



RESTART
INITIATIVE



LINKS Europe Foundation – Restart Initiative – Candid Foundation

Summary of Proceedings

Bonn Dialogue Meeting

on “Climate Change, Peace and Security, COP29 and beyond”

Bonn University Club
Konviktstraße 9, 53113 Bonn

Part 1 – Opening session

The Bonn Dialogue Meeting on Climate Change, Peace and Security, COP29 and beyond, was held at the Bonn University Club in Bonn on Friday, 3 May 2024 at the initiative of LINKS Europe Foundation, the Candid Foundation, and Restart Initiative. Representatives of the COP28 UAE presidency, the COP29 Azerbaijani Presidency, the UN Climate Change Secretariat, and the German Government exchanged views with participants from around thirty think tanks, academic institutions and civil society organisations on how to take forward the debate about the nexus between Climate Change Peace and Security building on the achievements of COP28 in Dubai and leading toward COP29 in Baku in November.

Dennis Sammut, Director, LINKS Europe Foundation

Dennis Sammut welcomed participants on behalf of the three co-organisers. He said that for LINKS Europe as a peace-building organisation, recognising the nexus between Climate Change, Peace and Security is an existential issue. He welcomed the efforts of the United Arab Emirates, the host of COP28 in Dubai in December 2023, for their efforts 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 mobilise their capacities and engage with the host countries, and other relevant stakeholders, as we are doing here today”.

Dennis Sammut thanked the representatives of relevant State Parties who joined the Bonn Dialogue Meeting on Climate Change, Peace and Security. The meeting brings together a very dynamic and diverse group of NGOs, think tanks and academics, from world-famous institutions to small grass-root organisations. This diversity encapsulates our approach. We want to ensure that in the debate on climate change, peace and security, citizens and communities have a voice.

Dennis Sammut said that the meeting will also focus on three specific aspects within the theme of Climate Change, Peace and Security, namely water resources, food insecurity, and landmine contamination. He called for a solid discussion during the meeting to kick start a comprehensive dialogue on climate change peace and security ahead of, and during the COP29 meeting in Baku in November and for concrete ideas on how to take the work forward.

HE Hanna al Hashemi, UAE COP28 Chief negotiator

Hanna al Hashemi spoke about the importance of the event and said that it puts an important spotlight on what can be seen as an implementation gap in efforts to ensure that the most vulnerable countries and communities receive the climate adaptation support that they require. Many of these people are located in areas that are both the most vulnerable to climate change, as well as being the least able to cope with its impacts. This includes long-term humanitarian crises, situations of protracted conflict, and entire areas threatened by sea level rise. Environmental degradation, often an unfortunate legacy of conflict, also contributes to lowered resilience to climate shocks. At the same time, droughts, loss of natural resources, and extreme weather events exacerbate and can be an underlying driver of political, economic, and societal tensions, in turn negatively impacting the prospects for peace and stability. Today, many countries of the global south find themselves increasingly at risk, owing to their limited capacity to absorb climate shock.

Ms Hashemi spoke about the achievements of COP28, including the delivery of a cohesive response to the first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement and charting a new way forward. It also operationalised and capitalised the funding arrangements and the fund was responding to loss and damage. Important progress was made towards ensuring that the fund could be open for business by Baku, and she hoped participants in the Bonn Dialogue Meeting would join in calling for that important outcome.

Ms Hashemi said that building on its work as an elected member of the Security Council for the 2022 to 2023 term, the UAE wanted to combine climate security considerations with what fragile and conflict-affected states need the most, and that's access to climate finance for mitigation and adaptation. "This is why we held the first dedicated day at COP on relief, recovery, and peace, which emphasised the gaps for communities in these contexts and regions." COP28's Relief, Recovery, and Peace Day provided a platform to discuss best practices on adaptation strategies. strategies to enhance resilience to transboundary climate risks and their impacts on shared resources, using agreed processes for joint planning. Importantly, it put forward an initial set of actions from signatories to operationalize its objectives. These included new initiatives, adjustments to program cycles, and direct financial pledges, which we must now work to fulfil. Moreover, the signature output of Relief Recovery and Peace Day at COP28 in Dubai was its declaration, a joint product representing inputs from hundreds of stakeholders. Up to now, over 91 countries and 43 organizations have already endorsed it, including the next COP, president, Azerbaijan. "The declaration sent a clear message that the nexus of climate peace and security and humanitarian issues are a key consideration of every COP. 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.

Ms Hashemi said that applying a conflict or fragility lens to food and water systems, renewable energy, enhanced social protection mechanisms and anticipatory action is vital and should become a mainstream practice. She noted that the final paragraph of the declaration also committed its endorsers to continue to raise its objective across the diplomatic and policy counters.

“So, what comes next? Allow me to share some proposals for taking this work forward.

First, 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.

Finally, to maintain the unique cross-sectoral collaboration behind the declaration and to drive its implementation and continued relevance, the COP28 presidency and an expanded group of partners have developed a coordination mechanism with an initial focus on addressing current finance access and implementation barriers and leveraging best practices from implementing partners across the conflict and fragility landscape.”

HE Nigar Arpadarai, United Nations COP29 High-Level Champion

Opening her remarks, HE Ms Nigar Arpadarai said that climate change is a threat multiplier. It exacerbates the vulnerabilities of people and nature. It is also an existential threat to human security with the 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.

Ms Arpadarai said that the last three decades were very difficult for the South Caucasus and the region saw wars and devastation. Towns and communities had been destroyed, livelihoods devastated, and vast territories were contaminated with mines. People and nature suffered tremendously. “But what also emerged lately is a hope. I have a strong feeling that

among people in all nations of South Caucasus they starts to develop a vision for a common region.”

