

Berlin Climate and Security Conference 2022: Event Summary German Federal Foreign Office October 2022

The fourth Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC) 2022 highlighted the importance of **multilateral cooperation, inclusivity** and **locally-informed action** to weather the risks resulting from interacting climate and conflict pressures.

From 11 to 12 October, the climate security community of practice met in Berlin to discuss the most urgent and cutting-edge issues in climate and security today, to launch the Climate for Peace Initiative (#Climate4Peace) and elaborate a substantive agenda for implementation of peace positive climate action at local, national and global levels.

The Climate for Peace Initiative builds on the Climate, Environment, Peace and Security Declaration and has been endorsed by over 20 governments.

To enable **broad and global participation**, as well as additional in-depth exploration of critical issues, the follow-up digital segment (17 - 20 October) included partner-run deep-dive webinars and workshops. The full programme is available [here](#).

The in-person conference

Highlights

-  More than 300 in person participants
-  1,305 participants joined via the livestream
-  17 Ministers and State Secretaries as speakers
-  89 speakers from around the world
-  62% women speakers
-  13 partner organizations
-  24 sessions

With 24 sessions over two days, the conference brought together a diverse range of high-level policymakers, experts and civil society members in Berlin.

The BCSC 2022 programme aimed to focus on new and emerging issues and debates, with the three linked goals of:

- Establishing informed responses to climate, peace and security as a top priority on international agendas including COP 27
- Advancing climate and conflict sensitive policies and operations on the ground
- Connecting people, knowledge and ideas across sectors, regions and disciplines to inform mutual and multilateral approaches

Leading thinkers from across the globe outlined **core issues at the heart of climate security today**, ranging from how to tackle rising geopolitical tensions linked to climate justice and feminist foreign policy as part of the response to climate security risks; to strengthening climate related disaster risk reduction and enhancing early warning and inclusion of climatic factors in conflict prevention, managing and adequately responding to climate-induced displacement, as well as the need for increased climate risk financing for both adaptation and loss and damage in fragile and conflict-prone areas.

Capitalising on the value of convening **world class climate and security expertise** in person, BCSC 2022 also offered scope to organize high-level strategic side-meetings, such as a Climate Security Expert Network, an informal convening of the G7 Working Group on Climate Security and the Weathering Risk Donors and Partners.

The conference connected important initiatives in the climate security space, such as the Climate for Peace Initiative and the Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace, encouraging cross-sector deliberation across and between governmental and civil society stakeholders from around the world. For a more detailed outline on these efforts, please see the Chair's Conference Summary.



Click here to watch
the live streamed
sessions

The Climate for Peace Initiative



“ *Solidarity is our guiding principle,
not as charity, but as justice*

Annalena Baerbock
German Foreign Minister

”

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The highlight of the conference was the launch of the [Climate for Peace Initiative](#) (#Climate4Peace) during the [opening ceremony](#). In an interactive fishbowl discussion, participating countries committed to enhance projects in line with the principles laid out in on the [Climate, Environment, Peace and Security Declaration](#) that has been endorsed by over 20 governments.

At heart, #Climate4Peace strives to cooperate on tangible initiatives in the areas most vulnerable to climate change and conflict, and to advance global dialogue, norms and implementation of policy dimensions that are relevant for the nexus between climate, environment, peace and security.

Representatives of the countries supporting the initiative include:

- **H.E. Annalena Baerbock**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany
- **H.E. Suzi Carla Barbosa**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau
- **H.E. François Bausch**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Luxembourg
- **H.E. Patricia Danzi**, State Secretary and Director-General, Agency for Development and Cooperation of Switzerland
- **H.E. Michel-Stéphane Bonda**, Deputy Minister of Environment of Gabon
- **H.E. Khadiija Maxamed Al Makhzoumin**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Somalia
- **H.E. Hassoumi Massoudou**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Niger
- **H.E. Aibek Moldogaziev**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan
- **H.E. Jennifer Morgan**, State Secretary & Special Envoy for International Climate Action, Federal Foreign Office, Germany
- **H.E. Jan Lipavský**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic
- **H.E. Eamon Ryan**, Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport of Ireland
- **H.E. Erling Rimestad, State Secretary**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway
- **H.E. Johanna Sumuvuori**, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland

“

We are not doing enough. We need to step up in every aspect - climate adaptation, mitigation but also encourage development banks to drive climate finance

