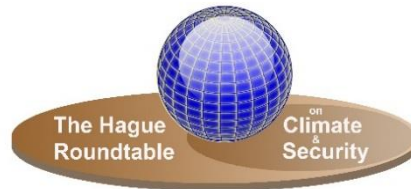




Ministry of Foreign Affairs



## REPORT

### The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security online with the Water Peace and Security partnership

#### *Building a transatlantic coalition for climate action on water and security challenges in countries of risk*

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security was held online on 22 April 2021, co-hosted by the Water Peace and Security partnership (WPS) and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Some 150 participants joined the 1.5-hour panel discussion on *Building a transatlantic coalition for climate action on water and security challenges in countries of risk*. The meeting was moderated from the offices of The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies by Henk Ovink, Netherlands Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, who was joined by Hague Roundtable Organizer, Matt Luna, and meeting co-producers from WPS and the NL Ministry of Foreign Affairs (within Covid safety precautions). The event was held via Zoom, and participants shared their questions and comments with the moderator and panelists.

Video highlights from the online meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsJF7sQilpk>

#### Panelists and program content in this report:

- Selected observations and recommendations from the panel discussions (p.3)
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- **Carola van Rijnsoever**, Director, Inclusive Green Growth, NL Ministry of Foreign Affairs: keynote remarks (p.5)
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- **Sharon Burke**, Director, Resource Security Program, New America: *Perspectives and potential in the United States, also on Biden Administration Leaders Summit on Climate* (p.6)
- **Benedetta Berti**, Head of Policy Planning, NATO Office of the Secretary General: *Climate as a point of transatlantic cooperation on defense and security risks, including latest NATO initiatives* (p.7)
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#### Background:

Thursday 22 April represented an important date for the environmental, climate, and security communities worldwide. This “Earth Day 2021” marked the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Paris Agreement for signatures, and an opportunity to challenge world leaders to act more on climate change for what it truly is: a pressing global security threat to everyone, particularly the most vulnerable people and places.

The Netherlands warmly welcomes the U.S. return to the Paris agreement, a pivotal step for joint climate leadership and increased global ambition. With the 2021 Climate Adaptation Summit organized by the Netherlands, the U.S. Leaders Summit online climate meeting on 22-23 April, the upcoming 26<sup>th</sup> UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in the UK in November, and the EU aiming to be the first climate neutral region in the world – there is a transatlantic momentum to collaborate on climate adaptation targets and to translate ambitions into concrete actions. Increased cooperation is especially urgent in hotspot regions where water scarcity and climate impacts risk to destabilize communities or entire countries, as the work of the [Water, Peace and Security partnership](#) has been highlighting.

Many climate security issues play out through the water cycle. Water access and quality are further deteriorating in many hotspot areas, for instance as a result of large water intensive infrastructure and agriculture projects that fail to take into account the local, regional, and transboundary (water) security impacts. The panelists and participants in this meeting assessed the political momentum and opportunity of forming a transatlantic coalition focused on addressing the security dimension in the climate adaptation action agenda, with an examination of the potential geopolitical impacts and priorities of the new U.S. Administration and the EU.

The Roundtable discussions were centered around the following questions, by the panel of policy and security experts from Germany, the Netherlands, the United States and NATO.

- How can the U.S. and EU meaningfully support climate action without contributing to a further deterioration of the water situation in hotspot countries of risk? What are some of the security implications of inaction?
- What are the main priorities and opportunities for transatlantic cooperation that should not be missed, as well as what trends are relevant to working together?
- What role should countries take to promote concrete actions and the way forward? And how can the tangible first steps be identified and agreed upon?
- How can investments in hydropower plants, agribusiness ventures and other water-intensive projects be further climate- and security-proofed?
- How can countries better introduce and implement innovations, including nature-based solutions and cooperation networks, that can benefit climate adaptation needs in the water and related sectors?

**Acknowledgements and engagement:** Special thanks to the Water Peace & Security partnership for their invitation to co-host this meeting, and to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs for strategic support and keynote remarks by video. Appreciation in particular goes to Laura Birkman, Burak Çevik, Alberto Pallecchi, Rolien Sasse, Susanne Schmeier, Frank Smallegange, and Wouter Veening for their contributions to planning and producing this meeting.

