

INTEGRATING CLIMATE-RELATED SECURITY RISKS: ENHANCING THE MOMENTUM IN THE UNITED NATIONS

INSTITUTIONAL LEAD

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MODERATOR

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THEMATIC FOCUS

In recent years, the discussion of the United Nations' role and the UN Security Council's ability in addressing and responding to climate-related security risks has intensified. Member states have specifically called for adequate risk assessment and risk-management strategies, which is reflected in several UN Security Council resolutions.

The high-level panel takes forward the work that has been made on climate risk assessment and the institutional responses, the 'Climate Security Mechanism' and climate-related security risks, against the backdrop of a broader UN-reform agenda, the sustaining peace approach and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Integrating climate risks in the UN's work on peace, security, development and stability is an absolute necessity, both as a basis for real conflict prevention but also to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The panel discussed key steps to ensure increased momentum in 2019 and beyond, such as through the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in July 2019, the upcoming Climate Summit in September, and dynamics in the UN General Assembly.

SUMMARY

The panel agreed on the complexity of connecting climate-related security risks to different aspects of their work. Although there has been an increased space for climate-related issues in the UN, with the Paris Agreement and the integration of climate within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it remains a challenging issue to raise in some forums. The term climate change and climate-related security risks were discussed from several perspectives, specifically that the latter term should be understood in a broad manner. However, there was no general agreement on whether this would increase or decrease the possibilities to raise the issue in international forums.

Some speakers argued for climate-related security risks to be a growing part of the agenda of the UN Security Council and to further strengthen the UN Climate Security Mechanism to enhance the momentum in the UN and adequately engage the international community. Other speakers emphasized the need to engage the local community with a bottom-up approach, and the importance of including women and youth.

Several panellists described the perspective of climate risks and security risks as being mutually linked. As a consequence, climate interventions should strive to be conflict sensitive and conflict-related interventions should strive to be climate sensitive. Climate awareness was highlighted as a key component in security discussions. The need to confront climate effects that were causing people to lose their livelihoods was also underlined, and the risk of neglecting the demographic factor was raised. The plans on nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement were highlighted as an important tool for discussions with national governments, as well as using the 2030 Agenda as a risk-awareness framework.

Whether environmental risks, environmental peacebuilding, crisis mitigation, climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction or climate change is discussed, the panel agreed on the importance of

the international community working together to address climate-related security risks and support the momentum in 2019.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Several speakers highlighted the importance of increased understanding of climate-related security risks. Awareness of the climate-related security risks is on the rise; however, there is a need for a more systematic approach to manage the issue and to build further awareness of climate-related security risks. This is of key importance to create knowledge of the challenges, to support national plans and to work towards the SDGs.

Climate-related security risk assessments should be integrated in existing analyses, tools and institutions to enhance the possibilities of the issue being properly addressed. The UN, regional organizations, national governments, development actors and non-governmental organizations all have an important role to play in this.

The international community should work to ensure that knowledge and resources trickle down to community level. Grassroot involvement is necessary to build sustainable change and proactive management, instead of reactive management.



 **Karolina Eklöv**
@KarolinaEklöv

Full house at the #SthlmForum when discussing climate-related security risks and the institutional integration needed for meeting them. Voices from Ethiopia, Stockholm, from the Sri Lankan Youth Delegate to the UN, the DSRSG to the Sahel and from UNDP. #ClimateSecurity

♥ 29 3:00 PM - May 14, 2019

[See Karolina Eklöv's other Tweets](#)

Screen capture taken by screenshot.guru on Mon, 20 May 2019 11:36:40 GMT.
Permalink: twitter.com/KarolinaEklouv/status/1128314036473360385



 **UNDP Sweden**
@UNDP_Sweden

"Supporting #NDCs is an excellent contribution to mitigate climate-related security risks" @UlrikaModeer @SIPRIorg @SweMFA #SthlmForum

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