Ms Arpadarai said that she had been assigned to do the job of high-level champion only very recently and that it was an exciting opportunity to understand how our planet works. It is about aspirations and challenges that nations and communities across the world have, small and large nations alike. There are island nations that are at permanent risk of submerging as oceans rise; There are nations that suffer from rapid deforestation and melting ice caps. She said that Azerbaijan faces different challenges can be seen in Azerbaijan too. The level of the Caspian Sea dropped dramatically by more than a meter in just a few years, killing off biodiversity and creating many economic challenges.

Ms Arpadarai said there is a very complex hierarchy of challenges in the world, that start at the level of communities and nations, then accumulate at the level of regions and further into the global agenda. When it comes to the climate agenda, it is obvious that one of the key approaches is to work it through with neighbours. We believe in cooperation with neighbours. The climate change agenda is global, but it will only work if it is picked up and owned by a group of countries united by a common climate challenge. The Caspian Sea is a vivid example of a common challenge. All five littoral states will suffer from what is happening and should work together to neutralise and minimize the consequences. But there are also immense opportunities.

Mr Arpadarai said that the Climate Change Agenda is by its nature a peace-making one. Azerbaijan's hosting of COP29, the first in the South Caucasus, is of historical and regional significance. She said that this climate-induced vicious cycle affecting peace and security has a people face. People impacted don't have access to finance, capacity or policies to reduce risk and enhance resilience. This is why it's critical we foster systemic changes. It is great to recognize how at COP27 and COP28 initiatives such as climate responses for sustaining peace, and declarations such as Climate Relief Recovery and Peace were accelerated with the aim of ensuring that integrated climate responses contribute to sustainable peace and development in line with national ownership and context-specific theme. The high-level Champion not only supports these COP, initiatives but also other changes needed to increase the resilience of people and nature.

It is important for COP29 in Baku to build upon further developing deliberations on this topic with a view of identifying concrete areas where the climate and action peace agenda can mutually reinforce each other. Peacebuilding efforts are important for environmental recovery and safeguarding biodiversity.

There is a need for collaboration among government, civil society and other stakeholders. There is also a need to streamline experts and civil society inputs in specific sub-themes related to climate change: water scarcity, scarcity, food insecurity, and resilience of

communities in mine-contaminated areas. Civil society engagement in COP29 preparation should be utilized as an enabling opportunity to raise global awareness and stimulate focused discussions. There should be a continuity of addressing climate change, peace and security on the global agenda.

Let's acknowledge the power of collaboration between governments, and non-state actors to inspire change. Together, we can move towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

Maria Paloma Noriega Jalil, Associate Programme Officer, UN Climate Change Secretariat

Ms Noriega Jalil said that upon its formation, the Charter of the United Nations identified four purposes for the UN. In summary, the first is to maintain international peace and security. Second is to develop friendly relations among nations. Third is to achieve international cooperation in solving problems. And fourth is to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends. The topic at hand here represents a convergence of all the purposes for which the UN was created. As the previous speakers have mentioned, there is an undeniable link between the negative impacts of climate change and the risk of conflict, especially given the link of the stability of our climate system with food security, water security, and health.

Scientific consensus documented in the reports of the IPCC has also told 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 marginalization 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.

Ms Noreiga Jalil said that in this context, enhanced climate action on all fronts becomes paramount to sustain and promote global peace and security. The UN climate change process is a platform for governments around the world as well as other stakeholders to regularly convene and agree on how-to step-up efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen resilience to climate change and accelerate finance flows and other means of support for climate action. This process has produced a Paris Agreement, which has become a lifeline mechanism to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and avoid the worst impacts of climate change, thus reducing risks to peace and security. Currently, countries are in the process of developing the third generation of their climate pledges towards the goals of the Paris Agreement. These are also known as nationally determined contributions or NDCs.

Ms Noriega Jalil said that last year's COP28 in Dubai encouraged countries to come forward in their next NDCs with ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets, covering all greenhouse gases, sectors, and categories, and allowing with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, as informed by the latest science, in light with different national circumstances. Ratcheting up ambition levels through these plans is crucial to reaching our global climate targets. While mitigation action is essential, we know that climate change impacts are already being felt worldwide and will continue to increase with every increment of global warming. Therefore, enhancing adaptation action and support is key to reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience for all, which amounts to sustaining the collective well-being of people and nature. It is also essential to avoiding conflicts that are instigated by climate-related impacts.

During the last COP, governments adopted the UAE framework for global climate resilience to guide and strengthen adaptation efforts. The framework includes targets or landing zones for 2030 on water, food and agriculture, health, ecosystems and biodiversity, infrastructure and human settlements, poverty eradication and livelihoods and cultural heritage.

The UAE framework also sets the targets for all parties to come together, impact, vulnerability and risk assessments, develop national adaptation plans, make progress in implementing adaptation actions, and set up a system for monitoring, evaluation and learning by 2030. Pertaining to our topic today, enhanced and transformational adaptation efforts are critical to reducing the risk of climate-related conflict. Scaling up adaptation action will help to address some of the root causes of conflict, including by reducing water and food insecurity, protecting or diversifying livelihoods, and preventing climate-related migration and displacement. The link between peacebuilding and climate adaptation is already being acknowledged by governments around the world. For example, 79 % of national adaptation plans incorporate considerations of conflict, including conflict resulting from climate impacts and conflict-sensitive adaptation.