The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security is an independent forum that was initiated with a meeting at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague in April 2015 to generate support for the topic of climate and security at COP21 Paris, in cooperation with the Institute for Environmental Security. Since that time, eight meetings have been held in The Hague, one in Washington D.C., and planning was set for a July 2020 Roundtable in Manila, Philippines, but was postponed due to Covid precautions.

A special thanks goes to our participants in this first online meeting – for their questions, recommendations, and engagement in this increasingly urgent topic that requires joint action. The aim is to return to live Roundtable meetings in the near future, while continuing online interactions. Please [get in contact with your ideas, including donor support and co-hosting](#) for the Roundtable going forward in facilitating global dialogue for cooperation in climate adaptation.



*Roundtable panelists, clockwise from top left: Tom Middendorp, Henk Ovink, Sharon Burke, Hinrich Thölken, Benedetta Berti*

### **Selected observations and recommendations from the panel discussions**

- We must make the urgency become actionable. We have an opportunity in which the U.S. and governments in Europe are ready to build synergies to work with everyone's strengths. On transatlantic cooperation, what we see is very promising, especially with the U.S. being back with a new dynamic and potential for progress on climate change and security.
- If we want to mitigate climate and security-related risks, we need to address the complex relationship between water, peace and security. We must adapt the way we live to a new reality – with swift, concerted action.
- We have to address the security implications of climate change: investigate potential areas of joint action to speed up resilience building and risk reduction in relation to water impacts affecting global security
- An enabling environment is important, for institutional and informal capacity and in providing social resilience – to match the needs on the ground with the commitments of the donor community.
- Hinrich Thölken offers for partners to look together into this issue at hand and better understand the full implications. Together we can support the UN and regional organizations addressing climate risks, and we can learn from each other – whether in development or in the security aspect of things.
- A call is made from Susanne Schmeier for everyone to continue their important work, to scale up, and to look for partnerships and synergies. The Water Peace and Security partnership is there to help connect and build partnerships. Everyone in the meeting is encouraged to reach out to reach out to each other.
- Water is almost the language through which climate change speaks to us; whether that's more rainfall or less, rising seas or shrinking lakes or warming oceans.
- It is vital to get water at the top of the political agenda, because there is an amazing lack of capacity around the world to act on water – financially, politically, policy-wise.
- We need to also keep in mind that water is a political and sensitive issue. To be disinterested is a stake to become a partner in water cooperation programs in some areas, otherwise suspicions of motives of leading stakeholders can hinder potential, especially in developing climate-impacted regions.
- It's not just about how we understand the risks to peace but also how we build peace. And it's not about "securitizing" climate change, but climate changing security.

- Military missions will become more complex, with a need to adapt to operating in more extreme weather conditions: hotter, wetter, windier. Also, an increase in natural disasters requires closer military cooperation with civilian authorities, as responses by the military to support civilian efforts will be more frequent and demanding.
- The military can be an essential component in addressing the impacts, but it is by no means sufficient to act alone.
- Dealing with water as a matter of national security could well be biggest challenge of this century. Water is becoming the “blue oil,” a new scarce resource.
- It is crucial that we climate-proof our development, economic, security and other programs in climate-impacted regions and give them a more joint focus. The military needs to be a part of the solution.

### Selected highlights from the panel discussions

#### **Roundtable introduction by Laura Birkman, Senior Strategic Analyst at The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)**

Water presents a logical starting point for international climate action. Water is essential for food, health, nature, and economic development. At the same time, climate change, inadequate water management, rapid population growth and unsustainable economic practices, have contributed to an increase in droughts, floods, and other water-related disasters around the world. In addition, the negative social and economic impacts due to weather extremes and the increased competition for water can also result in social and political tensions and conflicts. This is especially true in vulnerable and fragile countries that are exposed or susceptible to water-related hazards, but do not have the coping nor the adaptive capacity to prevent, prepare or respond to them.



The Water, Peace and Security Partnership (WPS) was founded in 2018 with the support of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The objective of WPS is to address the complex relationship between water and instability and initiate efforts to turn vicious water-conflict cycles into virtuous water-peace cycles in countries of risk. The partnership does this by employing an integrated approach: combining water, security and peace building expertise with research and data-driven analysis to inform policy and practice. Our global early warning tool identifies current and future hotspot countries of risk up to one year in advance, and pinpoints

where interventions are needed. It is a first step to come to a better understanding of the relationship between water and conflict, develop joint solutions to tackle them and – crucially – act on them in a timely fashion by initiating activities on the ground. Currently the WPS is undertaking capacity development, conducting training sessions, and facilitating dialogues in Mali, Iraq, East Africa and Afghanistan.

