; 2) how the EU's legal order is a factor that determines, enables and constrains its climate diplomacy; and 3) the EU's contribution to diplomacy concerning climate technology both under the Climate Convention and more broadly. Collectively, these contributions will chart the EU's role at a critical time of transition and uncertainty in the international response to climate change.

European External Action Service high level conference on Climate, Peace and Security: The Time for Action, Brussels, 22 June 2018



High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini today hosted an unprecedented high level event - Climate, Peace and Security: The Time for Action - which drove home both the urgency and importance of tackling the risks that climate change poses to security and peace. Ministers from around the world, top United Nations officials, and leading experts testified to the many real and potential security threats deriving from climate change.

A key message from the meeting was that “No matter how much states, donors and development partners invest in promoting economic and social development as a means to prevent conflict and sustain peace and security, if climate risks are left out of the equation, much of that effort may be in vain”.

Successful conclusion of COP24 in Katowice

Federal Foreign Office of Germany, 15 December 2018

The 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - the most important climate conference since the conclusion of the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015 – ended in Katowice today (15 December). More than 20,000 participants had travelled to Poland, including many Heads of State and Government as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.



At the conference, informally known as COP24, the international community agreed on the Katowice Rulebook following two weeks of negotiations. This is also a success for the EU and the German delegation headed by Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze, who campaigned for clear and binding rules for all.

The Rulebook spells out the details on implementing the Paris Climate Agreement. It lays down how countries' national climate contributions should be measured, compared and forwarded to the UNFCCC secretariat. >> [Read more](#)

UN 2019 Climate Summit



New York, 23 SEPTEMBER 2019

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will convene a summit to mobilize political and economic energy at the highest levels to advance climate action that will enable implementation of many of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UN 2019 Climate Summit will convene on the theme ‘A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win,’ and seek to challenge states, regions, cities, companies, investors and citizens to step up action in six areas: energy transition, climate finance and carbon pricing, industry transition, nature-based solutions, cities and local action, and resilience.

Source: [IISD – SDG Knowledge Hub](#)

For more information see: [UN Climate Summit 2019](#)

The UN takes Climate Action

We must change course by 2020, the UN Secretary-General has said, or we risk missing the point where we can avoid the “disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us.” Here are just a few ways in which the UN is taking action on climate change:

- [Women as agents of change](#)
- [Disasters, Resilience and Land Management](#)
- [Early Warning Systems](#)
- [Green Jobs: the only way to go](#)
- [Cities and Pollution contribute to climate change](#)
- [Education is key to addressing climate change](#)



Climate and security – what is Germany doing?

Federal Foreign Office of Germany, 27 September 2018



The consequences of climate change threaten to deprive people of their livelihoods and thereby become a danger to international security. Germany is working to find Solutions. This was the theme of an article published by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany in September.

According to the [article](#), “Germany will be a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for two years from 2019 to 2020. One of the areas it will be focusing on is the connection between climate change and international conflict. Not enough attention is yet paid to this issue. Germany will put the topic on the agenda wherever it is relevant. Its prime aim, however, is to develop strategies to solve the associated problems. The development of better early warning systems and prevention mechanisms is just one aspect”.

“The UN Security Council is well placed to work on the nexus between climate and security policy. Climate change is an international challenge that requires an international response. For that reason, Germany will continue to campaign for the implementation of the Paris climate agreement in general and as a member of the Security Council”, the piece continued.

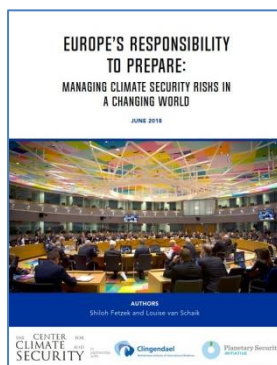
It was also announced that a Group of Friends has been set up as a forum for discussion and brainstorming. “Germany and Nauru launched the UN Group of Friends on Climate and Security on 1 August 2018. A total of 30 states have joined together with the aim of cooperating to develop solutions to address the security policy’s impact of climate change, raise public awareness and boost the involvement of the United Nations in this area”.

“The Group of Friends will play an important role during Germany’s membership of the Security Council as a forum for discussing policy ideas and making recommendations on issues such as enhancing states’ resilience to climate-related security risks”.

Read more about German climate change initiatives in the United Nations, the EU and in the G7/G8 context [here](#).

For Further Reading:

[Europe’s Responsibility to Prepare: Managing Climate Security Risks in a changing World](#)



By Shiloh Fetzek and Louise van Schaik, The Hague / Washington, D.C., The Center for Climate and Security / Clingendael - Netherlands Institute for International Relations / Planetary Security Initiative, June 2018.

The European Union (EU) has recognised the high-probability, high-impact threat climate change poses to international security, but is still formulating a response commensurate to the threat. This report outlines how the EU can meet a Responsibility to Prepare for unprecedented yet foreseeable threats to international peace and security. This involves routinising, institutionalising, elevating and integrating climate security considerations into policymaking processes and the policies and financial instruments of EU institutions, while honing rapid response capabilities and developing contingencies for unintended consequences.