The need to address adaptation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding in a synergistic and holistic manner is notably most pronounced in conflict-affected and fragile areas, where the exposure to climate risks is exacerbated. However, to achieve a low-emission and resilient world for all, an urgent spike in climate finance is needed.

According to the latest figures, developing countries, excluding China, need about \$ 2.4 trillion every year to build clean energy economies and adapt to climate impacts. As our executive secretary, Simon Steele, underlined in the UN Security Council some weeks ago, climate finance is an investment. in thriving economies, in abundance, not scarcity, and in preventing the conditions that cause conflict. Don't write, climate finance will benefit countries with

significant humanitarian needs. Moreover, a shift is needed for finance flows to reach fragile and conflict-affected areas.

And in this, we're really grateful for the COP28 presidency to have pushed for this topic in the last COP as previously mentioned.

COP29, this year in Baku, will be an opportunity for governments and all other stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to accelerate efforts on all fronts and to discuss the synergies between climate action and peace, including through conflict-sensitive and peace-positive climate action.

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

Mr Hicken thanked the organisers for bringing those most relevant topics of our time, climate change and security together in this event. "Climate change is not only changing the climate, it is changing our world and the impacts are brutally visible." He said that just last week, the WMO published its yearly report "European State of Climate Change." and again with alarming numbers. 2023 was again the joint warmest or second warmest year on record with tremendous effects on human security and health. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts and flooding around the world now are destroying people's livelihoods including infrastructure and sources of income, especially in the agricultural sector. Climate emergencies often add to instability, and they add to conflict, leading to devastating multiple crises. Communities that experience violence or fragile government then also struggle to feed their people, and families, or lose their homes.

So, the climate crisis is directly threatening human security by adding to resource scarcity and exacerbating conflicts, playing into the hands of terrorist organizations. We have conflicts such as the Russian War of Aggression against Ukraine that caused human loss and devastation with long-lasting effects on the environment. And in general, war and conflict prevent needed climate action, because war and conflict shift needed capacities and resources into actually extremely CO2-intensive militarization.

But the climate crisis has also other geopolitical implications of huge, sometimes unknown, scale. Let me just mention the example of shipping.

Shipping routes are actually right now developing in the Arctic. As a result, the military presence is expected to increase.

On the other way around, the Panama Canal in January ship traffic was reduced by almost 2 /5, so by 36 % in January. After months of drought, there simply wasn't enough water for this

lifeline of global trade. But despite this rather groomed outlook, well, it's cross-border cooperation on climate and environmental protection that can be also a game changer for building peace and stabilisation. For example, in the field of water management.

Mr Hicken said that in Germany they were working with peacebuilders in many countries, Nigeria, Iraq, Somalia, and the Bay of Bengal, to name but a few, and where stabilisation strengthens climate action and adaptation contributes to building sustainable peace. Mr Hicken emphasised that climate policy belongs at the heart of foreign policy. Germany's strategy on foreign climate policy, published at last year's COP, points actually out how to integrate these topics. The climate crisis is the defining security challenge of our times. And therefore, the new and first German security strategy encompasses sustainability and resilience as part of security.

So, the answer to growing climate security risk is intensified cooperation: cooperation on adaptation, stabilisation, 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.

Together we can. And COP28 has proven this, and I am convinced that the next two cops will prove this again. In Dubai, the global community has achieved major breaks 195 parties decided to start the end of the age of fossil fuels to keep 1.5 degrees within reach.

Now there was the need to deliver on this decision, on the decisions to triple renewable energy, to double the improvements in energy efficiency and to half deforestation by 2030. COP29 in Baku will have to draw a roadmap for people and the planet and has to give answers. How do we implement these decisions into our national climate plan and into public and our public and private investments? How do we turn them into a motor for sustainable development, job creation and economic growth?

Mr Hicken said that in Germany it is considered the key for that will be our new NDCs. Because the COP30 and BLM next year will be a moment of truth. "We have to, in the third round of the national climate targets, see whether all of us have turned the Dubai commitments into reality. "Germany and the EU, remain firm in our commitments. We can no longer play off the economy against climate action, because the climate crisis threatens our economies. This is why we transform our economy and pursue the energy transition. Also in the European Union, we have recognised that the Green Deal is all about this conviction. and actually there's also the new EU proposal to reduce emissions in the EU by at least 90 % by 2040.

"On climate finance, we industrialised countries need to continue to live up to our promises. Germany has kept and will keep its promises in this regard.

Our climate finance has reached 6.4 billion euros. We encourage other industrialised countries to follow to fulfil the 100-billion-dollar commitment as we did in 2022. But then again, we all know, you all know, this is not enough. Last week at the Petersburg Climate Dialogue, our

minister quoted the independent high-level expert group on climate finance which stated that we need \$5 trillion annually for a global ecological transition, \$2 trillion of that for developing countries.”

Mr Hicken said there was a need to build a new international financial system that mobilizes these amounts. All big emitters will have to contribute now. Public funds must catalyse new innovative sources of finance. So, we hope that the new NDCs can help to make this vision true. By 2025, all countries must review and update their NDCs. These new NDCs will be the most important documents of all our countries. Investment, infrastructure, adaptation, and security planning will all have to be based on these sector-wide NDCs.

“Therefore, we suggested a broad alliance to promote and realise the advantages of the new NDCs. We as Germany want to support these developments. In our view, the NDCs are a great opportunity to build a stronger coalition. for ambitious climate targets on mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and finance. Because they are a symbol of our shared interest. Thanks again for organising this conference and please go to identify concrete solutions for all these interlinked challenges.”