WPS does not undertake this effort alone. Working on water-related climate action in unstable environments requires a conflict sensitive approach that is inclusive and requires the involvement of diplomats, water experts, community leaders, development and aid workers, the private sector, and military professionals. Aligning these stakeholders in a comprehensive way that supports peace building is where international collaboration can really bring value.

I am so pleased that we are joined in this meeting by high level representatives of the diplomatic, defense and water communities to get a more concrete sense of what and how we can start to build a transatlantic coalition that builds on the WPS mission to turn vicious water-conflict cycles into virtuous water-peace cycles.

**Keynote speaker with message via recorded video: Carola van Rijnsoever, Director, Inclusive Green Growth, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Today, Earth Day, citizens around the world – scientists, youth and many others – will undoubtedly again challenge world leaders to act more decisively on climate change in recognition of what it truly is: an increasing global security threat to everyone. Let us support world leaders in taking decisive action by giving them the right tools. Many climate security issues play out through the water cycle. There are many hotspots where people are vulnerable to extreme weather conditions, which affect water access and quality. This can destabilize whole communities, particularly the most vulnerable. Clearly, we need to devote our full attention to the relationship between water, climate and security, increase understanding of the issue and take urgent action.

Let me outline three ways forward.

- 1) We must adapt the way we live to a new reality. This means taking swift, concerted action. Only by scaling up climate adaptation will societies be able to withstand the pressures of a quickly changing climate. Increased cooperation is especially urgent in hotspot regions where water scarcity and climate change risk destabilizing communities or even entire countries.
- 2) If we want to mitigate climate and security-related risks, we need to address the complex relationship between water, peace and security. That’s exactly why the Netherlands launched the Water, Peace and Security Partnership. The aim of the Partnership is to develop tools to help identify water-related security risks and enable communities to take early action.
- 3) We have to address the security implications of climate change: investigate potential areas of joint action to speed up resilience building and risk reduction in relation to water impacts affecting global security; further integrate climate-related security risks into a strategic partnership and early warning tools; closely monitor the security implications of climate change, including through regular reporting; and highlight good practice mechanisms for climate adaptation, examining the role of water in these issues and identifying areas of cooperation in conflict regions.



*Carola van Rijnsoever*

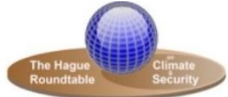
We hold the key to a comprehensive transatlantic response. Let’s unlock the tools to jointly address the nexus between water, peace and security. As co-chair of the UN Water Conference in 2023, together with Tajikistan, the Netherlands will ensure that the issue of climate and security gets ample attention. Communities need access to tools and information to enable them to take early action.

**Henk Ovink** facilitated the discussion of the panelists and questions from the audience in his role as moderator. His remarks while navigating the meeting included:

The climate and security urgency is all over the place, but the question is: How do we make it actionable? There is a lack of capacity of acting on water, at all levels. What does it mean to translate this urgency into action? And how to bring actions to scale? How can we forge an agenda for action and scaling in transatlantic initiatives? How can impact instead of reactivity drive us forward? While world leaders were talking about Covid-19, they also talked about water: never have we heard “wash your hands” so many times coming from the mouth of our leaders, every day! Yet the gap in the Sustainable Development Goal 6 has not shrunk, and the urgency is only increasing, for the most vulnerable, especially with climate impacts in the mix.



The military is often at the forefront where things fall apart, where risks are stacked upon each other. If peacekeeping becomes sustainable development – in that mix is where partnerships can help strengthen an approach of security and development, of intervening and scaling. Understanding each other is important, so is building trust. An enabling environment is important, for institutional and informal capacity and in providing social resilience – to match the needs on the ground with the commitments of the donor community. That donor community is often more fragmented than the situation on the ground. Collaborating, coordinating and co-creation are key across all levels, scales and interests.



