

PeaceLab Workshop on Climate Change, Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding: Policy Recommendations

During a PeaceLab workshop on “Climate Change, Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding” on June 1, 2021, participants developed the following policy recommendations on topics linked to the climate change and conflict nexus:

Environmental peacebuilding and crisis prevention

Expert input: Janet Edmond, Conservation International, Senior Director for Peace and Development Partnerships in the Center for Communities and Conservation)

- Different (German) ministries should increase interministerial cooperation through regular consultations in order to achieve greater coherence of environmental peacebuilding approaches.
- All environmental peacebuilding actors should increase cooperation among each other and exchange experiences in order to create a more robust framework of knowledge production and transfer.
 - To produce more comprehensive knowledge, storytelling approaches should be utilized.
- EU and UN missions should pay more attention and provide resources to counter environmental crimes in order to increase awareness internationally and create adequate solutions.

Early warning systems and early action – How to include climate data?

Expert input: Barbora Sedova, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), (Co-)leader of the FutureLab, Project Leader of the “Weathering Risk” initiative

- Climate scientists, conflict analysts, and practitioners should collaborate in order to enhance knowledge production and improve early warning systems. They should exchange on what climate data information is needed, what is available, and how it can be evaluated and interpreted, e.g., via establishing dedicated research centers, institutes, or exchange programs for researchers from different disciplines working on climate security.
- Climate scientists and conflict analysts need to clearly distinguish different conflict types and actors and provide more clarity on causal mechanisms behind the nexus of climate and conflicts in order to suggest more tailored policy responses and interventions.
- Analysts should sharpen the focus on different climatic impacts and perform regional, national, and sub-national analyses. This would enable identifying different vulnerability profiles, contextual effects and mechanisms.

Central Asia/Afghanistan

Expert input: Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Giessmann, Berghof Foundation, Director Emeritus Afghanistan and Central/South Asia Unit

- As climate change threatens all Afghans equally, it could foster common understanding and build trust among conflict parties in the peace talks. The German government should actively support Afghanistan’s peace negotiations and encourage the parties to collaborate on climate change impacts to foster peace.
- The German Government should offer to contribute technical expertise and equipment to closely observe short- and long-term trends of climate change, and to collect and process data. Moreover, Germany should build on local and traditional knowledge on adaptation strategies in their own programs to develop effective early warning systems.
- Building on the Triple Nexus approach, development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding actors should provide technical, financial, and logistical support to construct transport, water and energy infrastructure. They should partner with local initiatives (e.g. [Green Central Asia](#)) in order to strengthen existing synergies.
- The German government and the German population should reduce their own greenhouse emissions and strengthen international reduction efforts in order to create multilateral support for projects addressing risks posed by climate change.

Nexus of climate change, humanitarian crises and displacement

Expert input: Andrew Harper, UNHCR, Special Advisor to the High Commissioner on Climate Action

- Climate researchers and other scientists should provide analysis in policy relevant time frames in order to make their findings more actionable.
- Donors should fund targeted research to investigate non-traditional drivers of displacement (including multi-causality of displacement) in order to mitigate the future impacts of climate change.
- Donor countries should invest in better coordinated data collection and make data publicly available for the knowledge and stakeholder communities, including researchers, humanitarian and development practitioners, in order to push the shift from reactive to more proactive, anticipatory and evidence-based action.
- All stakeholders should develop a collaborative, cross-sector and cross-border approach towards the conflict-climate nexus with clear roles and responsibilities in order to ensure an integrated and targeted response to the challenges ahead. Climate security analysis must include local knowledge and expertise of affected and at-risk persons, and build on regional instruments and structures.