Climate Change and Security

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

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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

Wangari Maathai in 2004

Advocacy

Research
United Nations

General Assembly

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.
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.
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 economies of climate change, 2006.

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.
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**.
EU Roadmap Process – Structure & Activities

Steering Group, consisting of Member State representatives

Driven by Commission & Council Secretariat

Supporting external experts

Informal mechanism and discussion forum for coordination, communication in the EU

Organising consultations with int’l agencies, countries and civil society

Additional studies on climate change and security, information dissemination
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
Reflecting Climate Change & Security

Potential climate induced conflict constellations

Environmental Conflicts 1980-2005

Fragility, Vulnerability, Prevention Needs – selected countries

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Sources: Carius et al. 2008, WBGU 2007
From Threat Multiplier to Peace Multiplier
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.

**Institutional Capacity:** Financial and technological, handling of resource competition, resource management policies, etc.

**Political Stability:** Provision of public goods, rule of law, governance, or legitimacy.

Source: WBGU 2007
Climate change as Peace Catalyst – Threat & Opportunity


**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