*Henk Ovink*

With climate change and the role water in peace and security, there is so much at risk. We can move forward thanks to the experience from the past and commitment to the future. There is an amazing role ahead for all of us, if we only do this together, forging partnerships from the ground up. It's vital, as some of us here today are water ambassadors, to get water at the top of the political agenda, because there is an amazing lack of capacity around the world to act on water – financially, politically, policy-wise. It's key that the Netherlands is co-hosting the 2023 UN Water Conference, because there is a lack of such capacity in so many places.

Two pillars of the IPCC Climate Change & Land report from 2019 make clear that 1) almost everything we do in investments increases climate change and 2) how we go about these investments compound the impact, because we are doing things the wrong way in the wrong places, making us more vulnerable with every investment in place. Changing course is becoming more difficult because of what is invested in the past. Vested interests and past policies have put us on the wrong track. The future must be our reference, not the past – that led us to more climate change, more insecurity, more loss of lives and biodiversity, with increasing economic and global security risks. We need a partnership that is bigger than ourselves, like a transatlantic cooperation. Understanding must come first, before we actively manage and intervene in what we are facing. I look forward to taking these issues to the next level in transatlantic partnerships for climate action on water and security challenges in countries of risk.

### **Sharon Burke, Director, Resource Security Program, New America**

Water is almost the language through which climate change speaks to us; whether that's more rainfall or less, rising seas or shrinking lakes or warming oceans. It is also a fault line that runs through all of our societies. I have been really pleased to work on a conflict prediction model with WPS to predict water-related conflict because if we have better diagnostics, then we can understand better how to intervene in the role that water and climate change play in instability and conflict, and how these forces interact with other underlying challenges. The purpose is to see how these elements can come together to create not just human misery, but potential for violence and cross-border conflict. This has been a big part of the Biden Administration's first actions, when it comes to water and security – better diagnostics. They are undergoing a climate risk analysis project with the Department of Defense that is meant to better understand climate risks to peace, and incorporate them into the way the U.S. plans for future security.

In the U.S., we can see that it is not just about conflict and war fighting, but also about peace building and security at home. The U.S. was shaken over the winter by what is a common experience around the world, when entire cities in Mississippi and Texas went without water after storms. It was a wake up call.

For the U.S., coming back to the climate table we left needs to be done with respect. Today's Leaders Summit with President Biden is partly about U.S. raising ambitions, both for our national security infrastructure and how we define

security, but it is also for our national partners. It's not just about how we understand the risks to peace but also how we build peace. Establishing root elements of peace starts with things like a billion-dollar infrastructure bill in the U.S.

We also need to define what to put on the agenda for transatlantic cooperation. The Weathering Risk project mentioned in this meeting is part of building a community of practice, and then putting the best practice into play. I would like to see transatlantic partnerships producing larger communities of practice, and particularly best practices. The Biden Administration has the approach that world interests and U.S. interests are the same in this area. And it is key to show how partnerships advance all of our interests in tangible ways, because we are all invested in this partnership. It is also important to show results – for us in the U.S., before the next election.



The military has an important role to play in the climate situation, but security should not be defined only by the military. It's not about "securitizing" climate change, but climate changing security. The U.S. Department of Defense plays a large role in our government, including in research and development and with government-owned facilities, so they have a part to play in climate change. Another essential element is building a climate risk analysis with military resources. As the U.S. builds on initiatives intersecting with human security, the conclusions will help guide the U.S. Government in how it interacts with the rest of the world. I would like it if there were a sort of competition to see which national leader could be the most climate-oriented leader. Ultimately, climate action needs to not be a specific thing we do, but rather a filter on everything we do.

### **Benedetta Berti, Head of Policy Planning, NATO Office of the Secretary General**

It's an exciting time for transatlantic cooperation on climate and security because of the current political momentum. A collaborative political approach enables us to do more when it comes to addressing the security impacts of climate change. The point here is not only to agree that we have a problem, but to have a concrete way forward to address it. This is a generational challenge, and we all have a role to play.

It is an important accomplishment that all NATO allies recognize climate change has an important impact on our security. Climate change will significantly impact the way our militaries operate. Missions will become more complex, with a need to adapt to operating in more extreme weather conditions: hotter, wetter, windier. Also, an increase in natural disasters requires closer military cooperation with civilian authorities, as responses by the military to support civilian efforts will be more frequent and demanding.

