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COVER NOTE

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JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Progress Report on the implementation of the Joint Communication - "A New Outlook on the Climate and Security Nexus"

Progress report on the implementation of the Joint Communication - "A New Outlook on the Climate and Security Nexus"

Introduction: first achievements

The Joint Communication of June 2023 on the climate and security nexus[1] ensures that climate change and environmental degradation are recognised as threat multipliers and properly taken into account in the EU's external action, in particular with regard to peace, security and defence policies. The Joint Communication has established the shorthand *climate and security* as a component of the EU's green diplomacy and security and defence agendas.[2] In doing so, it consolidated the EU's approach, contributing to a - *new prism* - on climate and security in policymaking. To date, progress has been achieved across all four pillars and twenty-eight actions of the Joint Communication. The achievements below illustrate some of the progress made:

- The **EU Early Warning and Conflict Analysis Toolbox** now includes tools for conflict risk analysis with a sharper focus on climate and the environment, supporting policymaking and programming.

- The **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Climate Security Package** is implemented into civilian CSDP missions- through an overhaul of relevant policies and guidelines, deploying advisers, creating a network of advisers and focal points, and making pilot assessments of the EU civilian and military missions and operations environmental footprint.

- The establishment of the **Climate Change, Environment, Security and Defence (CCESD) training platform** under the auspices of the European College of Security and Defence (ESDC) brings together climate and security training resources from across the EU and its Member States.

- The **Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector** has completed the analysis of the impact and opportunities of the EU Fit-for-55 energy transition policy and legislative framework for the defence sector. The analysis focuses on increasing efficiency of energy use and achieving, independence of the defence sector from external energy supply and, thus, resilience to external threats.

- The **EU-UNEP Climate change, Environment and Security Partnership** continues to provide a solid evidence base for EU policy development and pilot approaches for field interventions. It does so by developing new tools and capacities for environment and climate-security analysis and preventive action to address conflict and fragility risks.

[1] JOIN(2023) 19 final of 28 June 2023.
[2] Council Conclusions on Green Diplomacy, 18 March 2024, and Council Conclusions on Security and Defence, 27 May 2024. The Council Conclusions placed the climate and security nexus firmly within EU's broader efforts on green diplomacy and security and defence.

- The Commission continues to support the **UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit,** that ensures an integrated approach in responding to environmental emergencies.

- The implementation of the Joint Communication across the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Commission services, in dialogue and cooperation with multilateral partners, most notably the **UN and NATO**, has helped create an informal c**ommunity of practice** within and across institutions, providing learning and further consolidating the agenda. This community is growing.

- The EU will continue to integrate the climate and security nexus into an increasing number of its bilateral, regional and multilateral climate and environmental **dialogues and partnerships with non-EU countries**. This has enabled the EU to foster strategic synergies and facilitate practical exchanges and knowledge-sharing with its partners.

This report provides an overview of the progress made across the four pillars of the Joint Communication and the steps undertaken to implement each of its twenty-eight actions. The specific work undertaken by EU Delegations and CSDP missions and operations is, however, beyond the report's scope.

Progress on implementation of the twenty-eight actions of the Joint Communication:

Pillar 1: Evidence-based analysis and foresight as an enabler for action: supporting climate and environment informed planning, decision-making and implementation

The EU's response to the security implications of climate change and environmental degradation relies **on evidence-based policy and action**. By taking tangible action under the first pillars of the Joint Communication, the EU is on course for **improving existing tools and developing new tools,** thereby to provide an evidence-base and ensure that accessible analytics are available for informed decision making of the multiplying threats and risks of climate change, including earth system tipping points, environmental degradation, and the implications of these risks for EU foreign policy.

Action 1: The EU Satellite Centre, in coordination with relevant actors and initiatives, will explore the establishment of a Climate and Environment Security Data and Analysis Hub.

The **Climate and Security Data and Analysis Hub** is a flagship initiative of the Joint Communication to be set-up under the auspices of the EU Satellite Centre (SATCEN). The hub will build on the Centre's extensive experience in providing EU institutions and Member States with analysis based on satellite data and other data. It aims to become a sustainable and reliable source for verified climate and security data and analysis. In 2023, the EU Satellite Centre developed a work plan for establishing a concept for the hub, which is expected to become operational by 2027. During the first quarter of 2025, a set of case studies will be produced to illustrate the potential of the hub. These case studies will focus on water, migration and climate and environmental impacts on CSDP missions and operations. Through SATCEN's involvement in the implementation of Copernicus, the EU Satellite Centre can draw on a wide range of Earth Observation competence in the environmental and climate change domain, as well as in civil protection and security.

Action 2: The EEAS and Commission services will produce a climate and security trend analysis to support policymaking.

