

Climate Change & International Security

Recent and Forthcoming Events

As per 20 March 2012

2011

July

18th

European Council Meeting on EU Climate Diplomacy, Brussels

Ahead of the UN Security Council debate on climate change and security on 20 July 2011, the EU Foreign Affairs Council adopted brief conclusions on the subject on 18 July, stating that "Climate change is a global environmental and development challenge. Next to the most immediate effects, it also has important security implications since it acts as a "threat multiplier", exacerbating tensions over land, water, food and energy prices, and creating migratory pressures and desertification. It is a threat to global growth, prosperity and stability."

(See: <http://www.envirosecurity.org/news/single.php?id=337>)

20th

UN Security Council Debate on Climate Change and Security, New York

On 20 July 2011, the United Nations Security Council held an open debate on the "Maintenance of international peace and security: impact of climate change" led by Germany which held the Presidency of Security Council in July. With this debate, Germany wanted to create a firmly established place on the Security Council agenda for climate and security, a topic which is crucial to the future of mankind. The debate centred around the security-related effects of climate change: rising sea-levels and the resultant security risks, as well as food security.

(See: <http://www.envirosecurity.org/news/single.php?id=336>)

September

21st

Symposium "Climate Change, Water Stress, Conflict and Migration", The Hague

The symposium, organised by UPEACE in close cooperation with and with support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cordaid, the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, WWF Netherlands, the International Institute of Social Studies and the Institute for Environmental Security dealt with concrete experiences, the interdependencies between climate change, water, conflict and migration, and also aimed to formulate recommendations for present and future problems.

(See: <http://www.envirosecurity.org/news/single.php?id=345>)

October

11th

"Climate Diplomacy in Perspective: From Early Warning to Early Action", Berlin

The German Federal Foreign Office organised this conference on "Climate Diplomacy in Perspective: From Early Warning to Early Action" in Berlin. Participants from over 30 countries examined how foreign policy can contribute to climate diplomacy. The conference was part of a series of activities the Federal Foreign Office has planned to highlight "the threat climate change is likely to pose to peace and security".

(See: <http://www.envirosecurity.org/news/single.php?id=341>)

13th

Meeting of the Informal Steering Committee (ISG) on Climate Change & International Security, Brussels

The report of the meeting, chaired by Mr Marc Van Bellinghen, Deputy Head of the Conflict Prevention, Peace-building and Mediation Division of the EEAS, in association with the Global Issues Division and DG CLIMA stressed the "need to operationalise the Foreign Affairs Council recommendations by working out a detailed action plan for the short and medium term. Closer cooperation and coordination between all actors (MS, EEAS, COM), both at headquarters level and locally through the EU delegations with the support of MS, is key for achieving progress in the 3 strands of action called for by the FAC. It was concluded that "The ISG would need to reflect the above mentioned

developments (i.e. the broader mandate and heightened expectations) and hence review its operational goals and functioning.” EUMS and SITCEN indicated that climate change-induced security threats are issues that draw increased attention from the intelligence community and are subject of ongoing analytical work (together with other environmental threats such as pollution of increasingly scarce water resources). Several Member States expressed their preference for widening the scope of work of the ISG from the previous main focus on the nexus between climate change and international security to a broader coverage encompassing all 3 strands of action prioritised by the FAC.

(See: ‘EU Process on Climate Change and Security’ in Recent Trends in EU External Action in the Fields of Climate, Environment, Development and Security, IES, Brussels, Dec 2011, pp 31-33: <http://www.envirosecurity.org/actionguide/view.php?r=531&m=publications>)

17th

“The Health and Security Perspectives of Climate Change - How to secure our future wellbeing”, London

Climate change is the greatest current threat to public health. This is the view shared by Dr Margaret Chan, director general of WHO, and a growing number of the world’s health professionals. Less well known is the view of leading military experts – those working to prevent and manage conflicts around the world: that climate change is also the greatest future threat to security. Delegates at the conference heard from leading experts in health, security, economics, and business. Key note speakers, panellists, and discussants will explore the extent and nature of the threat that climate change poses to health and security.

(See: <http://www.envirosecurity.org/news/single.php?id=342>)

21st

ENVSEC Partners meeting on Environment and Security, Brussels

This meeting brought together 54 representatives of EU institutions, EU member states, and United Nations agencies as well as other international organisations to discuss the challenges and opportunities for addressing environmental and security risks in the four regions where the ENVSEC Initiative operates, (Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia). The meeting, co-chaired by the Government of Finland and OSCE, explored synergies between the policies and programmes of various actors in the field and highlighted the need for cooperation and partnerships for tackling complex issues such as competition over scarce natural resources and long-term impacts of climate change. The participants also highlighted the demand driven character of the work, the co-ownership of the countries concerned, and the strong complementarities between ENVSEC Partners (OSCE, REC, UNDP, UNEP, UNECE and NATO as associated partner).

