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FORUM

Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding – Broadening the Perspectives

by Karin Kortmann, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

In 2004, Wangari Maathai became the first environmentalist to win the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Committee thus sent an important signal, sensitizing the global public to the link between peace and environment. Maathai succinctly described that link in her Nobel Lecture delivered in Oslo on 10 December 2004: "There can be no peace without equitable development; and there can be no development without sustainable management of the environment in a democratic and peaceful space. This shift is an idea whose time has come." The past few weeks of intensive debate have shown to everyone that climate change is not just a matter of a few degrees centigrade more or less. Protecting the environment, and that includes containing climate change, is one of the most essential prerequisites for development and peace worldwide.

"This shift is an idea whose time has come," Wangari Maathai said. With our conference, we want to help ensure that this shift in our way of thinking is translated into policy. Today and tomorrow, we want to succeed in getting together different players from the fields of politics, academia, and civil society; putting our heads together to think about the environment, security, peace, and development in a holistic way; and linking together activities in all of these areas, combining them into harmonized sets of measures.

Relationship between development, environment and conflict

Environmental change, development processes and conflict dynamics have major mutual impacts – positive impacts and, sadly, far too often, negative impacts as well.

It is still too often that dynamic economic development takes place at the expense of the environment. A great deal of our own prosperity has been achieved through ruthless exploitation of natural resources. We are currently witnessing history repeating in the emerging economies, above all China and India, which are increasingly confronted with environmental problems. If resource use is too intensive, it can cause environmental damage that destroys people's livelihoods in the long term, resulting in poverty and in conflict over increasingly scarce resources.

Armed conflict causes severe and lasting damage to the environment, thus making post-conflict reconstruction more difficult. [...] Armed conflict poses the greatest impediment to development because it often destroys what had been achieved through many years of hard work. [...]

The role of development policy

Security means averting threats. As a development policymaker, I define security not only in military terms. We rely on an extended concept of security which also takes account of the political, economic and ecological dimensions of security. Security is more than the absence of war. Security also means that people are protected from hunger, life-threatening diseases, and environmental disasters. This is why development policymakers have a special contribution to make at the intersection of environment, development, and crisis prevention! Development policy as a global structural and peace policy makes a decisive contribution to ecological and human security.

We must tackle this challenge, because

1) The developing countries are not the main contributors to climate change, but they are most affected by it. The G8 countries account for 57% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Africa will be most affected by climate change. The continent has already frequently hit the headlines because of drought and flooding. [...]

2) The impact of climate change exacerbates typical development problems, resulting in a particularly explosive constellation: Logging, land degradation, massive population growth and, *on top of that*, the consequences of climate change are resulting in increasing scarcity of natural resources. This is a vicious circle from which the developing countries cannot break free on their own. They lack the specialists and financial resources to do so. Corruption and poor governance are making the job even more difficult. This is resulting in social and political conflict (such as the conflicts in Sudan and Rwanda), displacement and migration. [...]

3) Development cooperation will increasingly be taking place in a setting characterized by environmental problems and conflict. This will make our job more difficult and present us with new requirements to which we must respond. [...]

Development policy approaches and examples

Our activities must be combined at three levels:

1. At the international level, we need regulatory instruments to contain climate change and to ban trade in conflict resources from developing countries.

2. In our cooperation with partner countries, we need to develop adaptation strategies and options for conflict resolution. Structural causes of violence need to be reduced, and mechanisms for nonviolent conflict transformation, fostered.

3. In Europe and Germany, too, we need to integrate the policy fields of environment, development and conflict management more closely, and we need to develop more responses that are based on a multi-sector, whole-of-government approach. Coherence between our national policies and between EU policies is a crucial prerequisite for successful development policies.

There are numerous examples of successful approaches:

1) Conflict resources: EITI, FLEGT and Kimberley processes

I would like to highlight the example of resources which continually fuel conflict and help to sustain conflict through the emergence of economies of violence. We in the industrialized countries share the blame for the instability and violence caused by such conflict, because it is their access to global sales markets and arms markets that enables the parties in the conflict to make a profit from their resources and to finance their operations in this way. So there is an urgent need for players to shoulder responsibility for ensuring that such resources are extracted in a manner that is environmentally and socially sound and sensitive to conflict. Promising examples of relevant initiatives include EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative), the FLEGT process (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade), and the Kimberley process. [...]

