

Event Summary

Climate Security in 3D: Sustaining Peace for the Most Vulnerable

8 February 2022, 11.00-12.30 CET/ 10.00 – 11.30 GMT

This Climate Security in 3D dialogue: Sustaining Peace for the Most Vulnerable was co-hosted by the German, French and Irish Embassies to the UK and [adelphi](#). Following on from the [high-level discussion at COP26](#), it explored practical opportunities for addressing climate-related security risks to promote climate justice. 250 participants from around the world joined the session, which was moderated by [Leslie Hook](#), Environment and Clean Energy Correspondent of the Financial Times. The speakers were [Mary Robinson](#), Former President of Ireland; [Anna Lührmann](#), Minister of State for Europe and Climate, German Federal Foreign Office; [Laurence Tubiana](#), CEO of the European Climate Foundation; and [Lieutenant General Richard Nugee](#), Non-Executive Director for the Defence Safety and Environmental Committee, UK Ministry of Defence.

The virtual discussion highlighted how climate security risks affect the most vulnerable. Using examples from the forthcoming [Weathering Risk](#) case study on Mali, expert briefer [Chitra Nagarajan](#) kicked off the event by contextualising the links between climate security and climate justice with evidence from her local-level field analysis. Drawing on these examples, the panellists explored how climate security risks increase the vulnerability of those already facing the double burden of climate change and conflict, and what concrete opportunities exist to promote **just, equitable and sustainable peace** for those most vulnerable. They also assessed the scope for improved understanding of and action on climate security through climate justice. In addition, the audience, which included professionals from the climate security community such as practitioners from the FAO, UNDP and the WFP, participated in the discussion via the live chat and during the open question round, showcasing the engaging and interactive nature of Climate Security in 3D events.

[Re-watch the discussion online:](#)



Key Takeaways

Climate security and climate justice

- Climate security and climate justice are inexorably linked. We need to think about climate justice and climate security together.
- The five layers of climate change injustice include racial injustice, gender injustice, intergenerational injustice, economic injustice and injustice to nature.
- People that contributed the least to climate change are the most vulnerable and affected with limited capabilities to respond, adapt and mitigate. They are also highly vulnerable to conflict risks, compounding the climate injustices they already face.
- Climate security and climate justice are important aspects of the loss and damage debate. Conflicts linked to climate create further loss, whilst efforts to reduce climate-related conflict risks could prevent some level of additional loss and damages.

- The emergence of conflict and violence is often rooted in the existence of injustices. Conflict and climate change compound stressors and vulnerabilities linked to inequality. This underpins the need to drive more climate finance towards addressing inequity in fragile states.
- Whilst there are no hard security solutions to these soft security risks, the role of military actors should be carefully examined, focussing on “soft power options” and support when invited.

“What can militaries do? Where invited, we can support countries to reduce the amount of both injustice from their own indigenous militaries but also injustice within the community through improved governance and resilience.”

Lieutenant General Richard Nugee

Opportunities for multilateral action

- The changing conversation on climate justice can provide the impetus to align the different agendas, such as climate security and women, peace, and security, in light of the principles of climate justice. At the same time, they need to be more interconnected to create synergies and complement each other.

“We need the empowerment of local actors to have any solution on climate (...). We should not forget the human security concept (...). At COP, we could talk about the links between the loss and damage discussion and human security.”

Laurence Tubiana

- To date, despite its importance and relevance to sustainable and peace-promoting climate negotiations, climate security has not been a formal part of the COP agenda, due to fear and misperceptions as to what it entails. Looking at climate change with a human security lens legitimises the discussion of climate security at COP and can create a space for progress.

“It’s important to include a very strong gender perspective because we are talking local. And at the local level: it’s women who are going to help to build resilience in their communities.”

Mary Robinson

- Climate justice and human security need to be mainstreamed throughout foreign, security and national policy as well as all institutions.
- Despite attempts to block multilateral action on climate security in international fora such as the UNSC, there is a strong multilateral consensus recognising climate-fragility risks and the willingness to act on them.

“We need to create common ground to address this global challenge by strengthening multilateral bodies (...) this is really not the time, when we face such an enormous global crisis, where we should move apart. On the contrary, we should move together to address it together.”

Anna Lührmann

- Political attention needs to be kept on the highest possible level to ensure continuous development of the discussion and steady multilateral progress.

Opportunities for future action

- Multilateralism around climate security and climate justice needs to be connected to the local level and focused on the most vulnerable.
- To enhance the capacity for action as well as improve operational responses, climate security risk assessments need to be **context-specific, inclusive and locally informed/owned**.
- The mandate of future climate security advisors could include climate justice.

“It’s important climate justice becomes a whole government approach (...). I would like to really encourage a rethinking from the position of the most vulnerable, the need for those who know the situation on the ground to be heard and to be at the table, the need to be inclusive.”

Mary Robinson

“Why don’t we team up (donor governments, organizations, national governments, civil society) to achieve climate justice for more effected communities to propose solutions? (...) Combine forces to offer support to empower people directly.”

Laurence Tubiana

- Climate finance often doesn’t reach people living in fragile settings. Funding is mainly focused on climate change mitigation and decarbonisation, with insufficient funding for adaptation and loss and damage measures. This needs to change. In contexts of fragility and conflict, climate finance has to be an investment in peace and security.
- A common agenda and framework for action could unite like-minded states and the community of practice, supporting the shift from analysis to action.

Re-watch the discussion online.

Weathering Risk and Climate Security in 3D

This [Weathering Risk](#) event was part of a process of developing and expanding an **engaged, informed and international community of practice** on climate security that is better equipped to make evidence-based, risk-informed policy decisions, draw on existing best practice and to maximise cross-sectoral synergies.

The event series “[Climate Security in 3D: Diplomacy, Development and Defence](#)” (CS in 3D), which commenced in February 2021 under the Weathering Risk initiative, discusses the cross-sectoral impacts of climate change on peace and security and outlines areas for cross-sectoral and multilateral collaboration.