To make further use of data and analysis that can feed into EU policy, the Joint Communication committed the EU to conduct a **climate security trend analysis**. A pilot trend analysis has been developed by a think-tank[3] in close coordination with the EEAS and Commission services (DG CLIMA, the Joint Research Centre and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments in particular). It is published in parallel to this report. The trend analysis provides a comprehensive examination of the interlinkages between climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security and defence, with the goal of facilitating the inclusion of the climate and security nexus into decision-making at political and strategic levels within the EEAS, the Council of the European Union, and the European Commission. The trend analysis is designed to look at prevailing and emerging trends linking climate, peace, security and defence as well as the evidence-based opportunities to build resilience against risks.[4]

[3] Independent think tank focusing on climate and environment, see at https://adelphi.de/en.

[4] The Trend Analysis draws on observations and datasets developed and/or hosted by JRC and external providers, including JRC Inform Risk, a global open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crisis and disasters; INFORM Severity, an improved way to objectively measure and compare the severity of humanitarian crises and disasters globally; INFORM Climate Change Risk Index, an upgrade of INFORM Risk Index including climate and socio-

Action 3: The Commission in consultation with the EEAS will further develop the evidence-based climate and environment-related indicators in the Global Conflict Risk Index (GCRI).

Commission services, in consultation with the EEAS, have incorporated **climate- and environment-related indicators** into the GCRI, which is used to select priorities in the field of conflict prevention. The GCRI is accessible to EU institutions and Member States through the newly redesigned EU Science4Peace portal.[5] The chosen indicators focus on drought exposure and temperature changes. The JRC continues to investigate the added value of additional and/or alternative indicators.[6]

Action 4: The Commission services in consultation with the EEAS will develop a short-term and sub-national conflict risk model to improve EU's early warning and anticipatory capacity.

The JRC, in cooperation with the EEAS and FPI, developed a **dynamic conflict risk model** (DCRM). Since December 2023, the DCRM has global coverage with automated monthly updates published through the Science4Peace portal.[7] The DCRM complements the GCRI's yearly country-level risk assessments by covering a larger scope of conflict risks at sub-national level. To increase visibility and use of the DCRM, the JRC offers regular online training on conflict analysis tools for the EU. A Science for Peace policy brief is planned for the first quarter of 2025 and a dedicated workshop will take place in Brussels in March 2025 on "The Future of Conflict Early Warning: New Technologies and Policy Impact".

Pillar 2: Operationalising the climate and security nexus in EU external action

The Joint Communication sets out a shift in perspective - a change of prism - aiming at integrating climate and environmental concerns into EU external action from the policy formulation stage to decision-making and implementation.[8] This approach can be scaled up by achieving the 30% spending target of NDICI Global Europe for climate action, in the EU budget 2021-2027.

Action 5: Relevant Commission services and the EEAS will strengthen climate and security nexus analysis and action, especially in geographical areas vulnerable to these impacts.

Several steps have been taken to operationalise the climate and security nexus in geographical areas vulnerable to these impacts, such as in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and Small Island

economic projections; Global Conflict Risk Index (GCRI), a statistical risk index focused on violent conflict in a given country in the coming 1-4 years and is exclusively based on quantitative indicators from open sources, etc. For further information, see https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk, https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Severity, https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Climate-Change, https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/initiatives-services/global-conflict-risk-index#documents/1435/list.
The trend analysis will also be informed by external sources, such as the Climate—Conflict—Vulnerability Index (CCVI) that maps current global risks by integrating climate and the Environmental Early Action and Risk Tracking Hub (EEARTH), a tool where climate analysis meets conflict expertise. See at, https://climate-conflict.org/www, https://eearth.io/.

[5] https://science4peace.jrc.ec.europa.eu

[6] https://data.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dataset/e83b19ce-08c2-4e0c-b93a-5fd62be21e5e

[7] https://science4peace.jrc.ec.europa.eu/

[8] https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5413-2018-INIT/en/pdf

Developing States. The EEAS and DG INTPA have sharpened the existing focus on climate and environmental aspects in **conflict analysis screenings**. A pilot screening using the new approach was carried out on Somalia, and the approach was further developed in the conflict analysis screenings mostly in countries from the East African region. DG INTPA provides conflict sensitivity support and has developed **resilience assessment tools** that include a focus on climate-related issues linked to the NDICI Rapid Response Pillar. Rio markers are used to track development finance flows related to biodiversity, desertification and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Furthermore, DG INTPA reviews all programmes for their effective integration of environmental, climate and disaster risk reduction considerations.[9] Staff in EU Delegation and at headquarters are using the **Greening Toolbox**[10] to help greening of international programmes (annex providing *Quick Tips*).[11]

Action 6: The EEAS in consultation with relevant Commission services, will ensure that future EU stabilisation exercises incorporate climate and environmental considerations.

The approach developed by the EEAS to implement the **2022 EU stabilisation concept**[12] is designed to ensure that stabilisation assessments and programmes factor in climate security issues. This has already been the case in regions such as the Horn of Africa and the Lake Chad Basin. In this vein, for example, the EU has partnered with the International Organisation on Migration, which deployed its Transhumance Tracking Tool to support community stabilisation by mitigating conflict over natural resources in Coastal West Africa, Nigeria and Somalia.