2) Regional cooperation: Nile Basin Initiative

Air and water have no boundaries. Natural geographic regions and river basins do not take account of issues of sovereignty. So resource management, too, must transcend national borders! There are numerous examples of transboundary environmental cooperation which illustrate the potential for conflict prevention and peace stabilization inherent in activities related to the environment: Take the Nile Basin Initiative. The potential for conflict along the Nile is great, as people's livelihoods in the riparian countries depend on access to Nile water. The riparian countries are pursuing the

initiative in order to attain sustainable socioeconomic development by using the water of the Nile basin in an equitable manner. [...]

For the complete article by Ms Kortmann, based on the opening speech held at the Conference on Integrating Environment, Development, and Conflict Prevention in Press and Information Office of the Federal Government, Berlin, 29th of March, please visit http://www.adelphi-consult.com/ECC2007/Downloads/Kortmann_Session_I_Day_1.pdf

For more information about the conference, please see the report below.

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POLICY & RESEARCH

Climate Change in the United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council held its first debate on the relationship between energy, security and climate change on 17 April. The meeting was organized by the United Kingdom, which holds the rotating presidency of the Security Council. While some delegations, particularly small island states, welcomed the initiative, there were reservations from some developing countries, which regard climate change as a socio-economic development issue and raised doubts about the Council's responsibility on this topic. For a comprehensive overview on the debate, please see the meeting record and the press releases at www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/scact2007.htm

The EU Statement by the German EU Presidency on "Energy, Security and Climate" held in the Security Council is available at

http://www.new-york-un.diplo.de/Vertretung/newyorkvn/en/Ordner_Startseite/Seiten/seite_SR-Rede_Klima.html

On the occasion of the Annual Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture on 16 April, the British Foreign Secretary and Chair of the UN Security Council, Margaret Beckett, held a speech on "Climate Change – The Gathering Storm", please see

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391647&a=KArticle&aid=1176453874175>

A study on the impact of climate change on U.S. national security has recently been released by CNA Corporation that brought together a panel of retired admirals and generals from all branches of the armed services. The report, called "National Security and the Threat of Climate Change" is available for download at

<http://securityandclimate.cna.org/>

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Trade, Aid and Security – An Agenda for Peace and Development

Trade and aid policies can have profound impact on the economies and stability of the developing world, in both positive and negative ways. The recent Earthscan publication "Trade, Aid and Security – An Agenda for Peace and Development", edited by experts of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), demonstrates the most significant interactions of the

linkages between trade, aid and security. Based on the assumption that these issues are mutually reliant, the authors show how their relationships play out, how they influence one another and how ignorance of these linkages not only unstuck benefits, but also aggravate an already difficult situation. The book outlines that peace and security are essential preconditions for achieving sustainable development, which is in turn an effective counter to conflict and insecurity.

With a focus on poor countries that are highly dependent on the extraction of natural resources, the authors argue for a conflict-sensitive approach to trade and aid policy as well as stronger emphasis on conflict prevention in the Common Foreign and Security Policy. Trade and aid can help tackle the underlying causes of conflict, but mismanagement or wide fluctuations of resource and aid revenues can trigger economic collapses, feed grievances and sustain repressive regimes. Examples of unsuccessful revenue deployment, such as Algeria and Iraq are contrasted with more successful cases such as Botswana and Mozambique. Transparency, accountability, revenue sharing and income stabilization are considered key issues in improving revenue management. The case of Rwanda is used to illustrate how aid policy failed and may be failing again in Nigeria and Bangladesh. The book provides a comprehensive reflection of how trade and aid relate to security, and demonstrates on a very practical level how trade and aid policy can be used to help forge security and sustainable development. (*Christiane Roettger*)

The book is available at Earthscan Publications

<http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/productID/764/>

The foreword by Lloyd Axworthy and the introduction by Duncan Brack are now available online at <http://www.iucn.org/publications/>

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International Capacity Building Programme on Transboundary Water Management

Water management professionals from 17 developing countries around the world gathered in South Africa and Swaziland from 18 to 30 March to gain knowledge and share experience on the latest approaches to transboundary water management (TWM). Through the programme participants gained a better understanding of how shared waters can become avenues for peace, development and cooperation, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. This is necessary if the global crisis over water, exacerbated by population increase, industrial development and climate change, is to be averted.

