



ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION ON PEACE, SECURITY AND DEFENCE

'National security' and 'natural security' are inextricably linked. Extreme weather events, rising temperatures and sea levels, desertification, water scarcity and biodiversity loss are making large areas uninhabitable, forcing people to leave their homes, and threatening their security and health. This in turn can have severe impacts on peace and security globally. Such a complex challenge calls for comprehensive solutions. The EU has developed [a policy framework, providing a new outlook and a set of concrete actions](#) to adapt and strengthen Europe's external policies and contribute to efficient and effective European armed forces that can operate in changing and challenging environments.



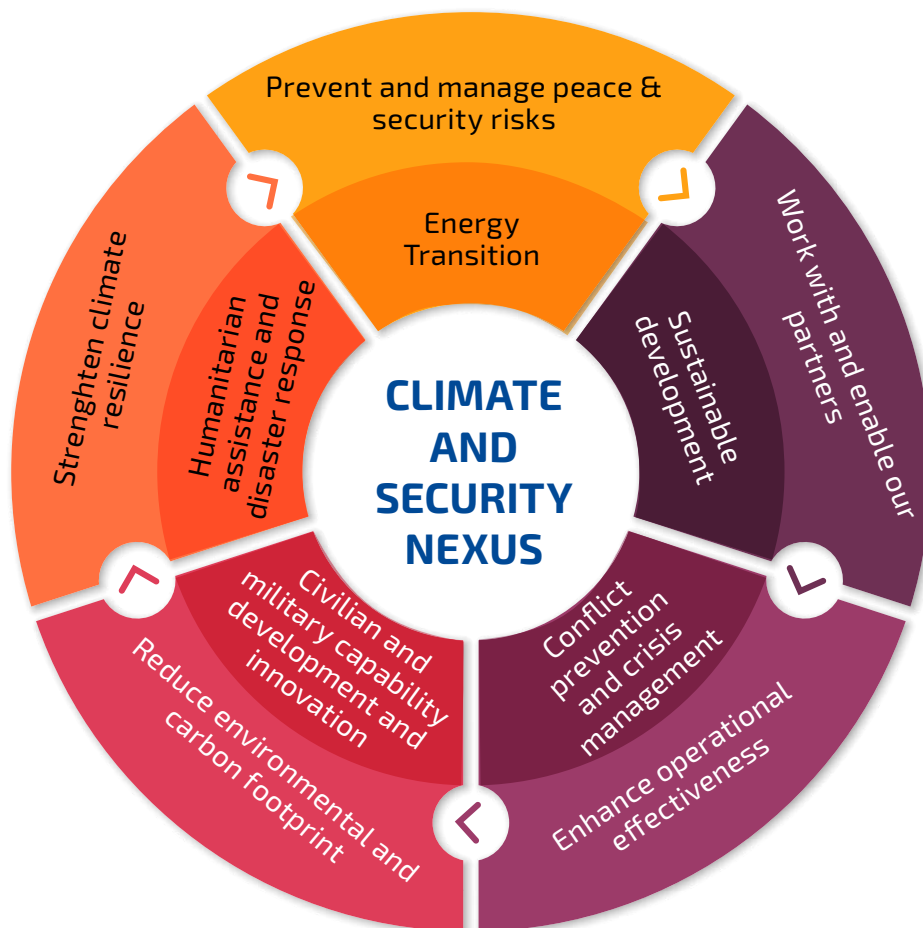
According to the UN, **12 of the 20 countries** most vulnerable to climate change and least prepared for it were in **conflict in 2020**.



By 2050, over **1 billion people** will have **insufficient access to water**, **soil degradation** could rise to 90%, and **demand for food** could increase by 60% (estimate).



Environmental risks dominate the **top 5 long-term global risks** according to the World Economic Forum Global Risks Report of 2023.



The implications of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security and defence have become more severe and complex due to:



the **accelerating impact of climate change and environmental degradation on peace and security** and the potential loss of livelihoods, increased health risks, instability migratory movements and displacement;



growing global competition for resources, technologies and influence, especially in the context of increasing demand for critical raw materials linked to the green energy transition;



the need to **adapt to more challenging environments and reduce fossil fuel dependency of armed forces** without compromising their operational effectiveness and the resilience of defence-related critical infrastructure.

This **new Joint Communication by the European Commission and the High Representative** establishes an enhanced policy framework with **around 30 concrete measures** to:



strengthen climate and environment informed planning, decision-making and implementation, by improving evidence-based analysis and foresight;



address the climate and security nexus across EU external action from policy to implementation;



enhance climate adaptation and mitigation measures in the development of Member States' civilian and military capabilities and infrastructure;



reinforce international partnerships and the EU's work in multilateral fora, within the EU's wider multilateral climate change and environment agenda

CONCRETE MEASURES



CLIMATE-INFORMED PLANNING, DECISION-MAKING & IMPLEMENTATION

- **New Climate and Environment Security Data and Analysis Hub** at the EU Satellite Centre to provide an easily accessible repository
- **Annual Climate and Security Trend Analyses** to inform political-level discussions and decision-making
- **Global Conflict Risk Index** to further examine effects of climate change and environmental degradation on peace and security
- **Short-term and sub-national conflict risk models** to improve the EU's early warning and anticipation capacity



OPERATIONALISATION OF THE NEXUS IN EU EXTERNAL ACTION

- **CSDP-Climate Package** to enable the missions and operations to deliver on climate-related objectives, including:
 - Deploying environmental advisors to CSDP Mission/ Operations by 2025
 - Integrating lessons learnt and relevant analytical tools in the decision-making process regarding mandates
 - Reporting mechanism on missions' environmental footprint



SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT SECURITY AND DEFENCE CAPABILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

- An **EU Climate, Security and Defence Training Platform** at the European Security and Defence College
- A **Climate and Defence Support Mechanism** to work with Member States to promote climate adaptation and mitigation action in the armed forces
- Foster cooperation among Member States through the **Climate and Defence Network** of national experts from Ministries of Defence



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- **Stronger partnerships** at multilateral, regional levels on climate and environmental issues
- **New Structured Dialogue** between EU and NATO to address the many linkages related to climate change, environmental degradation, security and defence
- **Support** international efforts to comprehensively assess the risks and uncertainties of geo-engineering of the climate, and promote an international governance framework