H.E. Eamon Ryan
*Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications and
Minister for Transport of Ireland*

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The digital conference

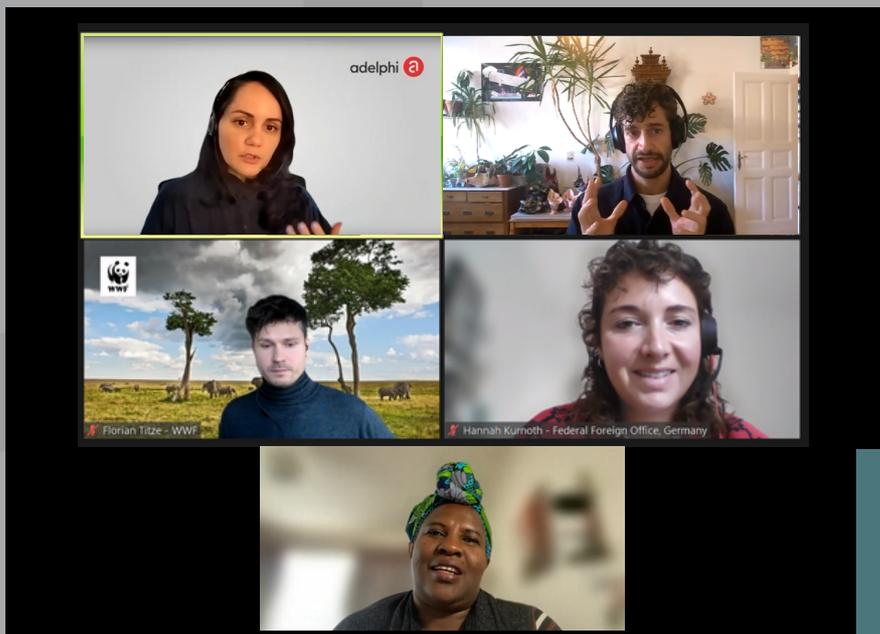
The follow-up digital segment (17-20 October) comprised of **12 partner-run webinars and workshops** and brought together over **580 members**, including 51 speakers, of the broader climate security community of practice from around the world including: Colombia, Brazil, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Iraq, Palestine -and more, to discuss how to turn ideas and policy into action and positive outcomes for people, peace and the planet.

Topics included: food insecurity, access to justice, the role of civil society actors, data analytics and better decision making and water, peace and security. The full digital programme can be viewed [here](#). The recordings from all open sessions are available [here](#).

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Inequality is a key cause and effect of climate change. This is not distributed equally among population groups. We find climate change and insecurity risks widening existing inequalities. A vicious cycle of increasing climate insecurity and conflict is seen

Chitra Nagarajan
Weathering Risk Research Lead Mali, adelphi ”



 Click here to watch the digital sessions

Key takeaways

“

My plea as a Southern African, as an African is to draw on what we have discussed in this session and to actually do something about it”

Ottilia Anna Maunganidze
Head of Special Projects - Office of the Executive Director
Institute for Security Studies

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“The climate crisis is the biggest security challenge the international community faces in the 21st century. It affects the vulnerable the most, especially women and children”, asserted H.E. Annalena Baerbock, German Minister of Foreign Affairs, in her opening statement at BCSC 2022. These words set up the discourse over the ensuing days, underpinning the need for actionable, locally-informed solutions, gender equality and access to climate finance for the most fragile contexts, against the context of global food and energy insecurity aggravated by Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine.

While BCSC brought together a highly diverse group, consensus on what is needed to address interconnected global crises urgently, coherently and within limited resources was clear on six fronts:

1. Disproportionate impacts require a shifting of resources and knowledge exchange

- The impacts of climate change and conflict, independently and as one nexus, are distributed unevenly across the planet. The power and resources to mitigate the effects of climate change are concentrated in the hands of those most responsible for historical emissions. Climate justice is thus inseparable from climate and conflict justice. As such, support to ensure climate action which contributes to peace, and conflict prevention and peacebuilding which supports climate action are an important contribution to advancing climate justice.
- Collaborative efforts are necessary but must be centred around the communities and civilians at the front-lines of these crises. Centring civilians means supporting diverse, healthy, sustainable and secure communities.
- Ensuring equitable resilience-building requires connecting the dots between real-time lived experiences of climate change, monetary resources, knowledge pools and technical skill sets.