The African Centre for Water Research is the local organizer of the programme, bringing together around 30 mid-career professionals (representing governments, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions) for intensive training in the theory and practise of TWM. Participants are introduced to the theoretical approaches to the co-management of shared rivers, covering concepts as broad as international water law, benefit-sharing and stakeholder participation, and environmental water standards. The course is funded by SIDA (Sweden) and implemented by ACWR in conjunction with two Swedish organisations – Ramboll Natura and the Stockholm International Water Institute.

The theoretical portion of the programme is complemented by a case study on the Incomati River (shared by South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique). Participants spend three days at the Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA) in Swaziland, where they gain an insight into the reality of co-managing a river basin on an international scale. Here they meet with communities resettled due to the construction of the Maguga dam, learn

about the management strategies for water allocation and do carry out water quality tests. The next module of the programme will take place in Sweden, from 11 to 15 June 2007. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss collaborative approaches to water management with members of the Helsinki Commission – formed to protect the waters of the Baltic Sea. (*Anton Earle*)

For more information, please see www.acwr.co.za and the profile of ACWR in our focus section below.

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European Resource Hunger, Rare Resources and Violent Conflict

Europe has few natural resources but a large and growing economy. Therefore the European Member States, or rather their business community, imports most of the resources it needs, sometimes from conflict zones. Against this background the German Federal Environment Agency raised the question, how the environmental, social and development aims of resource exploitation and trade could be addressed in the framework of 'European Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources'. The strategy currently reads as if the resources were readily available in Europe. The Agency commissioned the Institute for Future Studies and Technology Assessment, the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy and Adelphi Research to explore this question, highlighting the case of coltan from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The project team produced an extensive background paper, which has just been published, and discussed it in a multi-stakeholder workshop in December. Natural scientists, engineers and business representatives actively participated and added often neglected perspectives to the debate.

The discussion showed the complexity of the topic, which involves key areas of development (poverty reduction, economic growth and stability in the DRC), trade (supply chain management, voluntary vs. regulatory approaches, etc.), environment (resource depletion, resource efficiency and life-cycle approaches), geology (which resources are available in which areas, which ones are really rare), economics and business dynamics (existence of rare resources vs. their commercial viability, availability of resources vs. trading prices), technology (use of new resources for new products, technical advances and short-comings in recycling, etc.) as well as foreign and security policy (conflict mitigation and post-conflict stabilisation). As one recommendation, the German Federal Environment Agency wanted to explore the European Commission's idea of creating an International Panel on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in analogy to the International Panel on Climate Change. Such a panel would have to include expertise on conflict and policy analysis. Transferring the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme was not considered feasible due to various market and resource characteristics that enabled that specific process. Further recommendations of the workshop summarized in the report clearly addressed development rather than environmental agencies. (*Maira Feil*)

For the report, please see http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-medien/mysql_medien.php?anfrage=Status&Suchwort=neu

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Under Pressure: The Global Fish Reserves

As a response to the global decline in fish stocks, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is leading an international attempt to develop binding fishing regulations. These efforts are especially targeting port towns, where illegally caught fish is traded. Beyond that, the FAO will continue to work on guidelines for sustainable fishing. However, this can only be a first step to stop the imminent collapse of fish stocks. The problems are diverse: climate change causes warming and acidification of seas. Both could disrupt the balance of maritime ecosystems in an irreversible way, as the German Advisory Council on Global Change pointed out in a report published last year. In a study on the ten most threatened rivers published in March 2007, the WWF additionally concludes that fisheries in riparian systems are threatened by increased shipping, pollution and use of hydropower.

