

STOCKHOLM FORUM on Peace and Development 2022

FROM A HUMAN SECURITY CRISIS TOWARDS AN ENVIRONMENT OF PEACE

23-25 May 2022 (Münchenbryggeriet, Stockholm and online)

Recent floods, forest fires, and droughts – and their association with human induced global warming recorded by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - suggest that human security can no longer be guaranteed by tweaking the margins of existing solutions.

Environmental degradation and climate change are affecting human security in diverse ways. The challenge is twofold. First, sudden extreme weather events may generate or amplify local grievances. Longer-term environmental changes lead to resource scarcity that may spur or reinforce societal tensions and inhibit economic development. This holds particularly true for fragile, conflict-affected countries with populations dependent on land and water for their livelihoods and institutions too weak to cope with major weather changes. Over 2 billion people reside in countries experiencing water scarcity. Developed countries have a special responsibility to contribute to conflict sensitive climate adaptation measures in the hardest hit, fragile states whose capacity to prevent conflict is eroded by the impacts of environmental transformations.

Second, the massive changes needed to protect the biosphere, which sustains life on earth, require a global transition to a sustainable and just world economy with green policies, institutions and processes by public and private actors. This transition will bring about its own challenges, but also opportunities as countries and societies fundamentally adjust their economies and ways of living. Hence, climate change appears increasingly on the agendas of the political, development and the security communities—among them the European Union (EU), the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the World Bank, the United States Department of Defense, NATO and intelligence agencies world-wide.

The 2022 Stockholm Forum will explore solutions and ways to address this dual challenge. Focus will be on broader issues of change management, decision-making processes, public communication, political messaging of expectations, institutional reforms and repurposing of organizations. At the centre of the discussions will be:

- how to improve national and human security by restoring nature, greening development, and strengthening fragile contexts;
- how to ensure a just and peaceful transition to competitive, low-carbon, environmentally sustainable economies;
- how to design policy efforts that not only prevent and address climate-related security risks but also the individual security risks faced by women, men, girls and boys; and

* Feedback on the Forum working title and content is most welcome.

- what role and responsibility the EU and other international organizations have in addressing this dual challenge.

From grassroots and corporate action to global policy decisions, diverse stakeholders and participants will share solutions, good practices and lessons learned. They will explore policy approaches to address the intersection between environmental stress, human security and socio-intercultural interactions. Particular attention is given to the gendered nature of human security risks and indigenous communities in contexts affected by climate change and how to tailor responses accordingly.

Against the backdrop of the 50th anniversary of the UN Conference on the Human Environment and at the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Stockholm Forum will address how to enable an environment of peace: what needs to change within the economy, institutions, governments, organizations, companies and societies to sustain the natural environment, biodiversity, human progress and peace according to the goals set out in Agenda 2030?

The Forum sessions will pave the way for discussions at the Stockholm +50 Conference, hosted by Sweden on 1–3 June.

Key questions to be discussed include:

- What novel local, national, private or public approaches are emerging to stem environmental degradation while sustaining peaceful coexistence? How can these be implemented more effectively or scaled up?
- What role do women play in addressing climate change, and peace and security issues? How can their participation in actions addressing climate-related security risks be supported? What are successful examples of private–public partnerships?
- How can environmental stress be integrated more systematically into development, diplomacy, security and defence policies to prepare for and prevent security risks? What role does and should the EU play in this context?
- What adjustments to the global governance system are needed to deal with the security risks posed by environmental changes? What role does and should international law play to address environmental and climate insecurity?
- How can local dynamics and gendered perspectives be considered in climate security adaptation and resilience solutions to avoid inadvertently contributing to other security risks?
- What social risks are associated with the transition pathways towards decarbonization and greener economies? What do we know about how to pre-empt them (and not)? How do we achieve a just and peaceful transition? What role are youth movements playing in this context?
- To address the current human security crisis how do we enhance food security, limit chemical pollution, protect the health of the biosphere and reduce the risk of future pandemics? What do we know and not know about environmental impacts on human well-being?

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Format

On each of the three days, the 2022 Stockholm Forum will combine open high-level policy debates with invitation-only sessions, roundtables, workshops, debates, fireside chats and spotlight presentations. These will give senior policymakers, practitioners, researchers, civil society and corporate representatives a space to exchange views on key thematic issues. The Forum will work with partners to foster open exchange with the wider peacebuilding community through in person and online sessions.

The Stockholm Forum offers an innovative space for sharing knowledge and reviewing evidence on new research, innovations from practice and ongoing policy developments. This includes knowledge and evidence related to specific countries, regions and regional organizations, including the African Union (AU), the EU, the OSCE and others. Perspectives from the Global South and emerging economies are particularly encouraged.

Please contact SthlmForum@SIPRI.org with any questions.