Action 7: The EEAS will train and equip the EU Pool of Mediators and other EU mediation actors to engage on peace and security impacts of climate change and environmental challenges.

The EU Peace Mediation Guidelines (2023) recognise climate change as an immediate threat multiplier, amplifying existing risks to international peace and security. As a result of climate change and environmental degradation, the number of conflicts involving natural resource disputes can be expected to rise. Arable land, pasture, minerals, water, forestry are examples of these types of resources. However, natural resources can also offer opportunities for mediation and become entry points to initiate cooperation and resolve conflict. In that vein, the

[9] On oceans, EU's regional ocean programmes in sub-Saharan Africa (amounting to EUR 170 million) include a substantial component related to restoration/conservation efforts (i.e. support to coastal areas, marine protected areas, etc.). The new project with Mercator Ocean (€7 million) will address ocean forecasting and impacts from climate change. In addition, the Global Ocean Programme (EUR 40 million), also provides support to Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction marine biodiversity (including High Sea marine protected areas).
Under the regional programming for sub-Saharan Africa, several programmes incorporate a climate, peace and security nexus approach. Notably, the Peaceful and Resilient Borderlands programmes (I-III) focus on climate resilience and social cohesion objectives across a variety of geographical clusters. In addition, the upcoming Regional Responses to Climate Displacement in Africa (RE2CLID) programme (€100 M) in Lake Tanganyika Basin and Southern Africa/ South-West Indian Ocean will focus on the promotion and improvement of disaster forecasts and management systems to better prevent, minimize and resolve displacement at the local, national, and regional levels; the uptake and promotion of practices promoting natural resources governance; and the promotion of resilience and self-reliance of environmentally fragile areas.
[10] Greening EU Cooperation Toolbox - EXACT External Wiki - EN - EC Public Wiki
[11] Quick tips to integrate environment and climate change into key sectors are accessible through the Greening EU Cooperation Toolbox; specifically, Quick Tips are integrated in section III. Guidance and support - EXACT External Wiki - EN - EC Public Wiki. See, for example, "The Integration of Climate Change Environment And Biodiversity Considerations Into Migration Programmes".
[12] WK 13776/22, 12 October 2022.

EU has supported at least **six local peace mediation** and dialogue initiatives in a range of contexts in West and Central Africa, with a particular focus on mediating agro-pastoral conflicts related to access to natural resources. In Zimbabwe, the EU has supported more than forty insider mediators, providing them with training on negotiation and dialogue. This allowed them to engage with local authorities to help farmers secure irrigation throughout the dry season. Where possible, the EU continues to include climate change and environmental resources in **mediation-related dialogues with other multilateral and regional organisations**, and with civil society partners. Ways of integrating climate and environment aspects into peace mediation efforts in practice have been explored, for example, at the EU Community of Practice on Peace Mediation (both in 2023 and in 2024) and in during dialogues with civil society on peace dividends in the green transition (2023). The EU also continues working with the UN on climate, peace and security and mediation as part of its annual dialogue on conflict prevention and mediation (both in 2023 and in 2024).

Action 8: Relevant Commission services and the EEAS, including EU Military Staff, will continue to strengthen and improve civil-military coordination in the context of EU humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.

The EU Military Staff and DG ECHO started discussions on possible further and/or additional aspects of **closer civilian-military coordination**. This is done in the context of EU humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts, with discussions building on previous steps and lessons learnt, including in terms of analysis related to climate change and environmental degradation. Technical discussions have taken place on the greening of humanitarian aid, namely on DG ECHO's minimum environmental requirements, on greening of civil protection, and CSDP missions and operations to ensure complementarity and to exchange good practices, including on greenhouse gas calculations and waste management. Work on the **greening of humanitarian aid** is carried out by providing training, running capacity building projects, and bringing in environmental experts. Civilian CSDP missions are taking steps towards greening through training and guidance on green public procurement, the installation of solar panels and the integration of environmental criteria in external projects.

Action 9: The High Representative in coordination with Member States will ensure the implementation of the CSDP Climate Package.

An environmental coordinator was deployed to the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), the operational headquarters for the civilian CSDP missions, in 2019 and advisors have been gradually included in the operational plans of the civilian missions, with a view to meeting the Strategic Compass target of deploying environmental advisers to all missions by 2025. The position of environmental adviser is currently included in six civilian missions, of which four are currently filled (EUCAP Somalia, EUAM Iraq, EUMM Georgia and EUAM Ukraine), and a double-hatted position in EUAM RCA has also been filled. In addition, all missions have environmental focal points, and environmental crimes experts are currently deployed to EULEX Kosovo and EUPOL COPPS. In 2024, the CPCC created an environmental taskforce with representatives from headquarters and civilian missions to mainstream environmental aspects into different processes and guiding documents, for example those related to mission support, human resources or civilian missions' project cells. Through the work of the advisers and focal points, and the task force, progress is being made to mainstream climate and security (both within missions and in external work strands) and in

increasing awareness of climate and environmental aspects affecting civilian crisis management. Steps are also being taken to boost climate literacy by organising dedicated training initiatives and presentations for different staff categories.