The consequences of all these factors also impacts on the global fishery industry. The industry itself is of great socio-economic importance: not only does it contribute to food security, but also directly employs over 40 million people. If the fish stocks further decrease because of other global trends, such as population growth, significant socio-economic consequences are likely to follow. At the same time, it would be premature to predict resource conflicts over fish as an unavoidable outcome of these trends. Nevertheless, the FAO sees the need for further action and has called for the regional organisations responsible for sustainable fisheries to be strengthened. (*Achim Maas*)

For the FAO report "The State of World Fisheries and Agriculture 2006", please see <http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/A0699e/A0699e00.htm>

For the WBGU report "The Future of Oceans – Warming Up, Rising High, Turning Sour", please see http://www.wbgu.de/wbgu_sn2006_en.pdf

The WWF report "World's Top 10 Rivers at Risk" is available at <http://assets.panda.org/downloads/worldstop10riversatriskfinalmarch13.pdf>

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CONFERENCE REPORTS

Blind Spots of Global Climate Governance

Climate change is not only a question of technological and economic concerns; it is also closely connected to issues of global democracy, human security, social and ecological justice. More flexibility and coherence in decision making and across governance levels is just as vital for comprehensive climate protection as integrating the social dimensions of climate change. This is the conclusion of an international conference organized by the Heinrich Boell Foundation that sought to enlighten the "Blind Spots of Global Climate Governance". The conference took place on 16 February in Berlin as part of the 'KyotoPlus' project. This initiative of the Heinrich Boell Foundation, WWF, Wuppertal Institute and the European Climate Forum goes beyond the already existing agreements and aims to develop further productive ideas for comprehensive measurements for climate protection.

Participants and speakers from various academic disciplines, private sector and civil society agreed that the current momentum of public perception should be used to push for a new paradigm based on ecological justice and sustainability. This includes greater

coherence across governmental levels, and stronger emphasis on democratic and fair participation of all stakeholders. Who is accountable, how and for what, is increasingly central to the governance of climate change. Public regulation and mechanisms of enforceability and accountability need to play a stronger role. Karen O'Brian, chair of the GECHS project of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) argued that there is a need to reconceptualize the notion of human security as climate change adds two new dimensions that are closely linked: equity and interconnectivity. Both are central in understanding what climate change means for human security and should therefore be considered in any political negotiations. Referring to problems of energy security and unequal access to electricity in South Africa, Patrick Bond, director of the Centre for Civil Society at the University of KwaZulu Natal, criticized the narrow focus on market-based solutions. Instead, new industrial policies, tough state regulation of emissions, massive investment in renewables, and grassroots carbon reduction initiatives were considered key elements for just global climate governance. (*Christiane Roettger*)

For further information on the conference, please visit <http://www.globalgovernance.de>

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Resource Governance in Africa in the 21st Century

Natural resources are more often a curse than a blessing for Sub-Saharan countries. Their exploitation is often linked to mismanagement, human rights violations, corruption, and violent conflicts. Governance of natural resources needs to be strengthened if these resources are to contribute to a democratic, sustainable and just development for people in these countries. Against this background the Heinrich Boell Foundation organized an expert workshop on "Resource Governance in Africa in the 21st century" in Berlin from 26-28th March 2007. The workshop aimed at initiating and deepening dialogue between members of civil society groups from all over the world, and to develop a civil society memorandum with recommendations for the German G8 Presidency.

Firstly, existing initiatives and standards were presented and discussed, e.g. the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), the Kimberley Process to ban conflict diamonds and the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Process (FLEG). Moreover, the role of emerging economies (such as China, India, and Brazil) was analysed. These countries are of growing importance; they are now more often investing in the extractive industries and have become more important buyers on international markets in the last years. Therefore they should be asked to join existing initiatives and contribute to responsible governance of natural resources. Finally, possible future enhancements and visions for sustainable governance were discussed. Participants agreed that responsible resource governance is a shared responsibility of producing countries, countries that invest in and buy natural resources as well as multinational corporations. Already existing initiatives mostly operate on a voluntary basis. They are better than the vacuum that existed before. To achieve these aims, however, they must be made more transparent and effective and, in the end, more binding.

The memorandum that was developed by an international drafting group and discussed during the workshop, asks the G8 to address the issue of resource governance more thoroughly and to strengthen its dialogue with emerging economies as well as producing countries. Moreover, the memorandum develops a number of concrete proposals to improve existing initiatives. It will be presented to the public on the occasion of the African Partnership Forum in Berlin in May. (*Melanie Zimmer, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt*)

For more information, please see <http://www.boell.de/g8>

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How to Link Environment, Development and Conflict Prevention Policies?

