

COP26 Event Summary

Climate, Peace and Stability: Weathering Risk Through COP & Beyond

German Pavilion Side Event COP26 | 2 November 2021, 15.30-17.00 GMT



“With COP26, we find ourselves at a decisive point in history. It is absolutely crucial that we come together in multilateral formats as this one to push the climate agenda forward”

Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman, MSC

COP26 brought about a landmark moment for climate security action: On 2 November 2021, 14 high-level participants from around the world joined online and in the German Pavilion in Glasgow to discuss the implications of climate change on peace and stability. This ministerial roundtable was hosted by [adelphi](#), the German Federal Foreign Office and the Munich Security Conference (MSC), together with Luxembourg, Nauru and the

United Arab Emirates. The event was a first for COP, and the latest step in an ambitious multilateral process towards an Agenda for Action on Climate, Peace and Stability, following on from the [Berlin Climate Security Conference 2021](#) and bridging to the [Munich Security Conference 2022](#).

“We must not only see climate security as a risk, but also as an opportunity. Climate security doesn’t stop at borders. Shared natural resources equal common challenges but also opportunities that can be seized.”

Helga Maria Schmid, Secretary General, OSCE

“We have to invest in technology, awareness, adaptation mechanisms to ensure that the people who bear the biggest brunt of climate change are protected and able to adapt”

Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya

There was clear consensus that climate and security should be an integral part of both climate action and foreign and security policy. Whilst preventing climate change was flagged as an increasingly important aspect of preventing conflict, speakers also highlighted the

imperative of better linking adaptation and peacebuilding, emphasising the importance of cross-border, cross-sector and multilateral projects.



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Fit-for-purpose climate finance for populations in conflict or fragile settings was named as one important area for improvement, including the need for early warning to address the peace and security impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable populations. Furthermore, participants mentioned the need to accelerate agricultural innovation, forecast-based financing & gender sensitivity of conflict and climate policy.

Statements indicated clear commitments and growing momentum to advance a **common agenda** to address climate-related security risks. Closing the event, co-host Germany announced a substantive multilateral initiative to bring together a dynamic community of practice and drive forward joint action on climate, peace and stability.

This COP event was thus the starting point of the new coalition for action on climate, peace and stability and points towards mounting support for a possible landmark UN Security Council resolution on climate and security before the end of the year.

“We are going to start an initiative, which will come out of the Group of Friends, to bring together development experts, defense and foreign policy experts.”

Miguel Berger, State Secretary, German Federal Foreign Office

Re-watch the live recording of the event [here](#).



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“Climate change is making our world more dangerous. It increases competition over scarce resources, such as water and land, and it forces millions of people to flee. Therefore, it matters for security and for NATO.”

Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General, NATO

Moderator

- Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman, Munich Security Conference

Briefer

- Martha Pobee, Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, DPPA, UN

Speakers

- Miriam Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE
- Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Malta
- François Bausch, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Luxembourg
- Miguel Berger, State Secretary, German Federal Foreign Office
- Ali Bétý, High Commissioner Initiative, Les Nigériens Nourissent les Nigériens, Niger
- Gillian Caldwell, Climate Change Coordinator and Deputy Assistant Administrator, USA
- Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Robert Mardini, Director General, ICRC
- Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya
- Helga Maria Schmid, Secretary General, OSCE
- Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General, NATO
- Ben Wallace, Secretary of State for Defence, UK

Video Statements

- [Joseph Borell, EU High Representative, EU](#)
- [Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman, Munich Security Conference](#)
- [Nobuo Kishi, Minister of Defense, Japan](#)
- [Heiko Maas, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Germany](#)
- [Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General, NATO](#)
- [Janani Vivekananda, Head of Programme for Climate Diplomacy & Security, adelphi](#)

Press Coverage

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/11/02/nato-global-warming-cop26-glasgow/>

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/cop-26/2021/11/03/uae-urges-focus-on-security-impact-of-climate-change-at-cop26/>

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“Prevention means that we have to think about and include impacts of climate change because this will impact our security situation.”

François Bausch, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Luxembourg

“We need to ensure that climate security work is gender-sensitive, given the disproportionate impact on women and girls.”

Miriam Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE

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