(See: <http://www.envirosecurity.org/news/single.php?id=346>)

**November-
December**

Durban Climate Change Conference - November/December 2011

See: http://unfccc.int/meetings/durban_nov_2011/meeting/6245.php)

2012

January

- 17th **'Climate change and water security in the Middle East', Brussels**
Climate change, hydro-conflicts and human security (CLICO) / EU DG Research
This was a forum for stakeholders and researchers, EU policymakers and NGOs to discuss climate change and water security in the Middle East and appropriate policy responses. Hydro-climatic hazards such as droughts and floods have the potential to trigger or exacerbate social tensions, intra- and inter-state conflict.
(See: <http://www.clico.org/>)
- 18th – 20th **"Environment & Security", Washington DC**
National Council for Science & the Environment
The Environment and Security Conference provided a forum to explore the connections between environment and security issues, their common underlying scientific threads, and the policy and governance needed to address security risks posed by a rapidly changing environment. The conference brought together over 1,000 attendees from the scientific, business, academic and environmental communities, as well as international, federal, and regional government officials.
(See: <http://www.environmentandsecurity.org/>)
- 18th **"Geoengineering our Climate: Science, Ethics & Governance", Ottawa**
The Centre for International Governance Innovation
Concepts for intentionally modifying our global climate – known as geoengineering – are rapidly emerging into the scientific policy and public discussions surrounding climate change. This public event, featuring a keynote address from Professor Steve Rayner (Oxford University) and a responding panel of leading international academics and practitioners, introduced the scientific and technical ideas underlying geoengineering concepts, while exploring their broader ethical, social and geopolitical implications.
(See: <http://www.cigionline.org/events/signature-lecture-geoengineering-our-climate-science-ethics-and-governance>)

February

- 13th – 15th **"The Asian Security Conference 2012: Non Traditional Security Challenges Today & Tomorrow", New Delhi**
Institute for Defence Studies & Analysis, New Delhi
non-traditional security issues are increasingly being perceived as critical to national and global security as are war and armed conflict; WMD proliferation and arms race and are being accorded increasing prominence on the policy and research agendas of governments, NGOs, academicians as well as business and international organisations. They are often transnational in scope, defy unilateral remedies and require comprehensive political, economic and social responses.
<http://www.idsa.in/asc/index.html>

March

- 21st **"Building Climate Change Institutions: The Case of Environment & Security", Brussels**
Centre for European Studies and Institute for Environmental Security
Humanity has no choice but to shape the institutions to manage the consequences of climate change on international security. The CES-IES hearing will engage military officers, think tanks and parliamentarians in a creative exercise to gather policy ideas and design today the institutions that will tomorrow manage climate security.
<http://www.envirosecurity.org/ccis/climateinstitutions/2012.php>
- 22nd-23rd **'A climate and resource security dialogue for the 21st Century', London**
UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office / Wilton Park
A Climate & Resource Security Dialogue for the 21st Century will focus on the emerging threat climate change poses to global security and prosperity, along with the national and international policies needed to address this challenge. The conference will be the next contribution in the growing international debate following on from the United Nations Security Council debate in July 2011 and the Berlin conference on Climate Diplomacy in Perspective held in October 2011. Climate change has the potential to exacerbate existing tensions and fragilities in states

vulnerable to climate and resource stresses such as extreme weather events, droughts and flooding, food and water shortages, and/or large scale migration.

<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/en/conferences/policy-programmes/climate-change-and-energy/?view=Conference&id=742796182>

April

23rd – 24th

“Environmental Security Conference: Academic & Military Perspectives”, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

University of Kansas Office of Professional Military Graduate Education

Army Research Office and the US Army Command and the General Staff College

This two-day conference presents leading academic and military perspectives on global environmental conditions and how they contribute to the world’s economic, social, and security-related instabilities. A collaborative forum will address themes such as climate change, water provision, food and health concerns and will discuss how these instabilities impact military operations and cascade across borders with regional and strategic implications. Participants will have an opportunity to study critical areas and develop innovative, practical steps for military and civilian organizations to provide security and stability in many parts of the world.

http://www.continuinged.ku.edu/programs/environmental_security/index.php

24th

Evolving Dynamics Of Security In Africa: Assessing Diplomacy, Development, And Defense Responses, Austin, Texas

The Strauss Center, the U.S. Africa Command, the U.S. Army War College Fellowship Program, and the UT College of Liberal Arts will host a full-day conference on April 24, 2012, examining the evolving dynamics of security in Africa. The conference brings together policymakers, practitioners, military personnel, and scholars to share the latest research and policy options on issues impacting African and global security.

<http://ccaps.strausscenter.org/articles/evolving-dynamics-of-security-in-africa-assessing-diplomacy-development-and-defense-responses>

May

22nd

Proposed date for CES/IES publication on Climate Change & Security

June

4th-6th

Rio+20, Rio de Janeiro

For more Climate Change and Security Conferences 2012 see:

The Center for Climate & Security

<http://climateandsecurity.org/2012/03/16/update-climate-change-and-security-conferences-2012/>