

Climate Change and Security

Governmental and institutional responses to the challenges of climate change and security

Alexander Carius, Adelphi Research (Berlin)

**Climate Change, Social Stress and Violent Conflict
International Conference, KlimaCampus
Hamburg University, November 19 & 20, 2009**

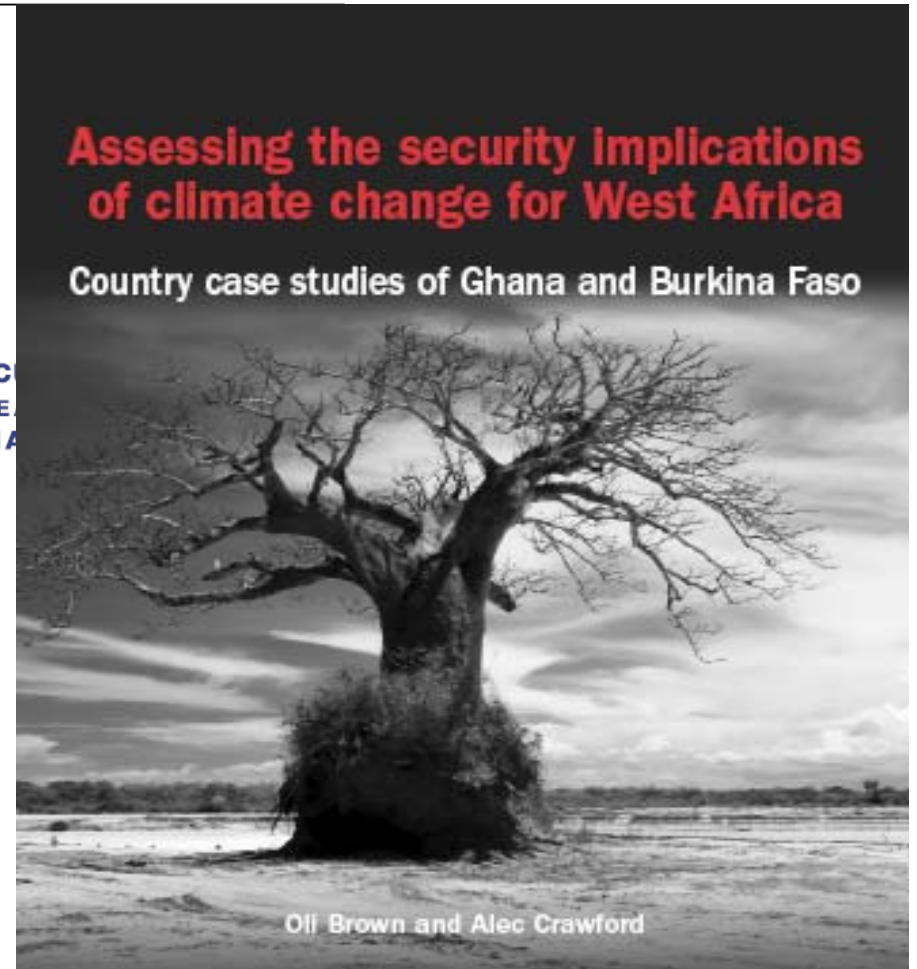
Dynamic debate at UN and EU level



UN DESA, UN PBSO



The Security Implications of Climate Change: Many Impact Assessments, Similar Conclusions



Climate Change: Entering the Security Agenda

„[...] the danger posed by war to all of humanity – and to our planet – is at least matched by the climate crisis and global warming.“

UN-Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, 2007



„If we think of the extreme consequences of global warming – water shortage, desertification, a rise in sea levels – then it becomes clear that climate protection is also a matter of national and international security.“

Former German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, 2007



„In short, a failing climate means more failed states.“

Former UK Foreign Minister Margaret Beckett, 2006

Nobel Peace Prize for Climate Change Initiatives

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
in 2007**



Research



**Wangari Maathai
in 2004**



Advocacy



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
18 May 2009

Original: English

Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS)

Resolution adopted by GA June 3, 2009

Sixty-third session

Agenda item 107

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

1. *Invites* the relevant organs of the United Nations, as appropriate and within their respective mandates, to intensify their efforts in considering and addressing climate change, including its possible security implications;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the possible security implications of climate change, based on the views of the Member States and relevant regional and international organizations.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 September 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session

Item 114 of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Climate change and its possible security implications

Report of the Secretary-General**

The report reviews governmental views and relevant research on the security implications of climate change.

