



Bonn Dialogue Meeting

Climate Change, Peace and Security – COP29 and beyond

Bonn University Club
Bonn, 3 May 2024

Bonn Dialogue Meeting calls for the theme "Climate Change, Peace and Security" to be included in the agenda of COP29

A dialogue meeting on the topic: "Climate Change Peace and Security – COP29 and Beyond" was held at the Bonn University Club in Bonn, Germany, on Friday, 3 May 2024. Representatives of various state-parties to the Climate Convention and of the UN Climate Secretariat, joined participants from around 30 academic institutions, think tanks and civil society organisations to review the work done on this topic at COP28 in Dubai in December and chart a way forward for ensuring the continuation of the process at the COP29 meeting in Baku in November.

At the opening session, the meeting was addressed by HE Hana al Hashemi, the United Arab Emirates COP28 Chief negotiator, HE Nigar Arpadarai, the UN High-Level Champion for COP29 in Azerbaijan, and Mr Markus Hicken, Director for Energy Foreign Policy, Climate and Security at the German Federal Foreign Office. Also speaking at the opening session was Ms Maria Paloma Noriega Jalil, representing the UN Climate Secretariat. There followed an intensive one-day of discussions on the current state of the COP process, and the ongoing debate on the nexus of Climate Change, Peace and Security within the COP process. The meeting was addressed by world-class experts from leading think tanks and academic institutions, including Chatham House, the German Council on Foreign Relations, ADELPHI, the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, Heidelberg University, The Hertie School in Berlin, amongst others.

Dr Dennis Sammut, Director, LINKS Europe Foundation

"We welcome the efforts of the United Arab Emirates, the host of COP28 in Dubai in December 2023, in promoting the agenda of climate change, peace and security, first through their initiative in the UN Security Council in June 2023, and more concretely in promoting a focus on the theme during COP28, including through the marking for the first time in the COP process of a day of peace, and the adoption of the COP28 declaration on climate relief, recovery and peace. These are important achievements and we are here today because we want to ensure that these achievements in the COP28 process are consolidated and developed in COP29, in Baku this November, and in COP30, in Belem, in 2025. For this to happen, civil society and the think-tank community and academics need to mobilize their capacities and engage with the host countries, and other relevant stakeholders, as we are doing here today."





HE Hanna al Hashemi, UAE Chief Negotiator, COP28

“The COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace sent a clear message that the nexus of climate peace and security and humanitarian issues are a key consideration of every COP. And by combining international support with regional dialogues, important confidence-building measures can serve as inputs for resilience development and for peace. Furthermore, the Declaration recognises that climate action in the most challenging operational circumstances is possible. Now, the political support behind the declaration must also be combined with engaging UNFCCC architecture while avoiding the notion that we’re substituting already stretched resources. A UNFCCC-supported, needs-based finance project focused on conflict sensitivity with an initial grouping of pilot countries is one such outcome that we’re exploring.”

The meeting positively assessed the steps taken in COP28 in Dubai in December, including the inclusion of climate change, peace and security as a theme of the meeting, the holding for the first time of a day on peace in the deliberations, and the “COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace”. It was felt that it was important that this momentum will not be lost, and similar actions are also included as part of the COP29 meeting in Baku in November. Whilst it was recognised that the nexus between Climate Change Peace and Security was now widely recognised internationally, inserting this in the COP process remained an issue under discussion.

During the meeting three aspects of the Climate Change, Peace and Security agenda were highlighted, namely water scarcity; food insecurity; and landmine contamina-

tion and environmental degradation resulting from conflict. Participants called on the State Parties to the Climate Convention meeting in the context of COP29 to ensure proper discussion and action on these themes that affect millions of people and thousands of communities across the world.