Four civilian missions have completed environmental footprint reports. Based on the lessons from these pilot reports, a checklist for improving environmental performance was shared across all missions in 2024 and a deeper analysis of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems was launched to detect leakage of harmful refrigerants. However, new approaches are needed to scale up environmental footprint reporting in all missions. The CPCC is exploring, along with the EU Military Staff, the development or purchase of software to support the reporting, monitoring and improvement of environmental performance in all missions and operations.

The Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC), responsible for the operational planning and conduct of the military CSDP missions, does not yet have a dedicated environmental adviser in its headquarters, but the position has been created and terms of references drawn up. There are environmental focal points in both the EU Military Staff and the MPCC, and in military missions and operations. To date, only one environmental adviser has been deployed to a military operation, EUFOR Althea.

To implement the CSDP Climate and Security Package, thematic expertise on climate and environment has been included in some strategic reviews of CSDP missions and operations. This work is currently being consolidated by the provision of a training course on climate and security for all CSDP political-strategic and operational planners and a climate and security checklist for planners. Two annual meetings have been organised for CSDP civilian and military environmental advisers and focal points (December 2023 and February 2025).

Action 10: The EEAS will reflect climate and environmental degradation considerations in operational scenarios as appropriate to support the operationalisation of the Rapid Deployment Capacity.

The first iterations of operational scenarios were developed as part of the Advance Planning process, which considered climate change and environmental degradation. Incorporating such considerations in advance planning supports preparedness, rapid and well-informed decision making, and identification of requirements, for the Rapid Deployment Capacity.

Action 11: Relevant Commission services and the EDA will explore the development of collaborative projects for post-conflict environmental assessment and restoration in the context of the Incubation Forum for Circular Economy in European Defence (IF-CEED).

In the context of the IF CEED conference 2024[22], the EDA organised a session with stakeholders (Member States, EU institutions, industry and research organisations) to identify the main needs and challenges for post-conflict environmental assessment and restoration. On this basis, in 2025, a dedicated working group will focus on the definition of concrete projects of different types, from technological development to capacity-building.

Pillar 3: Ensuring a sustainable and climate-resilient European security and defence.

The third pillar of the Joint Communication focuses on EU and Member States' responses to how climate change, environmental degradation and the clean energy transition is transforming the way different actors involved in peace, security and defence plan, invest and operate. The EU has scaled up its work to facilitate and support Member States to tackle the growing magnitude, complexity and urgency of the challenges, in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal, the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap and the Strategic Compass.

Action 12: The ESDC, supported by the EEAS, relevant Commission Services, EDA and the Satellite Centre, is to establish an EU Climate, Security and Defence Training Platform.

A flagship initiative under this pillar is the establishment, in December 2023, of the EU Climate Change, Security and Defence Training Platform (CCESD)[13], under the auspices of the ESDC and in close coordination with the EEAS and Member States training institutions.[14] The configuration now compromises of 30 members, including 16 training institutions[15] and 14 other entities[16], which are gradually joining the ESDC network to share best practices, discuss training needs, and to advance the EU's training offer on the climate change, environment, security and defence nexus. Thematic sub-groups have been established focused on environmental crime; environmental management; climate-peace-security-nexus; and the climate security-energy-defence nexus.

The ESDC works with multiple training institutions[17] to co-organise training on climate change and security and commenced several dialogues on partnering and collaboration with training and academic institutions, as well as civil society. Discussions centre around how training and education can support joint capacity-building on the climate, environment, security and defence nexus.

[13] On 13 December 2024, the name was changed into "Climate Change, Environment, Security, and Defence (CCESD)" Training Platform/Configuration to better reflect the holistic understanding of climate security, including also environmental considerations.

[14] In mid-August, a Seconded National Expert was deployed to the ESDC as CCESD coordinator, and Training Manager responsible for the climate change and environment security training portfolio.

[15] "Deree" American College of Athens (EL), Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP, AT), Centre for International Peace Operations (Berlin) (ZIF, DE), Department for International Police Missions of the LAFP (NRW Brühl) (DE), European University Cyprus (EUC, CY), Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK, DE), Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA, SE), Hellenic Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Centre (MPSOTC, EL), Institut de Formation d'Intelligence Interculturelle (IFDII, FR), National College of Home Affairs (CNAI, RO), NATO Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence (CMDR Coe, BG), Peace Operations Training Centre of Slovenia (POTC, SI), Security and Defence Academy of Cyprus (CY), MSB -Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (SE), The Cyprus Institute (CY), University of Piraeus (Athens) (EL)/ESDC Doctoral School (updated 27 November 2024; membership enrolment is ongoing).

[16] Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (EEAS); EU Military Staff (EEAS); Peace, Partnerships and Crisis Management Directorate (EEAS); Security and Defence Directorate (EEAS); European Defence Agency; European Union Satellite Centre; French Gendarmerie Ministry of Foreign Affairs (FR); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DE); National Defence Institute (PT); Permanent Representation of France to the EU/CivCom (FR); Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU (DE); Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU (PT); Ministry of Defence of Slovakia (SK) (updated 27 November 2024).