“

We're reaching a tipping point that just analysis is not enough, that we need action on climate adaptation

Michael Keating
Executive Director
of the European Institute of Peace

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2. Joint approaches across sectors, nations and communities are integral

- In order for climate policies to be better mainstreamed into peacebuilding and for conflict resolution frameworks, more alliances are needed across sectors and different levels of governance, such as between the EU, AU, and UN.
- But to date, capacities, structures and resourcing to enable such alliances are still lacking. The EU Group of Friends for an ambitious EU climate diplomacy, which was discussed at the BCSC and since been launched is a positive step in the right direction of advancing better coordination at a structural level.
- Multilateral responses are crucial but concrete actions and must be collaborative and resonate on the ground in affected regions. Examples of what is working were universally context-specific and worked across different governance, political, economic and social systems.
- There is currently a gap between multilateral, macro financing initiatives and localised implementation. There is a need for something in the middle – new sub-national disbursement mechanisms, such as through municipalities or local religious networks.

“

We have to think in multilateral terms, we have to think beyond the nation state and beyond just state-based approaches, engage in partnerships with stakeholders and push for conflict-sensitive, context-specific climate interventions.

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Benedetta Berti
Head of Policy Planning,
Office of the Secretary General, NATO

3. Inclusivity, equity, and diversity is crucial

- Climate change and conflict, together and separately, impact already vulnerable communities, disproportionately affecting marginalised groups. As such, inclusivity, equity, fairness and an intersectional consideration of vulnerability must form the basis of any climate security analysis, strategy and programming, or it risks exacerbating existing inequities and reinforcing conflict vulnerabilities.
- Youth must be granted an elevated place in climate security strategies to promote intergenerational justice.
- As Germany and other nations advocate for a Feminist Foreign Policy, the meaningful inclusion and participation of women and girls must be at all stages from prioritizing action around local women's analysis of root causes of violence to decision-making and governance.

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I don't think figuring out what to resuscitate in terms of environmental degradation is the issue, climate financing is the issue

Ashraf Usman
Conflict and Political Economy Specialist
UNDP, Nigeria

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4. Better financing and access to funds is key

- The need for better climate financing was by far the most frequently raised challenge throughout the BCSC. Whilst more financing is of course important, most contributions were actually underscoring the 'how' not the 'how much' of climate financing: calling for conflict-sensitive, climate-risk informed, more predictable, easier to access and less onerous to report on funds to enable the money to reach those most affected - not simply national governments of fragile contexts.
- That said, there is an unquestionable need for increased funding and investments for both adaptation and loss-and damage in fragile and conflict-prone areas, as well as early warning systems that consider the interactions of climatic, political and conflict dynamics.
- Better coordination between climate, peacebuilding, and development funding is necessary for tackling overlapping crises and matching funding mechanisms and cycles to project realities on the ground that work with communities and not for them.

5. More locally-informed research and data transparency is needed

- Forecasting measurements, early-warning systems, and climate-security models are integral for understanding climate impacts, anticipating conflicts and effectively designing strategic interventions.
- The last few years have given rise to a wealth of new research and data on climate security. Centralising and sharing data and research methods is vital to mobilising collective action and collaboration.
- Marrying quantitative data and qualitative realities on the ground is vital. Field research and engagement with local stakeholders is crucial to anchor the results of analysis to experiences in affected regions.
- Better analysis is only as useful as the ability and will to use it to shape preventative action. There are some examples of early investments, for example in anticipatory action to build resilience to prevent climate shocks from potentially cascading into violent conflict. However, these examples are dwarfed

6. A common language for climate action and the security community must be developed

- The hard/soft distinction in security was interrogated at this year's BCSC. With climate-driven conflicts causing more deaths than traditional 'hard security' dynamics like terrorism in some regions, this line is becoming increasingly blurred. There was however an emerging consensus that in most fragile contexts, the cascading implications of climate change on peace first and foremost affect human security.
- Human security may sound rather soft to actors from the security and stabilisation sphere, but at scale it is systemically important, making for the obvious starting point for our common understanding. This recognition was echoed amongst military stakeholders in the BCSC's closing session.
- The position of the military in climate security was also under the spotlight. Are traditional military-centred security models compatible with burgeoning priorities like climate security and feminist diplomacy? Can the military be repurposed to face humanity's ultimate threat? Answers varied widely across the conference, with no unified response evident. More discussion is needed about the role of the military in the new world, and its potential to aggravate climate insecurity in its efforts to stabilise the international order.