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[Intergovernmental Organizations and Climate Security: Advancing the Research Agenda](#)

LISA M. DELLMUTH, MARIA-THERESE GUSTAFSSON, NIKLAS BREMBERG, MALIN MOBJÖRK, Wire’s Climate Change, Wiley, 13 October 2017



Climate-related security challenges are transnational in character, leading states to increasingly rely on intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)—such as the European Union and the North-Atlantic Treaty Organization—for policy solutions. While climate security issues do not typically fit comfortably within the mandates of existing IGOs, recent decades have seen increasing efforts by IGOs to link climate change and security.

This article reviews existing studies on IGOs’ responses to climate security challenges. It draws together research from several bodies of literature spanning political science, international relations, and environmental social science, identifying an emerging field of research revolving around IGOs

and climate security. We observe significant advancement in this young field, with scholars extending and enriching our understanding of how and why IGOs address climate security challenges.

Yet we still know little about the conditions under which IGOs respond to climate security challenges and when they do so effectively. This article discusses the main gaps in current work and makes some suggestions about how these gaps may be usefully addressed in future research. A better understanding of the conditions under which IGOs respond (effectively) to climate security challenges would contribute to broader debates on climate security, institutional change, and effectiveness in international relations and environmental social science, and may facilitate crafting effective global solutions to society's most intractable climate security challenges.

[Climate Change and the UN Security Council: Bully Pulpit or Bull in a China Shop?](#)

By Ken Conca, Joe Thwaites, and Goueon Lee, Global Environmental Politics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The MIT Press, Boston, 2 May 2017



Although claims about climate/conflict links remain contested, concerns that climate change will affect peace and security have gained traction in academic, activist, and policy circles. One set of pressures for responsive action has centered on the UN Security Council, which has held several often-contentious debates on the topic. Whether the Council should address climate change is a highly politicized question, tied to controversies about the Council's mandate, membership reform, and the appropriate division of labor in the UN system. Lost in this political debate has been a more fundamental question—what exactly could the Council do?

The article analyses six different proposals for what actions the UN Security Council could take on climate change.

[The EU and Climate Security](#)

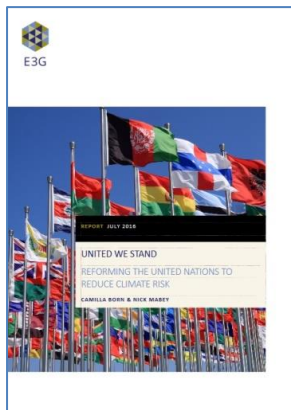


By Taylor Dimsdale, E3G & Gerald Stang, European Union Institute for Security Studies E3G, London, 7 March 2017 (Originally published by Planetary Security Initiative, The Hague, 7 March 2017)

What does a warmer world mean for European security? This policy brief first provides an overview of some key challenges facing European policy makers as they seek to take action against climate risks. It then analyses some of the programmes and mechanisms already in place across the Union. Finally, it sets out some practical recommendations on how European institutions can respond to the global security risks of a changing climate.

[United we stand: Reforming the United Nations to reduce climate risk](#)

By Camilla Born & Nick Mabey, E3G, London, 6 July 2016



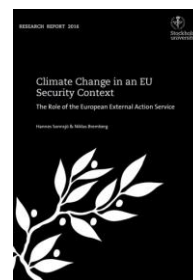
By the end of 2015, the global consensus for acting on climate change had transformed. The 2015 mandate has implications for each and every UN institution, country, sector and community.

Today, climate risk threatens the very operating mission of the United Nations. Climate risk is an existential threat to maintaining peace, rights and security. Peacebuilding efforts unravel where communities compete for access to climate stressed food and water supply. People migrate from resource depressed climates in search of stability and challenge the UN's ability to deliver humanitarian aid at scale. And amidst multiple crises, the capacity to prioritise fundamental pillars of UN governance such as human rights and international law is thinly spread.

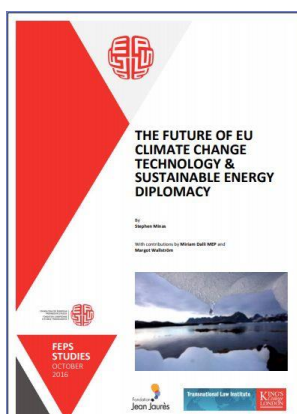
[Climate Change in an EU Security Context: The Role of the European External Action Service](#)

By Hannes Sonnsjö and Niklas Bremberg, Stockholm, Stockholm University, June 2016

The main goal of the project was to assist and inform policy making on security risks posed by climate change, with the focus on two specific areas: How policy organisations such as development and defence actors frame and integrate climate security risks in their work; and how and under what circumstances climate change increases the risk of violent conflict.



[The Future of EU Climate Change Technology and Sustainable Energy Diplomacy](#)



By Stephen Minas, Foundation for European Progressive Studies / Transnational Law Institute, King's College London / Fondation Jean-Jaurès, Brussels / London, October 2016

This timely collaboration has been a welcome opportunity to contribute to the necessary debate over how the EU continues to lead on climate change following the adoption of the Paris Agreement. Climate change is a transnational challenge like no other. The EU, which has been a key innovator in multi-level governance, now tackles the climate challenge while being beset by myriad interconnected crises. The EU's capacity to innovate – and to act collectively – will be vital to meeting this urgent challenge in the years ahead.

It represents the culmination of a project which has engaged EU and Member State policymakers, United Nations officials, representatives of the progressive parties and organisations at European level and members of academia, the private sector and civil society to identify opportunities for EU external action to achieve ambitious, progressive climate outcomes.