[17] Including the CMDR CoE BG & Diplomatic Institute to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, Sofia, BG; the French Institute for Higher National Defence Studies (IHEDN) & Adelphi, as part of the Climate Diplomacy initiative supported by the DE MFA, Brussels, BE, and Paris, FR; - Cyprus Security & Defence Academy, Cyprus Institute & Cyprus Academy of Public Administration, Larnaca, CY; The National Centre for Scientific Research Demokritos & the "Deree" American College of Greece, Athens, EL.

The CCESD's new online module on Climate Change, Environment and Security will act as the foundation for the training platform's needs-based and modular approach and serve as a first milestone in providing climate and environment-specific training as well as effectively mainstreaming the topic into other thematic domains.

Action 13: Relevant Commission services, the EEAS and the EDA, in consultation with Member States via the Climate and Defence Network, will setup a Climate and Defence Support Mechanism (CDSM).

A concept note on this work will be presented in early 2025. The JRC has begun an analysis of the national climate and defence strategies received from the Member States with the aim of identifying commonalities, potential areas in need of strengthening, and opportunities for collaboration.[18] The core objective of the CDSM will be to work with Member States to identify gaps and potential for collaboration, and to promote specific climate adaptation and mitigation action among their armed forces. Initial steps include running a preliminary analysis of national climate and defence strategies, to provide Member States with a clear idea of their strengths, weaknesses and needs.

Action 14: As part of a phased approach, the Commission and the High Representative, in consultation with EDA, will consider the establishment of a dedicated EU-led Competence Centre on Climate Change, Security and Defence (CDSM) in support of Member States.

Based on the 'needs assessment' that will be provided through the CDSM and the completion of a feasibility study, an assessment will be carried out on the parameters for establishing an EU-led Competence Centre. This Centre would support Member States in improving their energy resilience, climate adaptation and mitigation actions in their armed forces by harmonising existing and future defence energy initiatives, at national and EU levels, to streamline action and avoid duplication.

Action 15: Relevant Commission services, the EEAS and the EDA will continue to explore the challenges and potential opportunities for green public procurement for defence needs.

The EDA has finalised a research study in the context of the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS) Phase III. The study has been shared with the CF SEDSS members and key findings and recommendations have been published on the CF SEDSS website. The Consultation Forum members will further analyse the study results and prioritise the most important topics to cover in CF SEDSS Phase IV (2024-2028), launched in October 2024. The EDA has launched, in the framework of IF CEED, a first version of its knowledge platform with a dedicated section on green procurement. Further opportunities for capacity-building and projects are addressed in the IF CEED Project Circle "Green Procurement".

Action 16: The EEAS will incorporate climate change-related aspects in the 2024 EU Integrated Resolve Exercise.

In planning the exercise, climate and security was included in the planning document "Exercise Instructions" approved by the Political and Security Committee. When conducting the exercise,

[18] The study will complement, other studies such as R. Tavares Da Costa, R., Krausmann, E. and Hadjisavvas, C., Impacts of climate change on defence-related critical energy infrastructure, https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC130884.

the EU Operational Headquarters, provided by the MPCC, considered climate change-related aspects when drafting the military operational plan.

Action 17: Relevant Commission services and the EDA will conduct further studies to help manage climate and environmental risk systematically and comprehensively in EU military installations and minimise damage, loss and disruption due to climate and weather hazards.

The JRC, in collaboration with the EDA, prepared the Climate Risk Management Guidance for Chiefs of Defence Staff to help them navigate climate adaptation.[19] The report, released in March 2024, provides support for incorporating climate change considerations into military planning and budgeting, while strengthening climate resilience. The guidance also includes a checklist to assist Chiefs of Defence Staff in gauging their organisation's status in respect of climate risk management.

In this context, the EDA's Energy and Environment Capacity Technology Groups (CapTechs)[20] initiated a study structured into three phases: Phase 1: energy management and distribution, Phase 2: energy storage, and Phase 3: energy generation for EU deployable camps. Phase 1 has now concluded and Phase 2 was launched in January 2025. The primary objective is to identify innovative solutions and propose a technology roadmap that supports Member States armed forces in increasing their operational readiness and autonomy while reducing their environmental impact. Several other JRC studies are also in the pipeline. For example, in February 2025 a probabilistic risk analysis of natural hazard impact on a military asset was released. It studied the impact of earthquake and cascading tsunami impact to human health, considering direct impacts from the natural hazards to defence assets, and from domino effects.[21]

Action 18: Relevant Commission services, the EEAS and the EDA to continue to work together with Member States on the energy transition of dual-use transport infrastructure and capabilities, including fuel supply chains, in follow-up to the Action Plan on Military Mobility 2.0.