In his concluding remarks at the end of the dialogue meeting, HE Ambassador Elshad Iskanderov, advisor to the COP29 presidency, said that Azerbaijan was positive to the idea of having Climate Change Peace and Security as a theme at COP29. Ambassador Iskanderov reminded that the decision to hold COP29 in Baku was taken unanimously, and was an unprecedented confidence-building measure in the context of the South Caucasus. Azerbaijan wanted to build on what had already been achieved in Dubai. He said that these decisions did not depend on Azerbaijan





HE Ms Nigar Arpadarai, United Nations High-Level Champion for COP29, Azerbaijan

"Climate change is a threat multiplier. It exacerbates the vulnerabilities of people and nature. It is also an existential threat to human security with potential to trigger conflicts globally. Governments and non-state actors need to work together to deliver long-term solutions. In the context of high climate vulnerability, the impact of climate disasters can amplify economic, social or political instability, including local conflicts over food and water resources, or through forcing populations to migrate internally and across borders. Consequences of the climate crisis, including droughts, floods and rise of sea levels continue to affect all areas of human security: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political – with a disproportionate impact on communities with existing vulnerabilities, including migrants, women and girls, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous communities."

alone since COP was a multilateral process where the 198 state parties had the final say. Ambassador Iskanderov underlined the readiness of the Azerbaijani COP29 presidency to continue the dialogue on this issue with academia, think tanks and civil society as the preparations for COP29 progress. He highlighted the fact that the discussion needs to focus not only on the potential that climate change will fuel more conflict and insecurity, but also on the impact of conflicts on climate change and environmental degradation.

Concluding the Bonn Dialogue Meeting, Dr Dennis Sammut, Director of LINKS Europe Foundation, who together with Candid Foundation and ReStart Initiative hosted the Bonn event, said that a lot of work needs to be done between now and November, and particularly the dialogue with the COP Troika countries, the UN Climate Secretariat and interested state parties needs to be continued and intensified. As a concrete step, LINKS Europe will set up an ad hoc working group with other interested non-state actors, to ensure that the conversation continues, and tangible results are achieved.





Maria Paloma Noriega Jalili, Associate Programme Officer, UNFCCC Secretariat

“Scientific consensus documented in the reports of the IPCC tells us that climate change increases the risks of violent conflict by strengthening climate-sensitive drivers and that climate change may produce severe risks to peace within this century through climate change vulnerability and extremes, especially in contexts marked by low economic development, high economic dependence on climate-sensitive activities, high or increasing social marginalisation and fragile governance. The largest impacts are expected in weather-sensitive communities with low resilience to climate extremes and with a high prevalence of underlying risk factors.”



Markus Hicken, Director for Energy, Foreign Policy, Climate and Security, German Federal Foreign Office

“The climate crisis is the defining security challenge of our times. And therefore, the new German security strategy encompasses sustainability and resilience as part of security. The answer to growing climate security risk is intensified cooperation: cooperation on adaptation, on stabilisation, on support and ambitious mitigation. We need cooperation on a regional, on a multilateral level as an answer to this challenge because no country can face the consequences of the climate crisis alone.”



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HE Elshad Iskanderov, Ambassador-at-large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Special Advisor to the COP29 Presidency

“Based on discussions within the COP process so far, brings one to the conclusion that the relationship between Climate Change, Peace and Security is multidimensional, and not simply about Climate Change triggering conflict. Wars and conflicts in their turn directly lead to environmental destruction. The areas in and around the conflict hotspots are often filled with wreckages from bombed infrastructure, damaged military equipment, with massive land mines and unexploded ordnance of war, contamination, and at times even radioactive waste. The most vulnerable communities are those in this case who are suffering from the double impact of climate and environmental degradation and the killing effect of ongoing conflicts or the remnants of these conflicts such as land mines.”



Organisers



**RESTART
INITIATIVE**

The Bonn Dialogue Meeting on "Climate Change, Peace and Security - COP29 and Beyond" was organised by LINKS Europe Foundation, Candid Foundation and ReStart Initiative.

You can download the Summary of Proceedings of the Bonn Dialogue Meeting by clicking [here](#).

For more information about the event, please contact: office@links-europe.eu

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