# Climate change may undermine peace and security

Climate change exacerbates existing pressures on security as well as bringing new challenges, and the potential for violent conflict could increase. The operational responsibilities of the defence sector could also expand in the event of large-scale climate-driven disasters.

# Reducing the Carbon 'Bootprint'

In many nations, defence forces are the largest single consumer of fossil fuel. Reducing fuel consumption would in turn reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.



New aircraft typically offer 20-30% 40–70% more fuel efficient by improvement in efficiency. Shifting 2035 than now.



Key Findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) For more information please visit www.cisl.cam.ca.uk/ipcc

emissions can be reduced through more efficient planning of operations including routes, altitudes and speeds





### Increase in Drought and Inland Flooding

Food and freshwater insecurity, pandemic/epidemic disease outbreaks. loss of food production and grable lands, population displacement, livelihood insecurity.

## **Rising and Extreme Temperatures**

Lower agricultural output, spread of disease, food insecurity, less renewable water resources, more heat-related illness, change in large-scale fish catch potential.

Sea-Level Rise and Storm Surges

Increased vulnerability in the Low Elevation Coastal Zones, damage to infrastructure, changing territorial limits and integrity, population displacement, disease

spread, loss of arable land,

change in coastal

resources

## **Geopolitical Concerns**

Uneven distribution of impacts among countries depending on geographic setting and other factors affecting national and human security. Climate-related security threats greatest in countries with weak or failing governments and/or with existing conflict

# **Declining Snow and Ice Cover** Access to offshore resources in

newly ice-free areas, freshwater insecurity, changes in geography and new openings for traffic.

## **Extreme Weather**

Destruction of critical infrastructure, population displacement, pandemic/epidemic disease outbreaks, humanitarian disaster

# **Responding to Climate Change Impacts**

# use as medical centres and upport areas for

and supplies while providing security, clearing debris, water treatment and

Providing large-scale emergency medical treatment, mobile hospitals, sanitation easures, preventativ

Military Operations Peacekeeping in fragile areas, refugee control, policina, conflict resolution gineering activity, borde

# Refugee Support

Safely moving populations

Rapidly constructing and maintaining facilities to provide critical services for a displaced population for extended periods

Rebuilding and adapting infrastructure. maintainina sanitation facilities, providing shelter, protecting vulnerable populations gainst emerging threats,

## Resilience **Strategies**



### Flexible Response

Even with adaptation measures, changes in climate can have unexpected, adverse effects on military operations. Flexibility in planning and response will be essential in meeting long-term defence and security responsibilities



Action with an emphasis on disaster risk reduction can increase climate resilience while helping improve human



## **Anticipating Climate Risk**

Anticipating climate risks can help planners reduce impacts. Numerous facilities may need to be relocated and/or strengthened, notably to secure naval bases against flooding and sea-level rise.



Nations will need to update strategic security planning to take into account risks and impacts of climate change



## Scenarios for Lack of Resources

Reduction of fresh clean water resources could require increased peacekeeping in areas prone to conflict over extreme scarcity, as well as logistical adaptation for troop supplies.