In June 2023, in the context of the CF SEDSS, the EDA and the JRC presented the results of a joint research study on the impacts of climate change on defence-related critical energy infrastructure.[22] This study addresses for the first time the climate change-energy-defence nexus and provides a set of concrete recommendations for defence decision-makers on climate change adaptation and mitigation. It supports Member States Ministries of Defence (MoDs) in strengthening climate resilience against disruptions to critical energy infrastructure. Under CF SEDSS Phase IV work is ongoing to explore how to increase the use of renewable energy sources in transportation, including, for example, by analysing the military requirements with respect to hydrogen-based solutions for heavy military logistic vehicles and infrastructure.

[19] R. Tavares da Costa, E. Krausmann, C. Hadjisavvas, Navigating climate change in defence – Climate risk management guide for Chiefs of Defence Staff, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024.
[20] https://eda.europa.eu/what-we-do/all-activities/activities-search/energy-and-environment-programme
[21] Gkoktsi, K., Probabilistic Natech risk analysis in the defence sector, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2025, JRC140738, https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC140738.
[22] R. Tavares da Costa, E. Krausmann, C. Hadjisavvas, Impacts of climate change on defence-related critical energy infrastructure, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2023.

Action 19: Relevant Commission services and the EDA will continue to analyse the impact of revised energy-related directives and a revised policy framework on military infrastructure, and also explore the project ideas and studies developed in the CF SEDSS context, e.g., on improving energy efficiency, buildings performance, and renewable potential in defence.

The EDA and the Member State MoDss participating in the CF SEDSS have finalised the analysis of the impacts and opportunities of the Fit-for-55 energy transition policy and legislative framework for the defence and security sectors. As part of its final deliverables for phase III, the Consultation Forum published a Guidance on Advancing Sustainable Energy in Defence as well as 30 project ideas and 15 research studies on improving sustainable energy in defence. These have been shared with EU Member State MoDs to help them advance the defence energy transition.[23]

Within the CF SEDESS IV, the EDA and the Member State MoDs, in cooperation with DG Energy, will support the defence and security sectors in assessing the impact and opportunities of implementing the defence-related EU energy transition legislation and policy framework. The Forum will also conceptualise concrete national policy measures and explore investment streams for defence energy-related project ideas. The aim is to improve energy efficiency, support the deployment of renewable energy sources, and ensure the protection of critical energy infrastructure and thus leverage the mutual benefits of defence-energy cooperation between the energy and security sectors.

Action 20: The EEAS and the EDA will continue to consult with Member States on the permanent establishment of the Climate and Defence Network, to monitor and support the development and implementation of national strategies and explore collaborative opportunities.

Terms of Reference for the network are being developed, in consultation with the Member States. The Network has identified specific needs for further support, such as the development of tailored training by the ESDC for Member States. Meetings continue to take place twice a year.

Action 21: Relevant Commission services, the EEAS and the EDA, together with Member States, will continue promoting consistent approaches in the various ongoing collaborative projects in the area of climate and defence in PESCO and the EDF, making best use of the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence framework to identify new possible projects.

The EDA's Energy and Environment Capacity Technology Areas (CapTechs) has committed to support EU Member States MoDs in addressing climate change-related challenges through collaborative research projects. Additionally, the updated EU Capability Development Plan (2023) identified Critical Infrastructure Protection and Energy Security as a priority area for collaborative projects at EU level.

As environmental concerns are linked to energy efficiency, the Energy and Environment CapTech is initiating projects to address the topics together.[24]

[23] The study was conducted as part of CF SEDESS Phase 3 (completed Sept 2024). The Guidance Document is publicly available here: EDEN Deliverables Phase III (europa.eu).
[24] https://eda.europa.eu/what-we-do/all-activities/activities-search/energy-and-environment-programme

In 2023 the European Defence Fund awarded support to two projects that focus on climate and sustainability in the defence sector. Firstly, the CALIPSO project will assess the feasibility of fossil fuel alternatives and create roadmaps for introducing new propulsion systems, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of European defence companies. Secondly, the ZEROWASTE project will use biotechnology to produce energy and food for military personnel while minimising waste. Both projects aim to reduce the EU's dependence on fossil fuels, implement green defence strategies and promote sustainable technologies in the defence sector.

Pillar 4: International cooperation

The Joint Communication has strengthened existing cooperation frameworks and supported the creation of new cooperation opportunities on the climate and security nexus. Several initiatives led or supported by the EU, notably on water, ocean, food security, energy transition and raw materials value chains, have a strong partnership component and are highly relevant to address the climate and security nexus.

Action 22: The EU, Member States and international partners, committed to champion ambitious and innovative proposals to further align Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions strategies and financial flows with the Paris Agreement goals and to strengthen their capacity to address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, water resilience and fragility.

The 2023 Paris Summit for a new Global Financing Pact issued a Multilateral Development Banks Vision Statement, signed by 50 countries, and set out a roadmap for action. As follow up to the summit, the G7 and G20 presidencies (Italy and Brazil) launched an independent review of the sustainable finance architecture, with a focus on climate and environment vertical funds, and assessing how international financial institutions could help leverage the funds.