Part 2 – Panel 1

The UAE Consensus: Where does Climate Diplomacy Stand after COP28? Climate Change, Peace and Security in the context of the current Climate Change Negotiations? The significance of the establishment of the COP Troika.

Chairman

Dennis Sammut, Director of LINKS Europe, who chaired the session welcomed the panellists and introduced the theme of the session posing three questions namely given the UAE Consensus that emerged after COP28 in Dubai, where does Climate Diplomacy stand now; After the adoption of the COP28 declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace where does the theme Climate Change, Peace and Security stand in the context of the current Climate Change negotiations? What is the significance of the establishment of the COP Troika in March?

Oli Brown, Chatham House

Oli Brown said that COP28 was a qualified success – a mixed bag, with referencing for the first time of language on fossil fuels, agreement on the loss and damage fund. There was broad agreement that the UAE did a great job of managing COP28, but there were some mixed messages from the UAE in that the presidency of the COP was managed by the same person who runs the state oil company. Furthermore, just after the COP, UAE announced that it was going to double oil and gas production within the decade. This gap between rhetoric and reality is a real issue,

COP28 was a milestone for the discussion of peace and security, and it was the first time that it was explicitly included in the agenda. Up till now, there's been a lot of resistance from some member states that didn't want to bring peace and security issues formally into the agenda and saw it as a diversion from this kind of essentially economic task of reducing emissions. So, the fact that it happened was important. It came together with a declaration on climate relief, recovery and peace. Oli Brown said that the most important thing is that it happened, rather than the detail of what was in it. It also recognised the importance of focusing on military emissions.

Because of the war in Gaza, and of the war in Ukraine, there's this immense awareness of the connections between climate justice and war. And in the run-up to COP, we've seen how these COP processes can get caught in wider political discussions. So, Russia, for example, was

initially putting in its NDCs- nationally determined contributions, including data from the Crimean Peninsula, which is an illegally occupied land, in its allocation of climate emissions. This is an example of how the COP process can be instrumentalised to support ownership of land in particular ways.

However, COP28 showed that climate action really needs to happen in tough places as well. One in five countries around the world is affected by fragility and conflict, we have 54 active conflicts around the world at the moment, the most in the last 30 years.

And we're looking at the risk of spreading conflicts. I mean, if we look at the headlines around the world at the moment one is made constantly aware of the potential spread of conflict: in the Middle East, Balkans, South China Sea.

So, there's a major issue that needs to be recognized that climate action cannot just happen in easy to work in places

So, when we look at climate finance, and the loss and damage fund, there is recognition that climate funding is going to be one of the main sources of development funding in the future

The countries that experience fragility and conflict are currently getting much less from that funding So there's a big disparity between the amount of money that is going to different places. For example, Tuvalu currently gets more than 1000 USD per person per year, whilst Syria gets 0.67 USD per person per year. And those projects tend to be shorter, smaller, and more tightly constrained, often because there are concerns about what the country can manage, what it can absorb and spend well. But also, more than half of this funding is coming in the form of loans, the money that has to be paid back. And so, this is potentially adding to the debt crisis.

The COP circus that that gathers every year, that brings together huge numbers of people and in UAE that was a sort of the highest number of people, 100.000 participants, you know including 2,000 fossil fuel lobbyists came to it, shows that it is really the place where these discussions happen. So, it's essential, it's critical, it's the point where it happens, and commitments are made but it's also about honouring those commitments.

In terms of honouring those commitments, the establishment of the Troika is a helpful step forward. In theory, it provides a necessary continuity. It links past, present and future presidencies of the COP process. In theory, it helps with that kind of transition from one leader to the other because up till now, you've had this often, somewhat jerky baton pass where the presidency goes from one side to the other, and in theory, it can help with some of those backroom deals where you have more countries that can call in more favours and push more

countries to make those difficult concessions. But it also increases the risk that it takes the pressure off anyone different presidency.

So, the key going forward for Azerbaijan, I think, is to make sure that the COP process really bridges this implementation gap, and that climate action continues to support people and that they're not left out of the move to both renewable energies and to this kind of global ecological transition.

Tim Bosch, Project manager at the German Council on Foreign Relations, Centre for Climate and Foreign Policy.

Tim Bosch said he agreed with a lot of the points that had been made by Oli Brown both in terms of what has been achieved and the implementation gap. The Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace is an important document because it is a testimony to the growing overlap of peace and security communities on the one hand, and climate action groups on the other. Humanitarian development and peace actors are increasingly concerned with the compound risk from climate and pre-existing fragility. And climate actors are cognizant of the disproportionate impacts of hazards for vulnerable populations and resulting human security threats. This dynamic of climate and security issues intersecting has been recognized and addressed in other UN fora as well.

Mr Bosch argued that there is no institutional home for climate security in the UN. We have, of course, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, which is the designated place to deal with climate change, mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. But we have other fora that deal with adjacent topics. We have the United Nations Security Council, which holds the primary responsibility pertaining to international peace and security. And there we've had momentum building up for at least 15 years. Since 2007, there have been the debates on implications of climate change on international security. We have presidential statements to this effect. There is recognition that climate change can be a risk amplifier in fragility contexts and the Security Council has raised its concern in specific conflict contexts about the compound risks emanating from non-climatic and climatic factors. However, there is no political consensus on a landmark resolution that would be on climate peace and security, because there is no political consensus amongst the P5 in particular.