Conclusions: Committing to climate and conflict sensitivity for COP and beyond

There was a clear consensus that going into COP27, there should be a self-commitment amongst all parties on climate and conflict sensitivity. Donor states and financing mechanisms could for example commit to systematically assessing whether all projects, programmes and strategies are climate-sensitive in the sense of contributing as little as possible to climate change while being sustainable in the increasingly uncertain world we are in. There was also a clear call for ensuring that humanitarian and stabilization programming take the current and incoming impacts of climate change into account and build peace and resilience in a climate-changed world.

At the same time, across all sessions, participants agreed the need to ensure that the climate policies to be agreed at COP27 are conflict-sensitive. Fundamentally, this means avoiding that marginalized groups are asked to bear the biggest burden of adapting. It implies foregoing “conflict-blind solutions” such as supporting the generation of renewable technologies without at the same time safeguarding the land, water and livelihood rights of communities where the critical minerals required for green technology components are being extracted. Sustainable conflict sensitive financing is critical. A core commitment of COP26 was the promise by the EU to invest almost 180 billion Euros into climate action by 2030. Other parties have made their own ambitious pledges. But these commitments need to be matched by funding structures which ensure that an adequate share of this finance goes to ‘risky’ fragile contexts, that disbursement mechanisms have inbuilt checks and balances to ensure funded climate activities do no harm to peace and security, and are coherent with other policies such as trade and defence to avoid unintended backdraft effects.

Next steps:

The wrap-up of BCSC 2022 by no means signifies the end of the conversation for another year. Over the coming year we will be actively monitoring the implementation of the principles of the Climate, Environment, Peace and Security declaration and assess substantive action around Climate for Peace Initiative. There will be side-events at various international fora, starting with COP27 on 15th November 1315 – 1445 (GMT+2). Stay tuned for more information: <https://berlin-climate-security-conference.de/en>

Thank you to all of our partner organisations and participants who kept the conversation going. For more insights you can browse the hashtag **#BCSC2022** on Twitter and view more articles and news coverage [here](#) and takeaways [here](#).

Our partners:



Day 1

Conference Welcome

Climate – Conflict – Clash of Crises: Weathering the Risks

Climate for Peace: Launch of the Climate, Environment, Peace and Security Declaration and Initiative

Weathering Risks within our Planetary Boundaries

Spotlight on Climate for Peace: The way to COP and beyond

Spotlight on USA: A conversation on USG action for Climate Security

The Weathering Risk Peace Pillar: How can climate-security inform peace programming?

A Conflict of Interest? Minerals and the Renewable Energy Transition

Addressing Gendered Obstacles to Climate Security

Regional Resilience: Examples of Climate-Security Cooperation from South-Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia

Trading tools: The opportunities of quantifying and predicting climate security risks

Driving Risk or Resilience: Human Mobility and Climate Change

Towards a Green Central Asia: Preventive and stabilizing climate foreign policy

Day 2

Weathering Risk: From Risk to Resilience

Climate Security Scenarios in the Balkans

The Nature of Conflict and Peace: The links between environment, security and peace

The Basra Forum: Dialogue and Collaboration on Climate, Environment and Peace in Iraq

Green(ing) EU Crisis Management

Food Systems and Climate Security in East Africa

Protecting the vulnerable while improving human security: The Global Shield against Climate Risks and other approaches

Tanks, Troops and Temperature Rise: Implementing NATO's Climate Security Strategy

Resolving Conflict & Clashing Crises: Where hard and soft security challenges converge

Day 1

The nature of conflict and peace: The links between environment, security and peace and their importance for the United Nations.

Climate security in the current and future global conflict landscape.

Day 2

Building peace and protecting the environment: Supporting the role of civil society actors in the Middle East.

UNSSC Coffee hour: Climate change and human mobility, conflict sensitivity and food insecurity in the Karamoja Cluster.

Justice at the heart of conflict prevention: Exploring rule of law responses to climate insecurity risks.

The triple opportunity: Leveraging the security sector for people, planet and peace.

Blue Security: The Geostrategy of Water.

Day 3

Climate change and human security: Building integrated early warning systems to increase resilience in the Sahel.

Data analytics and better decision making: New public climate and security dashboard of the German Federal Foreign Office.

Day 4

Turning Africa's climate-security risks into opportunities.

Ways forward to weather compounding and cascading climate-security risks.

How can climate risk management be strengthened in conflict zones?