Action 23: Guided by the precautionary principle, the Commission and the High Representative will support international efforts to comprehensively assess the risks and uncertainties of climate interventions, including solar radiation modification (SRM) and promote discussions on a potential international framework for its governance, including research related aspects.

The risks, impacts and unintended consequences to populations and ecosystems posed by deliberate large-scale intervention in the Earth's natural systems (referred to as "geoengineering") are poorly understood. Due to the risk of increased power imbalances and conflict between nations, as well as a myriad of ethical, legal, governance and political issues; essential rules, procedures and institutions have not been established.[25]

Following the adoption of the Joint Communication, the Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) was requested to assess the risks and opportunities associated with SRM, as well as options for a governance structure. The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) was further requested to assess ethical aspects of SRM. Both

[25] The EU remains committed to the previously agreed international position under the Convention of Biological Diversity decision X/30.

groups delivered their advice on 9 December 2024, as non-binding policy recommendations, in the form of a Scientific Opinion from the GCSA[26], a detailed Opinion from the EGE[27], in addition to an Evidence Review Report prepared by the consortium for Science Advice for Policy by European Academies. Both opinions provide valuable policy insights into this controversial technology, crucial for further considerations and deliberations at both European and international levels. To further inform reflection on possible approaches, a Horizon Europe project Co-CREATE: Conditions for Responsible Research of SRM – Analysis, Co-Creation, and Ethos will develop insights on a possible governance framework to support decisions by relevant authorities on whether or not, and under which circumstances, SRM research and experiments may be warranted from scientific and societal viewpoints.

At UNEA-6, the EU considered the draft Resolution on SRM submitted by Guinea, Monaco, Senegal and Switzerland. Although it called for the creation of an expert group on SRM to be established, negotiations stalled due to a lack of consensus. A key area of convergence was the creation of an UNEP repository of information on SRM. However, the resolution fell over the inability to agree on a proper framing, which the EU considers a missed opportunity to engage on this critical issue.

Action 24: The EEAS will seek closer cooperation between EU and UN experts at headquarters and in the field with the aim of creating greater synergies between their respective activities and further exploring joint initiatives, e.g., in training and capability development.

Climate and security issues are discussed in several channels of dialogue with the UN, including on stabilisation (2023) and on conflict prevention and mediation (2023 and 2024). Strong multilateral partnerships are key to ensuring that the EU approach strengthens awareness of the climate-security nexus and informs global policy development on this issue. The EU-UNEP Climate Change, Environment and Security Partnership continues to innovative approaches for field interventions supporting by national and regional capacity building and global advocacy. The Partnership has developed tools and capacities since 2017.

The EU has also held several targeted exchanges with the UN Climate and Security Mechanism, and the UNEP, as a presentative of the UN Climate Security Mechanisms contributed to the one-year stock take on the Joint Communication organised by the Belgian Presidency, the Egmont Institute and the EEAS. A structured exchange between EU and UN environmental and climate security advisers and focal points has taken place, complementing ongoing exchanges of advisers already their areas of operation. Over the past year, an informal community of practice has developed between EU and UN experts and beyond, through the auspices of workshops hosted jointly and separately by FBA, SIPRI, ZIF, CMC and the European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management (Council of Europe).

Action 25: The EEAS and Commission services will further integrate climate change and environmental considerations in dialogues with bilateral partners and regional organisations, and various civil society organisations.

[26] https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9c2ac367-b5de-11ef-acb1-01aa75ed71a1/language-en
[27] https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/support-policy-making/scientific-support-eu-policies/european-group-ethics_en#ege-opinions-and-statements

The EU has made significant strides in incorporating climate and security considerations into its dialogues with bilateral partners, regional organisations and civil society.

Some key examples of **bilateral dialogues** include the establishment of green alliances with Canada and Norway, which provide a platform for cooperation on climate and security issues. DG CLIMA has actively engaged in discussions and exchanges on strategies and perspectives on the climate and security nexus. Notably, Nigeria has expressed interest in working on the subject, including by sharing relevant information at the first senior official meeting organised by DG CLIMA and DG ENER on climate and energy in October 2024. In addition, an informal EU-US dialogue on climate and security took place in June 2024, followed by a senior-level meeting with the US Department of Defence in October 2024. The EU also took part in EU-US Young Leaders Seminar on climate and security, which provides a platform to discuss and exchange ideas on the security implications of climate change. Furthermore, the European Commission and Australia have also been discussing the importance of the nexus and raising awareness. Finally, climate and security issues have been integrated into discussions with, for example, the United Kingdom, Rwanda, South Africa and India.

EU Delegations have discussed the subject in various countries, notably in Chile where an event gathering diplomats from across Latin America was held. DG CLIMA also engages with EU Member States and national think tanks on awareness raising and training initiatives on climate and security, and it organised a training for diplomats from small island developing states and least developed countries. With a focus on the environmental ramifications of the climate and security nexus, the Commission engages regularly with several countries, such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Uganda and others on climate and environment impacts on peace and security.