However, the security implications of climate change really go beyond what the UN Security Council could even do because it needs a broader involvement in post-conflict settings. Environmental peacebuilding is a very long-term project that likely goes beyond what the UN Security Council has on its daily radar. And obviously, climate adaptation is a long-term process that spreads over years and years. So, it's also logical that the UN Security Council is not the only institution dealing with this. Other agencies are now involved. In fact, we had the first resolution by the UN General Assembly on climate and security in 2009, requesting the

Secretary-General to report on kind of a broad framing of climate security risks and threats. And we have now human rights groups, migration and displacement actors involved. For example, UNHCR has been having a special advisor on climate action since 2020. So, all of this is to say that the declaration is a welcome development towards this further inclusivity and mainstreaming that does justice to this multifaceted scope.

So, the COP28 declaration has three very important areas of action, better financing of adaptation and resilience, practice and programming and cooperation and partnerships. And I think they are all very, very pertinent and they point the fingers to the right issues. The declaration creates linkages and I think it's really good that not only state parties developed it, but it was early developed with agencies and international organizations and non-state parties, and the declaration makes ample reference to human insecurities, with a focus on vulnerable groups, but as has already been said, often receive the least adaptation funding and have the least adaptive capacities. So, I think this is a good development.

Mr Bosch said that the future addressing of the climate security topic will need to be anchored in the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement language. So, it needs to build on the language and process that's already established, and one needs to point out that the word security doesn't appear in the declaration, and I think there's you know why. Because security is not within the purview of the UNFCCC, but obviously, it has security implications.

“The main reference points in the Paris Agreement are resilience and adaptation. Adaptation, the global goal of adaptation in Article 2, is on equal footing with the mitigation target in the Paris Agreement, and then is further elaborated upon in Article 7 of the Paris Agreement. And I think that is from where we have to continue the conversation.”

Adaptation, we have seen some progress, but at the same time, I think in recent COPs, there has been relatively little very concrete action delivered on it, despite the growing needs. Fragile countries receive less adaptation funding. The more fragile you are, the less adaptation funding you get. And that has to do with countries in fragility context having less capacity to absorb and manage adaptation action, but also with a perceived or real kind of risk that funders see with dispersing the funding. This is a problem that future COPs will have to tackle.

Mr Bosch concluded his remarks by saying that there was already a very concrete precedent in the COP process that we can continue working with. Specifically, at COP28, there was the presentation of a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation, which is called the UAE Framework on Global Climate Resilience which operationalises Article 7 of the Paris Agreement and includes 7 thematic areas and four additional cross-cutting targets. This is a comprehensive work plan that one can work with it. Regarding the Troika, it's now a chance to build an agenda for a conflict and fragile sensitive climate action in a two-year programme to take us from Dubai to Baku to Belem.

Discussion

After the two interventions from the two panellists, there were short comments made by a number of participants. Maria Paloma Noriega Jalil, from UNFCCC Secretariat, said that she agreed on the point of the importance of working through already agreed language. In COP28 there was an attempt to introduce the term “conflict-sensitive climate action”, but it had to be dropped since there was no agreement on what it meant. Replying to a question, Oli Brown said that this debate about traditional peacebuilding and addressing climate security issues may not be so acute. There is a lot of experience that needs to be used, and also how to give comfort to donors to give money in risky places and situations. Caroline Cruckow highlighted the need to involve civil society, and expressed concern that in many countries, including Azerbaijan, civil society was marginalised. The Chairman of the panel emphasised the need for an inclusive process, involving people at the grassroots. Across the world, there were many marginalised groups that were very much affected by climate change but that did not have the voice to express their concerns and needs.

Part 3 – Panel 2

Water Resources, Climate Impact and Conflict; Climate and Food Insecurity; Landmine Contamination and the Resilience of affected Communities to adjust to the changes being brought about by climate change.

The Chair of the panel, Isabelle McRae from Restart Initiative, welcomed the panellists and participants. She said that the Bonn Dialogue Meeting is focusing on three items within the Climate, Peace and Security, agenda, namely Water Resources, Climate Impact and Conflict; Climate and Food Insecurity; Landmine Contamination and the Resilience of affected Communities to adjust to the changes being brought about by climate change.

To help focus on these three topics, Silvan Lochteken; Maja Cortinovic; and Alexandra Dumitrescu from LINKS Europe made three short teaser presentations highlighting the main issues under the three headings. The chair then introduced the panellists, namely Dr Sarah Njeri from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London; Dr Tobias Zumbregel from Heidelberg University; Marc Limon (Universal Rights Group).

Dr Tobias Zumbregel, Heidelberg University

Dr Zumbregel said that there was an increasing body of literature dealing with the nexus between Climate Change, Peace and Security, but what had to be kept in mind was that many conflicts emerged or are rooted in a non-environmental dynamic. There was however a popular perception that climate change causes resource wars – among the public more than among the academic community. In the broader perception that nature is harming us. We need to have a better focus on socio-economic issues on the ground. There is a lot of discussion of Protection, provision and participation – but the emphasis has been mainly on protection against environmental disasters and the provision of environmental resources – and less on participation. We need to shift our emphasis more on civil society engagement, trust-building measures and proper information provision.

My colleagues and I are trying to understand we are currently trying to better understand how environmental change in general affects state-society relations. And we're looking at, from a notion of three Ps like protection, provision, and participation. And if you're looking into the literature, you can see that we are talking a lot about protection against environmental disasters. We are talking a lot of lot about the sustainable provision of environmental goods or resources in light of a gloomy climate peril. But we are not talking so much about participation here. So, we have to shift our focus more on civil society engagement into trust-

building measures between different stakeholders. We need to have proper information provision on environmental damage and so forth.