Five channels are identified through which climate change could affect security:

Vulnerability, development, coping and security, statelessness, International conflict.



UN PBSO

Priority # 6: Disaster and Conflicts

Mainstreaming and collaboration process

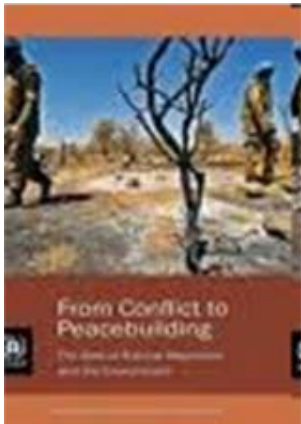
Delegating staff to UN PBSO

Assessing natural resources and peacebuilding opportunities in Sierra Leone and Central African Republic

Developing and Piloting a Conflict Analytical Framework (CAF) in DR Congo, Central African Republic, Rwanda

Peacekeeping and Natural Resource Management

UNEP-UNDP Joint Initiative on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration





UN-EU partnership on natural resources and conflict

**Developing and piloting Guidance Notes on
Land, Water, Natural Resources**

Training for EU Delegations and UN field missions

The EU Process on Climate Change and International Security



The EU, Climate Change and Security: Origins

EU started recognises security implications of climate change



Awareness raising – three major reports in 2006/2007:

- The **Stern Review** on the economics of climate change, 2006.
- **IPCC** 4th Assessment Report, 2007.
- German Advisory Council Report: **World in Transition**, 2007.

Under **UK Presidency**, the **UN Security Council** for the first time ever discussed climate change as international security threat in **April 2007**.

Under **German EU Presidency**, several conferences were held and security threats of climate change entered **EU Council Conclusions June 2007**.

Joint Paper: Climate Change & International Security

High-Representative Solana and the European Commission were tasked to produce a joint paper, published in March 2008