Interdependencies between environment, development, and conflict prevention have gained significant importance on the international agenda over the past years. In recognition of this fact, the European conference "Integrating Environment, Development, and Conflict Prevention – European and National Approaches and Challenges" brought together experts and decision-makers in Berlin from all over Europe at the end of March. The conference was jointly hosted by the German Federal Ministries for Environment, Development and the German Federal Foreign Office and was organized in close cooperation with Adelphi Consult.

The prominent themes of the conference were: climate change and its consequences, options for tackling the trade in conflict resources, and transboundary environmental cooperation. Speakers and participants stressed experiences and possibilities for the European Commission and EU Member States to become active in these areas.

Throughout discussions, the need for new alliances, partnerships and improved inter-organisational coordination among and within EU Member States received particular attention. The European Commission announced a number of new initiatives in this regard. Two of them, the Conflict Prevention Network (CPN) and the Peacebuilding Partnership will be networks of civil society organisations. Additionally, a special "Natural Resource Conflict Facility" will be established to fund activities related to natural resource conflicts. These initiatives will be financed under the „Stability Instrument“, which has been designed to address issues of conflict prevention, crisis management and peace building. These initiatives will be accompanied by a new inter-agency working group on environment and conflict prevention, comprising representatives of seven Directorate-Generals. These Commission initiatives caught the attention of the conference participants. Several participants considered the inter-agency working group as a potential template for inter-ministerial cooperation. The outcome of the conference will serve as input for a high-level follow-up conference scheduled for the end of May in Berlin. *(by Achim Maas)*

A comprehensive analysis of the initiatives by the European Commission will follow in the June edition of the ECC-Newsletter.

For more information on the conference, please see <http://www.adelphi-consult.com/ecc2007>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

New Blog on Environment and Security Launched

The staff of the Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP) at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars established a new blog as a way to further promote dialogue on the connections among environment, health, and population and their links to conflict, human insecurity, and foreign policy.

To join discussions and exchange information, please visit

<http://newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com/>

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"Confronting Fishing Overcapacity and Other Long-Overdue Reforms" in Washington, D.C. (26 April 2007)

This event marks the sixth in the Environmental Change and Security Program's series of seminars on the key trends, threats, challenges and opportunities that shape today's context for fisheries management. The seminar is hosted by The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. It will discuss the trends in global fisheries that have contributed to fishing overcapacity and examine efforts to reform policy and management, using examples from specific fisheries and regions to draw lessons for donor community and fisheries managers.

For further information, please see

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=events.event_summary&event_id=233250

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"Amsterdam Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change" in Amsterdam (24-26 May)

The Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and its partner institutions invite papers for the 2007 Amsterdam Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, to be held in Amsterdam on 24-26 May 2007. This conference will be the seventh event in the series of annual European Conferences on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change. This year's discussions will address the theme "Earth System Governance: Theories and Strategies for Sustainability".

For further information, please see

<http://www.2007amsterdamconference.org/index.htm>

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"Linking Environment, Development, Stability and Security" in Athens (14-15 June)

On June 14/15, the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) and the Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and Cultural Heritage (ELINIKI ETAIRA) will jointly organize the conference "Linking Environment, Development, Stability and Security" in Athens. The first part of the conference on June 14 will be open to the public.

Further information will be soon available under www.eliamep.gr

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FOCUS

This section serves as a platform for Institutions and Initiatives to present their activities on Environment, Conflict, and Cooperation.

African Centre for Water Research (ACWR)

The mission of the African Centre for Water Research (ACWR) is to promote the cooperative and sustainable management and development of shared waters in southern Africa through capacity-building and applied research initiatives. The institute aims to play a facilitative role in promoting transboundary dialogue – the mutual exchange of ideas to resolve common challenges. To achieve this aim the ACWR works in tandem with national governments, inter-governmental bodies, civil society and the private sector through brokering a safe experimental space in which the various actors can explore positive-sum options. The staff members of the ACWR have developed solid skills and knowledge in conducting capacity-building seminars and courses, applied research projects, participatory workshops and information dissemination. In addition, regional and international expertise is accessed through collaboration with networks such as the Global Water Partnership (GWP - Southern Africa), WaterNet and the SADC Water Sector.

For more information, please see www.acwr.co.za

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