The space for climate activists is shrinking. We need to have more inclusive processes. Environmental mediation is an area which requires more attention. The role of indigenous knowledge. We need to foster a better dialogue between academics and civil society activists.

There are so many solutions for a lot of our problems already at hand. We as academics need to be more open to engagement by non-professionals and the general public and to let them participate in science and social science and knowledge production. So, in a nutshell, I'm talking about citizen science here, and as one approach that needs to have a greater role in mitigating and developing future solutions for our crisis.

Dr Sarah Njeri from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London

Ms Njeri said that among the Mine Action community, there was for a long time a lot of reticence in accepting a connection between the Mine Action sector and other issues, including development and environment. The approach was that the job was to remove landmines from the ground and that was the end of the story. But this is changing, and landmine action work is now incorporating environmental issues into its thinking. Flooding, extreme heat and drought are consequences of climate change that impact directly operational issues related to mine clearance.

the presence of ordinances on the ground deteriorates the environment, especially the soil and land. Climate change adds a level of vulnerability.

It has also to be said that sometimes landmines have unexpected and unintended positive impacts on the environment, because land is left undisturbed, and nature is reclaimed. One can see this in reforestation in the DMZ in Korea.

Ms Njeri said that ordinance contamination continues to be a threat affecting communities, especially in post-conflict situations. Climate change exacerbates this, putting pressure on resources, and forces changes in patterns of behaviour. Overall climate change is adding an additional layer of complexity to the already challenging tasks of mitigating the risks of contamination. Climate change presents additional challenges in terms of both how mine action operations are carried out and how explosive ordinances in contaminated areas and communities will be affected.

Marc Limon, Universal Rights Group

Mr Limon said that the initial reactions to climate change consequences were very inadequate, the level of ambition was low, and small island states, whose very existence was now under question as a result of global warming. As a diplomat representing one of the Island states he

joined others in making an analysis of why there was this lack of ambition, we found that it was partly because climate change was seen as a physical phenomenon, a meteorological phenomenon, pictures of polar bears on melting ice caps and things like that. And what was maybe getting lost was the immediate human impact of climate change. This was back in 2008. So, there was a kind of lack of focus on the immediate and enormous implications of climate change for people around the world. We decided to take a human rights approach to the issue, taking the matter to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Our approach was that if you get the human rights side right, then you can also, down the road, prevent conflict and insecurity. So, these first resolutions presented the relationship to human rights and climate change and later, we took that understanding to the UNFCCC, the COP, to try and use that to influence international and national climate. policy.

So, what is the relationship between human rights and climate change? Well firstly it's clear now and is widely accepted even though back in the day many countries of the UN were refusing to acknowledge there was any relationship between human rights and climate change and I include that the United States all the big oil-producing countries, who were essentially afraid of litigation. But the process

The And that right now is being integrated into regional agreements, including in the European Convention on Human Rights and also in Africa and Latin America. Lots of lots more countries are integrating the right into their constitutions. And that means that it is increasingly becoming the basis for litigation around the world. I mean the number of cases against governments around the world using the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the right to a safe climate as the principal legal basis has skyrocketed.

Mr Limon emphasised the need for a human rights-based approach to climate change policy. He highlighted the potential of international human rights obligations to improve climate policy and the importance of addressing consumption patterns and ecological footprints. He also raised concerns about the exclusion of civil society from decision-making processes and the need for greater engagement in order to achieve adequate climate change mitigation.

Part 4 – Panel 3

COP29 in the South Caucasus: Climate change, water scarcity, environmental degradation and landmine contamination

Leo Wigger welcomed participants to the panel which turned its attention to the South Caucasus. He said that it was important not to forget that from the outset the decision to hold COP29 in Baku was deeply interlinked with the peace processes in the region. It was only made possible by securing the support of Armenia, which many did not see happening at all. Armenia and Azerbaijan reached a consensus on the COP. It shows how intertwined the nexus of climate and security are in the region.

Anri Stepanyan from LINKS Europe gave an overview of the water situation in the South Caucasus, where the challenges were somewhat different in all three countries. In Georgia, problems ranged from the threat to the port of Poti coming from increased sea levels to the melting of the glaciers, which recently resulted in a landslide in Shovi which killed many people. The melt of the Buba glacier can offer similar challenges in the future. In Armenia, the problems are related mainly to rivers drying out which reduces the crop yield. Lake Sevan, Armenia's biggest lake is also significantly decreasing. Over and above that pollution from the mining industry is becoming a huge problem. Azerbaijan on the other hand is a downstream country and depends on the Kura-Aras basin. With less water, it is expected that the crop yield would also in the future significantly decrease. There is then the issue of the Caspian Sea. By the end of the century, it is expected that the sea level in the Caspian will decrease by 9-18 meters, and it will lose 25% of its area. 80% of the water source of the Caspian comes from the Volga, but there has been intensive construction of dams on the Volga, which reduced the water flow. It appears the situation got worse since the war in Ukraine started as the Russians tried to increase their food production.

Tamar Bagratia an independent Georgian expert

Ms Bagratia said that whilst climate change was a global process it was increasingly affecting the Caucasus region and ecosystems. According to most forecasts and analysis of historical climate data, the gradual increase of temperatures, both increase and decrease in the amount of precipitation will continue in the region. The frequency and intensity of extreme events and natural disasters triggered by climate change will also be more intensive. Forest area distribution will continue to change, and erosion and other land degradation processes will be intensified. Plant growing seasons will shift and some diseases will spread. As already mentioned, glaciers will also continue to shrink, thus reducing water availability. for domestic

use and economic development. Recent studies and reports suggest that climate change already has an effect on agriculture, energy, forestry, infrastructure, as well as the water and forest ecosystems. The same studies also conclude that progress in mitigation and adaptation research remains insufficient and often fragmented.