High-Representative Javier Solana



Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner

Joint Paper: Climate Change & International Security

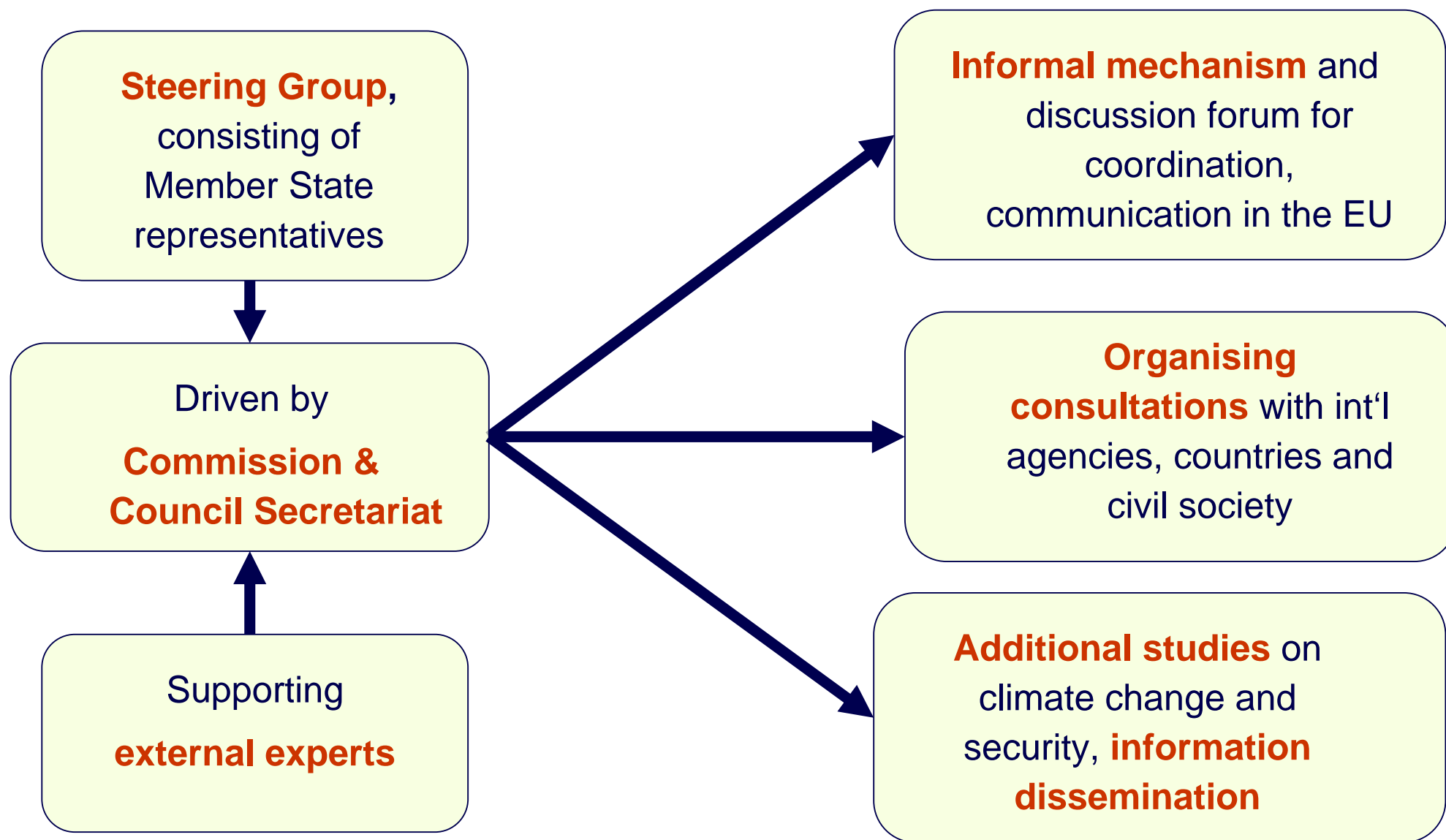
Recommendations

- ▶ Enhancing **capacities at the EU level** for analysis and early warning
- ▶ **Multilateral leadership** in promoting common understanding about security risks of climate change
- ▶ **Dialogue**, information exchange and cooperation with **third countries**.



High-Representative Javier Solana

EU Roadmap Process – Structure & Activities



EU Roadmap Process – Achievements & Challenges

Achievements 2008/2009:

- 1) **Continuous reporting** and feedback with relevant committees and to the EU Council established.
- 2) Consultations held with ASEAN, EU Civil Society, UN, OSCE
- 3) Seven **regions** on all continents assessed more in detail, a synopsis produced.
- 4) Additional report on 4 regions and policy recommendations

Challenges 2010 and beyond:

- 1) Institutionalising, formalising and resourcing the process
- 2) **Agreeing on priority regions and sectors for EU and MS**
- 3) Finding an adequate division of labour between EU and MS
- 4) **Transforming results of studies, consultations into concrete actions**
- 5) **Capacity development at EU and MS level.**