NATO plays an important role in this evolving situation. We have just agreed this spring on a climate change and security agenda that has concrete measures around three main areas.

- 1) Increasing our situational awareness
- 2) Adapting, including with an alliance-wide climate review to track our climate vulnerabilities, and increase resilience
- 3) Mitigation, and how the military can become more green, including using less fossil fuels

On the agenda of transatlantic climate and security, our "wish list" has a starting point. NATO countries have been exchanging best practices. For climate resilience, we need to look at our infrastructure and bases to prepare for risks from the changing climate. Then we need to take concrete measures to address what is identified. In NATO, 30 countries are further coming together to make sure that militaries are resilient and prepared for climate. We want to more consistently

exchange best practices in transitioning to green energy efficiency for the military. It will be important as we go forward to have a platform for consultations and exchanges.

Mitigation of climate change is important and challenging. We can do more to invest in research, but also by making sure operations are minimizing their environmental footprints. We need to build upon and accelerate this work. We will also



develop a joint methodology to map military emissions from military activities and installations to really study their impact on what we can do looking toward 2050.

How can transatlantic cooperation lead to scaled up action? Partnerships. This means working together in a meaningful way for a higher level of impact. Through this, we can maximize our impact in combating climate change.

The conversation on climate and security has really changed in the past years. We can simply not afford to downplay the security aspect of climate change as a generational challenge. We need the space to come together and have everyone at the table to agree that this is important, and that the military needs to contribute. The military can be an essential component in addressing the impacts, but it is by no means sufficient to act alone. We need the balance of stakeholders working on this for all of us.

We are in a place now that we can discuss the impact on military units, and that the military needs to contribute to solutions for all of us. We still need to frame it in whole-of-government and society terms. NATO of course focuses on military aspects because this is our added value, but we need to engage with a much broader range of actors to offer our best possible contributions to mitigating the risks.

### Hinrich Thölken, Climate Envoy, German Federal Foreign Office

On transatlantic cooperation, what we see is very promising, especially with the U.S. being back with a new dynamic and potential for progress on climate change and security. I am optimistic that together we can make some great progress. U.S. Secretary Blinken is saying that climate is at heart of U.S. policy. This is major, and if they live up to it, then it changes foreign policy.

A problem is that while we hear about urgency, it is not translating into action. There is a tragedy of sorts that we keep repeating the urgency, but we do not see enough action on the ground. Something that we have learned is that we need more understanding of exactly what are the risks of climate change impacts, including water scarcity, on security. The climate and security topic has been frustrating at times for us Germans, including last year in the UN Security Council when we approached this topic and the U.S. was not among the countries actively supporting such a discussion, but this has changed. I think now there is a good potential that we will move forward.



A multilateral pilot study launched by Germany last year is meant to provide answers also through machine learning in assessment over different regions. Weathering Risk is a multi-disciplinary study that we commissioned to learn more about these risks in different areas including Mali, Iraq and the Lake Chad area. We would like to do certain undertakings looking at a new region when it comes to water scarcity and climate change, perhaps also in a transatlantic cooperation. My presentation today is also an offer stretched out to partners to say let's look together into this issue at hand and better



understand the full implications. Together we can support the UN and regional organizations addressing climate risks, and we can learn from each other – whether in development or in the security aspect of things. We should also share experiences across the Atlantic on operations. We can learn from resilience projects.

We have enacted a number of projects through the German Foreign office:

- 1) In the Nile Basin: supporting water policy, how to share water, peaceful solutions and how to negotiate in an informed way to avoid irrational responses in competing for water resources
- 2) Green Central Asia: high-level political dialogue, project that includes scientific cooperation, including in Afghanistan. We want to understand how climate change and the nexus with water, food, energy will impact Central Asia, particularly Afghanistan. There is so much that we don't know yet.

It's becoming attractive to look into climate and security, but we need to ensure there is not a political race to the top to see who is most politically powerful in this. Efforts on these topics must be collaborative. We need to also keep in mind that water is a political and sensitive issue. To be disinterested is a stake to become a partner in water cooperation programs in some areas, otherwise suspicions of motives of leading stakeholders can hinder potential, especially in developing climate-impacted regions.

Even with this progress, we still need to get water and security higher on the political agenda. I'm optimistic because I see this year the U.S. being back in a meaningful way on these issues. There's a completely new dynamic and I see a lot of potential of making big process in next years in instilling much more energy in the nexus of climate and security, and getting more resources, so we can concretely work on the issues.