The main water-related problems in the Caucasus region are the quantity and quality of both surface and groundwater. To solve the above-mentioned problems, the following approaches should be introduced. Introduction of integrated basin management principles at the national and regional level; cooperation between upstream and downstream water users in the countries; introduction of water-saving technologies, promotion of natural hazard prevention practices; protection of freshwater lakes, and river water resources; and also, I think, and importantly raising public awareness on current and future climate change challenges. We should provide the population not only information and knowledge, but also, we should teach them how to convert this knowledge to values and then to collective or individual behaviour.

Frank Garrison from the Hertie School, spoke about the initiative of Hertie School with Restart Initiative to develop after the 2020 Karabakh war a dialogue series touching on a number of issues, one of which was water. He said that participants from Armenia and Azerbaijan recognised that whilst dialogue and cooperation on these issues can be important confidence-building measures, the risk that in the future these may become contested resources needs also to be recognised. That was one reason why the process needs to be managed in a collaborative manner

There were three proposals that came out of the dialogue series as regards water.

First, our experts mentioned that they would like to see a rehabilitation of the Johas Reservoir which is a reservoir and border communities that has a history of collaboration in water resource management. They'd like to see that again, back on the agenda, how that reservoir can be rehabilitated in the service of communities on both sides of the conflict line.

Additionally, speaking about COP and Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan is a downstream country as we talked about. 70 % of its water comes from upstream. We looked at several small river basins, so they are in addition to the Kura Araz rivers: these are small river basins that feed into these larger rivers that also have an upstream and downstream component to them. So, there are upstream communities on the Armenian side of the conflict line, and there are downstream communities in Azerbaijan that receive this water, so to speak. And our experts looked at this and said, we'd like to see how potential projects could be explored where downstream communities invest in upstream communities. So, Azerbaijan communities investing in Armenian communities in order to ensure that the water when it arrives in the downstream communities is cleaner and comes in greater quantities.

A key message is that there's a need for continued expert engagement on this topic. When expert communities aren't meeting the language, the data, and the research that is being conducted isn't being aligned, which can sometimes obscure resources. It can help mix the language that ultimately needs to be cohesive in terms of finding solutions. to these issues.

So, the third proposal was for some platform of sorts that would allow for research collaboration for scientific and data collaboration on issues of water in the South Caucasus. A South Caucasus Water forum, which involves Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, and Turkey. This can be a platform for all of the countries to kind of work collectively on research related to climate issues, related to water issues. So that ultimately the outcomes from this research can then have a collective benefit in the long run. term for the entire region.

Jessica Hyland, MAG International

Mine Action is sometimes slow on the uptake of new ideas: mine clearance agencies have specific tasks related to specific pieces of land that are contaminated. But there is increasing awareness of the need to take into account the wider context, so in recent years we have been giving more emphasis on gender, conflict sensitivity and increasingly environment.

For MAG International it is now part of our strategy, both in terms of our own footprint – MAG employs six thousand people all over the world and uses one thousand vehicles - but also in relation to what it means to people – community resilience.

There is no question that landmines have a massive impact on the land and the soil, and minefield clearance disrupts the land.

There are different methodologies that are being used, but the more environmentally friendly methods take much longer and cost much more. So, in the end, what one needs to ask is whether making the land clean and safe as soon as possible is the priority. One suspects that for many communities living next to minefields that is the case. People want to work the land, or be able to sell it, because in the end, they have to feed their families

Part 5 - Closing session

The challenges for the troika ahead of COP29 and COP30; How do we bring the theme of climate change, peace and security to the fore of the COP agenda in Baku and Belan? Mobilising the energy and potential of the think tank community, academia and the civil society sector in support of climate change, peace and security.

In this wrap-up session, Dennis Sammut first asked Benjamin Pohl, Head of Programme Climate Diplomacy and Security, Adelphi (Berlin)

to reflect on the day's discussions.

Benjamin Pohl, Head of Programme Climate Diplomacy and Security, Adelphi (Berlin)

The discussion on Climate Change, Peace and Security started off being discussed in very narrow circles but in recent years it has expanded enormously. However, it touches on so many aspects that every institution defines it according to its needs and approaches. The agenda has become hard to clasp. Some want to put it into one of the silos that characterise work on Climate change, but the way forward needs to be how to work across the silos and connect the key themes.

A key point is how to operationalise the implementation of this agenda so that it becomes a more mainstream topic. We had a number of, I think, fairly good documents that have sort of captured the agenda, the latest one was the COP28 declaration, but there have been a number of others before that have tried to sort of capture these interlinkages and explain to the international community what the challenge is, namely to ensure climate and conflict sensitivity at the minimum, or if you want to go further, climate and peace together positivity as a goal. And that's very good that we have this basis now of documents, but rather than sort of keep adding on them, it's now very important that the actors in global politics do something with this, that they build them into the institution so that they are not just separate documents but are part of a more formal processes.

This includes the COP process and that is a critical one, especially as it relates to climate finance but it's also something that applies to many UN agencies, regional institutions, etc. If you mandate a peacekeeping operation, if you mandate a UN resident coordinator, then they think about it as it's part of their mandate to think about these interlinkages. And not just at that level, but also, you know, for regional institutions. So, the EU just came out with the joint communication on climate peace and security last year. The African Union is in the process of finalising an African position. But now these documents must be turned into action plans.