Donors and governments reflecting Climate Change & Security



Climate Change and Security

Challenges for German Development Cooperation

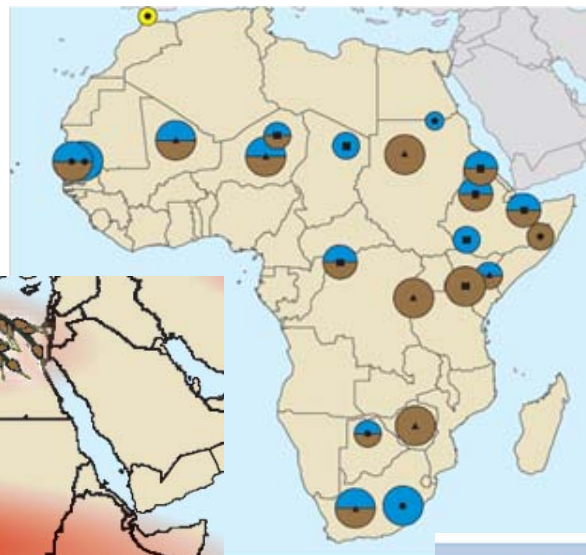
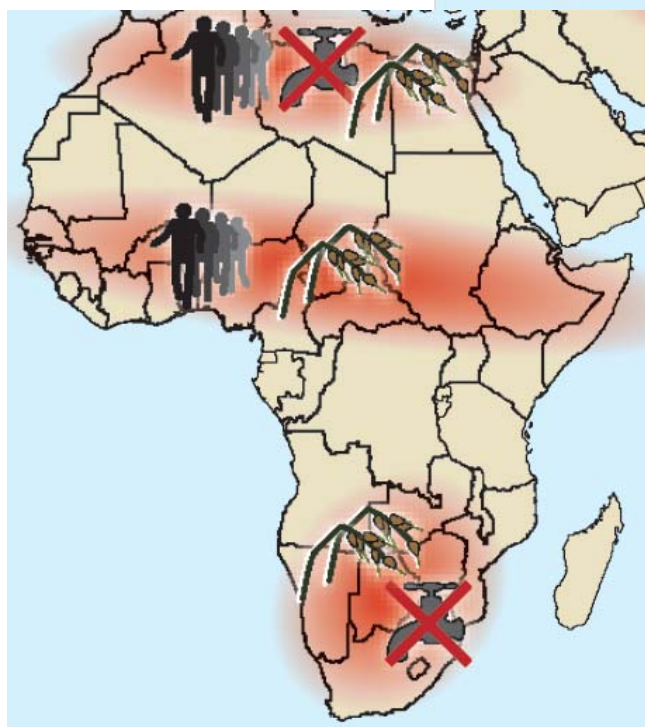
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On behalf of:
Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Reflecting Climate Change & Security

Potential climate induced conflict constellations



Environmental Conflicts
1980-2005

Fragility, Vulnerability, Prevention
Needs – selected countries

Countries	Fragility	Environmental vulnerability	Prevention needs
Sudan	Alert	• • •	Acute
Somalia	Alert	• • •	Acute
Chad	Alert	• •	Acute
Côte d'Ivoire	Alert	• •	Acute
DRC	Alert	• • •	Acute
CAR	Alert	•	Acute
Nigeria	Alert	• • • •	Acute
Ethiopia	Alert	• •	Acute
Zimbabwe	Alert	•	Increased
Guinea	Alert	• •	Increased