Regarding dialogues with **regional organisations**, a notable example is the initiation of discussions on climate and security with the African Union (AU) but also the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Further discussions are anticipated, particularly considering the AU's expected adoption of its common position on climate and security in 2025, and the OSCE's climate conference scheduled in June 2025.

On the Science Diplomacy side, the All-Atlantic Ocean and Research Alliance[28] keeps growing with the addition of new partners, Senegal in particular. The EU-led focus area on *"the relationship between the ocean and climate and developing outcome-oriented science for mitigating and adapting to the consequences of climate change, particularly for the benefit of increasing resilience of coastal communities*" successfully launched a Coastal Resilience Knowledge Hub, which is continuously updated with scientific knowledge and creates a repository of replicable solutions in the Atlantic.

[28] https://allatlanticocean.org/

The EEAS and Commission maintain continuous contacts with **civil society and the think tank community** on a wide range of thematic and geographical topics related to the climate and security nexus.[29]

Action 26: The EU will consult with NATO on setting up a structured dialogue on climate and security.

A first EU-NATO structured dialogue on Climate Change, Security and Defence took place in February 2024. Following the dialogue, four workshops were organised with NATO, focusing on data and analysis, communication, energy and training. NATO participated in the European Defence Network Meeting (Berlin, April 2024). DG ENV is in discussion with NATO to establish bilateral exchanges at technical level specifically on environmental degradation, a field often overlooked but of growing interest to NATO.

Action 27: The EEAS and relevant Commission services will explore the possibility for exchanges with the NATO Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence.

In October 2024, the NATO ***Climate Change and Security*** Centre of Excellence approved observer status for the EU, providing the basis for further exchanges on lessons identified and best practices. Following the October 2024 Montreal Climate and Security Summit organised by the Centre, the EU Delegation in Canada participated in the first steering committee meeting.

Action 28: The Commission services and the EEAS will convene climate, environment and security dialogues in priority regions of concern to support spaces for discussion of specific challenges and to foster cooperation.

Diversification of partnerships is a priority, to ensure an inclusive approach and response, and to promote interdisciplinary exchanges and locally led initiatives. The first Brussels Climate Security Dialogue was held in November 2023 and the second will have taken place in February 2025. This will be followed by a series of dialogues throughout 2025 in 'hot-spot' regions vulnerable to climate and security threats, with the aim of broadening and enriching joint understanding and capacity and facilitating networks between practitioners and policymakers within regions to address climate-related security threats.

Conclusion: next steps

Although progress has been made on all actions of the Joint Communication, continued efforts are needed to ensure that an integrated, whole-of-the-EU approach is taken to tackle the nexus between climate change, environmental degradation and peace, security and defence across the EU and its Member States.

[29] For example, two Civil Society Dialogue Network meetings organised by the European Peace Liaison Network on the peace dividends of the green transition and on the climate and security nexus in Somalia (2024), briefings on research and programme approaches relevant to climate and security by Oxfam, Search for Common Ground, ICRC, Wetlands Partnerships, etc.

The implementation of the Joint Communication will continue to address the existential threat that climate change and environmental degradation pose to global well-being, security, and the health of our planet.

The following actions will be particularly important:

- Strengthen efforts in funding climate and security-related research and to provide evidence-based **analysis** and **foresight as enablers for action.** The aim is to ensure that data and analysis on the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security and defence are accessible, available and used, and to assess the current uptake of available data and analysis by the EU, its Member States and, where relevant, by its partners.

- Strengthen efforts to **operationalise the climate and security nexus in EU external action** to ensure that environmental degradation and climate change adaptation and resilience-building in fragile countries is adequately addressed. These countries are often the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change yet are underfunded for a variety of reasons.

- In line with the commitments under the **COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace**, the Commission services and the EEAS will continue mainstreaming climate action in the EU's external action and support the most vulnerable countries and population. It should work towards increasing the share of climate funding going towards fragile or conflict-affected communities and contexts and will advocate for others to do the same. To this end, relevant Commission services and the EEAS, including the EU Delegations, will continue to strengthen climate, environment, peace and security nexus analysis of relevant policies, programmes and actions, especially in geographical areas vulnerable to these impacts.

- Develop and implement a modular, needs-based **training package on the climate, environment, security, and defence nexus.** The **Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development** (CCESD) and relevant EU stakeholders will ensure that relevant knowledge is effectively integrated into existing training and capacity building initiatives, including in courses targeted at positions with high leverage (staff in leadership roles, strategic planners etc.). Existing training resources will be complemented to build the specific skill sets and expertise required for CSDP missions and operations.

- Strengthen **international cooperation** by ensuring that the climate and security nexus is included in the EU's dialogues with its partners, from summits to working level exchanges. The Commission services and the EEAS will also aim to incorporate relevant "climate and security" language into the Green Alliances and Green Partnerships that are negotiated on behalf of the EU with key non-EU countries. Where appropriate, new more regular dialogues focused on the nexus will be explored with important partners and allies.