COP Finance is one of the key dimensions of the debate there is the global level challenge, but then there is the distribution question of who gets what. There is a need for more funding to

go into fragile contexts. For this, we need a shift in perception as to how much risk donors and investors are willing to take.

But there's also the second dimension of going towards better funding. There is a need to learn how to use the money and the limited resources that we have so that they give a positive impact, not just in the primary dimension which they're being spent, let's say on the climate side, but then also contribute to peace and vice versa.

The Chair welcomed Ambassador Elshad Iskanderov, Ambassador at large at the Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Senior Advisor to the COP29 presidency and thanked him for sitting patiently and listening attentively throughout the day's proceedings, and invited him to make concluding remarks.

Ambassador Elshad Iskanderov

Ambassador Iskanderov said that whilst the important topic of climate change, peace, and security was revitalized in COP28 in Dubai, it now needs to be decided somehow whether this was going to be a continuous process. The Azerbaijani Presidency underlined that there was a need for a deeper analytical framework of the inter-linkage and mutual impact between the realms of global peace and looming climate change with a view of accommodating diversity of views and building broader international consensus on the topic.

At the first tier of connection, the very threat that climate change poses to human security makes this theme very topical. It's because it's the existential insecurity humanity feels as the looming climate crisis develops that this topic is given so much attention. And this fact, is not being challenged by any reasonable analysis. However, the structure of this debate is very important, and I think conferences like this can clarify what is the structure of this connection and is this connection more complex than it might be seen from first glance.

Ambassador Iskanderov said that he wanted to reflect on some of the discussions the Azerbaijani presidency has had during consultations it has held so far, and its interaction with the state parties. The cautiousness with which some states are approaching the topic is not simply a reflection of political or geopolitical positions. This is also an issue of their legitimate concern for sovereignty and also for democratic decision-making within the international process: whether this issue belongs to the Security Council with just only 15 members, or if it should be kept in the COP process where almost the whole United Nations is present.

Commonly discussions on this topic, emphasize only one side of this nexus, with focus being put on the security implications of climate change, namely that climate change through shrinking resources has the potential to trigger new conflicts. The mass culture products, the Hollywood movies are all full of these scenarios of the conflicts of the future triggered by the depletion of clean water, air, or other vital resources. But is this the only way of making the connection?

“From our discussions within the COP process so far, one comes to the conclusion that the relationship is multidimensional, and more complex. We should not neglect the fact that wars and conflicts in their turn directly lead to environmental destruction. The areas in and around the conflict hotspots are often filled with wreckage from bombed infrastructure, damaged military equipment, with massive land mines and unexploded ordnance of war, contamination, and at times even radioactive waste.”

In addition, natural resources such as water are increasingly being used as hybrid weaponry of warfare in themselves.

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.

Current issues are so many, and they are being brought forward by many interests. The priority issue in the follow-up to the implementation of the Dubai Declaration at the next stage should be where to put focus when we have such a multi-dimensional spectrum. In this regard, there is also a need to identify a hierarchy of importance in the sub-issues under the very broad “climate and Peace” cluster. So, to foster concrete action, the practical focus, if you like, the pilot cases should be devoted to the most pressing areas.

And I think that this conference was successful in expeditiously identifying those areas so that these sub-areas are persuasive, they are meeting legitimate concerns of the states when addressed to the COP member state constituency. And the issue is not just palliative, but they are also inclusive for many countries and delivering concrete results.

In this regard the sub-topics chosen by your conference – water scarcity; food insecurity and the resilience of communities affected by landmine contamination, I think, are falling within these criteria.

What can be practical recommendations to approach these areas? Firstly, further conceptualization of the topic in a way which builds greater consensus within the COP constituency is very important, recognizing that interlinkages are of complex nature and that deteriorating climate conditions and threats to global peace and security are mutually influencing cause-effect relationships. Secondly, the concept may also introduce creative ideas, how peace agenda should be integrated into the main pillars of climate action.

But this is not just about general conceptualization, there needs to be practical applications, especially in the main pillars of climate action such as mitigation, and finance. It was already mentioned here that finance was going to be the highest priority of COP29. Our presidency will have to build consensus on the enormous figures that will need to be committed as NCQG. Yet this integration of peace and security into the agenda is very important so that that it goes together with the main priority of COP-29.”

In this regard Ambassador Iskanderov said 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 has already been achieved in Dubai. He said that these decisions did not depend on Azerbaijan alone since COP was a multilateral process where 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.

Summing up of the day's discussion

Dennis Sammut, Director, LINKS Europe thanked all the speakers and participants at the event. He said that this was the first opportunity after COP28, where the presidencies of the COP28 and COP29 could meet together with representatives of civil society, think tanks and academia. There was consensus in the meeting on the need to push for the inclusion of the theme Climate Change Peace and Security in the proceedings on COP29, building on what has already been achieved in Dubai in COP28.

There was a lot of work to be done and the energy and resources of civil society, think tanks and academia needed to be galvanised in this direction. Many of those present in the meeting wanted to take this work forward. LINKS Europe was therefore establishing a Contact Group as an ad hoc framework for engagement on these issues to work with State parties and multiple stakeholders ahead of COP29 with a view to both broadening international consensus on the topic of “peace and climate change” and fostering the launch of practice and solution-oriented initiatives, projects and partnerships on the sub-clusters presented above in November in Baku.

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