

**Online learning and exchange series:
'Climate change, peacebuilding and human security'**

19 May, 28 May and 9 June 2020 (14:00 – 15:30 CEST)

Concept Note

Background

It is now widely recognised that climate change poses serious and diverse risks to peace. As climate change acts as a threat multiplier, it is predicted to increase conflict and to put particular additional pressure on vulnerable populations living in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. In turn, violent conflict makes it more difficult to mitigate and to adapt to the effects of climate change. As a result, supporting the resilience of populations, including their ability to resolve disputes peacefully and to address climate change collectively, is crucial to avoiding negative feedback loops and to ensuring that actions to build peace and to support livelihoods are sustainable. Civil society actors have a key role to play as part of these efforts.

Objective

The overall objective of the online workshops will be to bring together civil society experts and policymakers to discuss challenges, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations relating to how to address the linkages between climate change, conflict and peace. The discussions will particularly focus on how to integrate peacebuilding efforts and climate resilience programming, including through initiatives bringing communities together to jointly address the effects of climate change and prevent conflict. More specifically, the online workshops will aim at:

- Raising awareness on the possible impacts of climate change on conflict, and on the opportunities to build peace that actions seeking to address climate change can provide;
- Increasing the understanding of participants of how to integrate climate change adaptation and resilience into peacebuilding efforts;
- Fostering exchanges and partnerships between civil society experts and policymakers working in different fields.

Format

The dialogue series will include three online workshops to be held on the platform Zoom. Each online workshop will last one hour and thirty minutes and will feature one or two main speaker(s) and a respondent. They will start with a 20-30 minute exchange between the speaker(s) and the respondent, which will include an initial presentation by the speaker(s) followed by comments and questions by the respondent. The floor will then be opened to the audience for input and questions, with facilitation by EPLO.

Participants

Each online workshop will be open to up to 25-30 experts from civil society and policymakers from the European Union (EU) institutions and the governments of EU Member States. Participants will have expertise on / a professional interest in the linkages between climate change and conflict.

Language

The discussions will be held in English.

Output

Following the three online workshops, a policy brief and a report will be produced to provide an overview of the key recommendations and findings, and of the cases discussed.

Schedule

The online workshops will take place at the following dates:

1. 'Climate change, conflict and fragility: Increasing resilience against climate-fragility risks'

Speaker: Lukas Rüttinger (adelphi)

Respondent: Dr Ayan Mahamoud (IGAD)

Date: Tuesday 19 May 2020, 14:00 – 15:30 CEST

2. 'Mobilising decision-makers on water scarcity-induced conflict risks: the Water, Peace and Security Partnership'

Speakers: Camille Marquette (International Alert) and Rolien Sasse (independent consultant working as strategic advisor to the Water, Peace and Security Partnership)

Respondent: Katariina Leinonen, Deputy Head of Division for ISP.2 (European External Action Service)

Date: Thursday 28 May, 14:00 – 15:30 CEST

3. 'Integrating peacebuilding and climate change mitigation efforts in natural resource management'

Speaker: Vincent Omonyin (World Vision Kenya)

Respondent: Margot Loof (Cordaid)

Date: Tuesday 9 June, 14:00 – 15:30 CEST