



Workshop The EU Joint Communication on the Climate-Security Nexus One Year On

Thursday 23 May, 09:00-12:45

Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU
Rue Belliard 65, B-1040 Brussels

[Click here to register](#)

Background

Addressing the nexus between climate change and security is a fundamental policy priority for the future of the EU's external action. Climate change and environmental degradation, including extreme weather, rising temperatures, pollution, loss of livelihoods, and food production insecurity have complex reinforcing effects on the causes of instability and conflict. The nexus between these factors is also changing the way Europe's security and defence forces operate, prompting them to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and dependency on fossil fuels while also maintaining their operational effectiveness.

To better respond to the interconnected effects of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security, and defence, in June 2023, the High Representative and the European Commission adopted a Joint Communication on "[A new outlook on the climate and security nexus – Addressing the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security and defence](#)". The March 2024 [Council Conclusions on Green Diplomacy](#) called for the swift implementation of the Joint Communication and underlined the importance of mainstreaming the climate, peace and security nexus in the EU and EU Member States' external action.

The Joint Communication focuses on four pillars: 1) evidence-based analysis and foresight to support planning, decision-making, and implementation; 2) operationalisation of the climate-security nexus in all aspects of EU external action; 3) ensuring a sustainable and climate-resilient European security and defence; 4) and building strong partnerships. Operational impact is ensured through 30 concrete actions, including the establishment of a Climate and Environment Security Data and Analysis Hub at the EU Satellite Centre to a comprehensive Climate Package for CSDP Mission and Operations.

With the beginning of a new institutional cycle around the corner, it is fundamental that the EU continues to harness the potential of the Joint Communication to improve knowledge, capacity, and information exchange to address the challenges to peace and security posed by climate change and environmental degradation.

Objectives

In line with the objective of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union to facilitate a deeper discussion on the future of the EU foreign, development, trade, security and defence policies, the Egmont Institute, the European External Action Service (EEAS), and the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU will take stock and discuss the further implementation of the Joint Communication on "A new outlook on the climate and security nexus".



This half-day workshop will have the following objectives:

- 1) unpacking the Joint Communication and take stock of the implementation of its core pillars;
- 2) showcasing concrete examples of how its operationalisation can advance the climate-security nexus mainstreaming in the EU's external action;
- 3) providing a platform for exchange among practitioners and policy makers involved in the implementation process.

The event will consist of panel discussions and policy labs featuring inputs from policy makers, public officials, civil society, academics, and the corporate sector. The discussion will bring forward the importance of the joint work of these actors to deliver on the priorities identified in the Joint Communication.

The workshop will be held under the Chatham House rule.

This workshop is linked to a closed-door expert exchange on 27 May facilitated by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Multinational Development Policy Dialogue office and the International Crisis Group, with the support of the EU Delegation to Afghanistan. The expert exchange will focus on the specific operational challenges faced in promoting climate resilience within fragile and post-conflict territories, specifically in Afghanistan, Libya, and Somalia.



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PROGRAMME

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 Welcome and opening remarks – The Joint Communication One Year On

- Ambassador Stéphane Mund, Permanent Representative to the PSC, Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU
- Cosmin Dobran, Director, PCM, EEAS
- Diana Acconcia, Director, DG CLIMA, European Commission
- Astrid Schomaker, Director, DG ENV, European Commission
- Pol De Witte, Director General, Egmont Institute

Moderator: Sari Kouvo, Policy Officer, Climate, Environment and Security, Integrated Approach for Peace and Security Division, EEAS

09:30-10:15 Panel discussion – The Climate-Security Nexus, Partnerships and Geopolitics

The first panel discussion situates the Joint Communication and the climate-security nexus within the current global context and considers the role of multilateral and bilateral partnerships on climate security.

- Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Program
- Anthony Agotha, Special Envoy for Climate and Environment, EEAS

Moderator: Elissa Jobson, Chief of Advocacy, International Crisis Group

10:15-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:00 Policy Labs

The two parallel policy labs will focus on key issues in the implementation of the Joint Communication. Each policy lab will have a facilitator, a reporter and 'icebreakers'. The facilitator will introduce the lab and some guiding questions. The icebreakers will provide opening inputs after which participants will be asked to contribute to the discussion.



Policy Lab 1 – Climate-security nexus: using and communicating evidence

The first pillar of the Joint Communication focuses on evidence-based analysis and foresight as an enabler for action. While the EU can already count on several important tools for data and analysis for climate security, the Joint Communication has introduced additional important instruments. These include the EU Satellite Centre and the Climate and Environment Security Data and Analysis Hub as well as an annual Climate Security Risk Analysis to inform policy making.

Guiding questions

- *What data and analysis on climate security is available to policy makers? How can this evidence be best used and communicated?*
- *Given the amount of data and analysis available, what should an annual EU climate security trend analysis focus on? What can be done to ensure its use for policy making and in communication?*
- *What are our current strengths, where are the gaps – what are the next steps?*

Icebreakers

- Roisin Drury Tully, Programme Manager, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), European Commission
- Eleonora Kist, Policy Analyst, Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- Benjamin Pohl, Head of Programme Climate Diplomacy and Security, Adelphi

Moderator: Eleonora Milazzo, Associate Fellow, Egmont Institute

Reporter: Roisin Drury Tully, Programme Manager, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), European Commission

Policy Lab 2 – Operationalising the Climate-Security Nexus

The second pillar of the Joint Communication focuses on operationalising the climate security nexus in EU external action. The EU integrated approach or a whole-of-government approach should optimise synergies between EU initiatives ranging from climate action and adaptation to conflict prevention, crisis management and humanitarian action. The aim is also to optimise the resources of the EU and its member states, including by promoting the Team Europe approach.

Guiding questions

- *How is the Joint Communication implemented across EU services, delegations and missions?*
- *How are EU Member States involved, and what lessons can be drawn from the excellent work of some of the existing networks (for example, Green Diplomacy, Group of Friends for an Ambitious EU Climate Diplomacy, and the European Defence Network)?*
- *What are our current strengths, where are the gaps – what are the next steps?*

Icebreakers

- Olivier Francois Schott, Policy Officer for Climate Diplomacy, DG CLIMA, European Commission
- Raphaela Engel, Policy Officer, Security and Defense Policy, EEAS
- Niclas Gottmann, Policy Officer for Land and Environment, DG INTPA, European Commission



Moderator: Sari Kouvo, Policy Officer, Climate, Environment and Security, Integrated Approach for Peace and Security Division, EEAS

Reporter: Raphaela Engel, Policy Officer, Security and Defence Policy, EEAS

12:00-12:30 Plenary discussion: feedback from the Policy Labs

12:30-12:45 Concluding Remarks

- Wim Schaerlaekens, Strategic Advisor, Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jean Louis de Brouwer, Director of the European Affairs Programme, Egmont Institute