Sources: Carius et al. 2008, WBGU 2007



**From Threat Multiplier to
Peace Multiplier**



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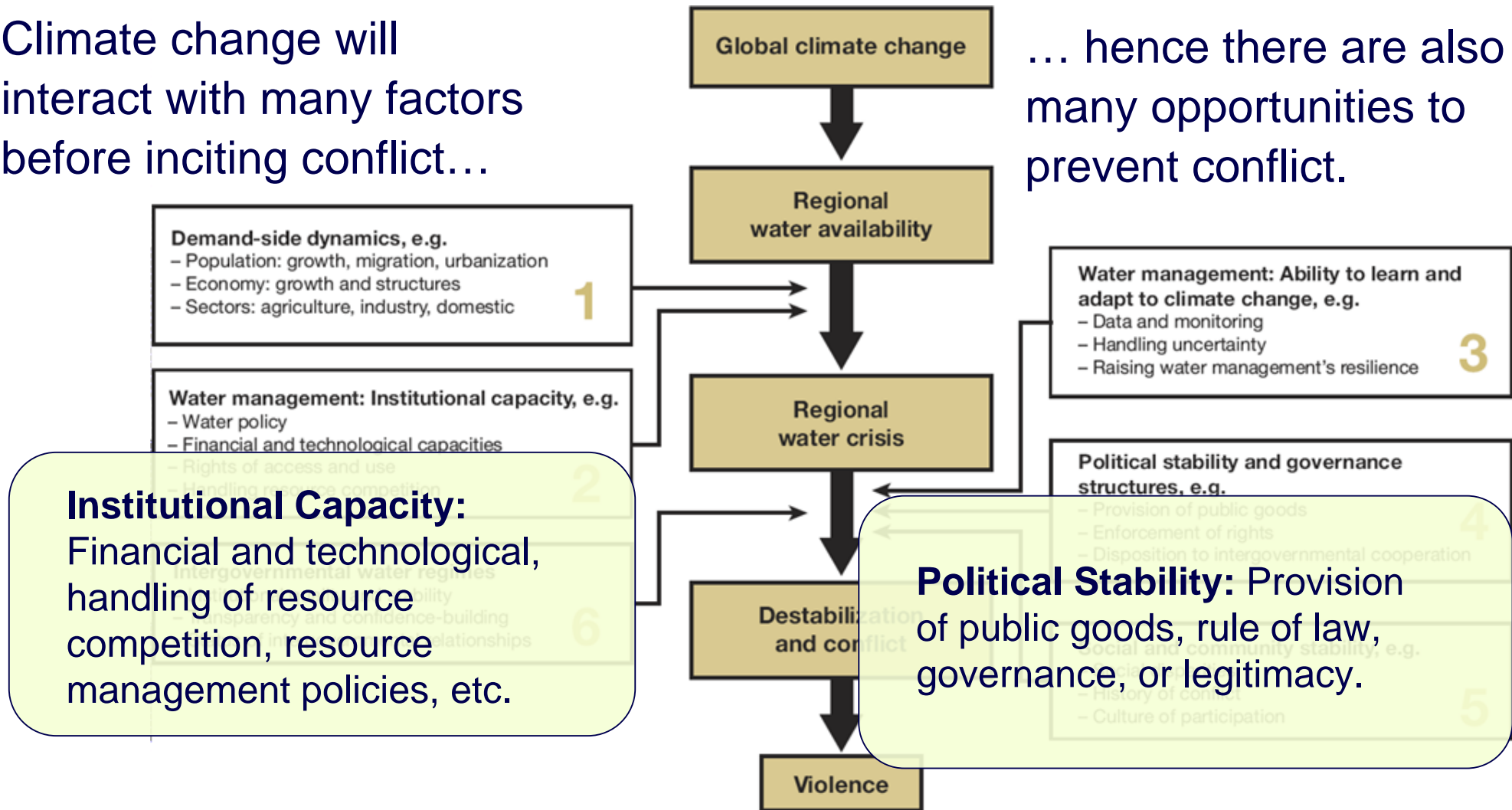
Report of the Secretary-General**

Climate change is a

“threat multiplier” & “threat minimizers”

Climate change will interact with many factors before inciting conflict...

... hence there are also many opportunities to prevent conflict.



Boxes 1 – 6: Dimensions of influence with key factors

Source: WBGU 2007

➔ Central causal chain

➔ Influence of key factors on the central causal chain

Climate change as Peace Catalyst – Threat & Opportunity

Energy Security: Energy efficiency and use of renewables **decrease competition for fossil fuels** – improving energy security and mitigating tension.

Confidence building: Addressing climate change will **foster dialogue and cooperation** – globally, regionally, and internally.

Joint Water Cooperation: Regional impacts of climate change on **water resources** can in many cases only **jointly be resolved** – e.g. Central Asia

Additional benefits: **Reduced proliferation risks**, diversification of energy resources, **decentralisation** decreasing vulnerability



Challenges for Conflict-Sensitive Adaptation

Challenge I: Priorities

- 1) How to **provide** National Adaptation Programmes of Actions (**NAPAs**) for **fragile states**?
- 2) How to **harmonize** the different priorities within **development**, **peacebuilding** and **adaptation** activities?

Challenge II: Integration

- 1) How to move beyond particular, **disconnected** and **sector-specific** adaptation measures to **systemic approaches of adaptation**?
- 2) How to capture the **transnational nature of climate change** in adaptation measures, e.g. taking a **regional perspective** in case of **water**?

Some concluding remarks ...

- There is **no certainty** but we have to be **prepared to address** the increasing number and scale of **security risks** emanating from - dangerous - climate change.
- At both **EU and UN level policy processes** have been kicked-off.
- National governments launching several initiatives, majority seems to be in the defence sector



Thank you for your attention!

You can find further information at