### **Tom Middendorp, Chair, International Military Council on Climate and Security (IMCSS)**

We need to translate this urgency into action now that climate change is being recognized as also a matter of national security. The question is how to do so? In its first two years of existence, the IMCSS, with experts from more than 40 countries from all around the world, has focused on putting the climate and security nexus on political agendas, and it's encouraging to see institutions like NATO, the EU and the U.S. including the security implications in a more comprehensive effort. I'm pleased to see that we are creating a momentum. Building that understanding was and is extremely important, but it is not enough and it can't be an excuse for inaction.



Dealing with water as a matter of national security could well be biggest challenge of this century. Water is becoming the "blue oil," a new scarce resource. As a result of water insecurity, we will see an increasing level of food insecurity, and indirect effects like infectious diseases, migration flows, and increasing levels friction and insecurity in fragile regions. The COVID crisis should teach us how vulnerable we are to these kind of changes in our ecosystem. I'm afraid we can expect more dangers like this. The security sector can play an enormous role in forecasting, protecting, and helping to adapt, but it is necessary that they recognize

that role and multiplying effects of our changing climate aspect on the security in the different regions of the world. None of us can hide behind our national boundaries in these challenges.

With a very small percentage of the planet's water that can be used, we are rapidly depleting our resources. Two main problems are connected with this: 1) Shortages of drinking water – all over the world, polar caps are melting, and rivers drying up. Already one-out-of-eight people have no access to drinking water and big sanitation problems. Within ten years, the demand for drinking water will be 40 percent higher than the availability of resources. 2) Flooding – changes in water patterns, sea level rises, especially in urbanized areas which are often located around rivers and coastlines, making them

more vulnerable. These two problems threaten the lives of hundreds of millions of people and can lead to huge humanitarian disasters and conflicts over access to drinking water.

It is promising to see that this nexus of climate and security is now increasingly being recognized. Climate change is NOT a security problem as such, but it does have serious security implications and it requires of whole-of-society effort. We need to realize that none of us can handle this threat alone, but if we pull our forces together it really helps to achieve synergies. This requires a paradigm shift within organizations. We have to bridge the often very functional programs and find more integrated approaches. The security sector should be part of the solution and should be part of a whole-of-government team to find solutions. There is much they can bring to the table.

A special focus is needed for the fragile regions where climate change will impact most. It is important to build resilience in those regions to prevent conflict from occurring. In the South of Afghanistan, I've experienced what an impact can be made when efforts on Defense, Diplomacy and Development are integrated in more comprehensive approaches. To achieve that, it is crucial that we climate-proof our development, economic, security and other programs in climate-impacted regions and give them a more joint focus. The military needs to be a part of the solution. They can help forecasting changes, they can help build that resilience, they can help counter the security effects of climate change and they can act as a platform for green innovations. It does require the security institutions to recognize their role, pick up their responsibility and also see this as an opportunity. That is a change that we need to go through.

### **Susanne Schmeier, Head of the Water, Peace and Security project, Associate Professor at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, on selected discussion takeaways**

It is time to act now. We must make the urgency become actionable. While Covid was one of the things that showed us that it is really time to act, we must ensure that the pandemic and other crises that will come do not distract us from the long-term looming water, climate and security crisis. Such a long-term crisis may have led us to not act effectively. We might not have had enough knowledge, not enough data, not enough understanding – but this cannot be an excuse. We have a great window of opportunity in which not only the pressure is making us work, but also the political constellation



could be a once-in-a-lifetime opening across the Atlantic that helps us act now. We have an opportunity in which the U.S. and governments in Europe are ready to build synergies to work with everyone's strengths.

And synergies make up a second important point in these discussions: synergies not only across the Atlantic, which would help build on strengths and overcome weaknesses that individual partners on both sides of the Atlantic may have, but especially with synergies also across the 4-D community (development, diplomacy, defense and disaster). It's only when these communities work together that we can really achieve things and work together on the issue. We need to help those most affected by climate impacts, water insecurity, and conflict in locations around the world, also including in the U.S. and in Europe, as pointed out. Participants in the meeting chat have mentioned hotspots including the Sahel, Afghanistan, Central Asia, the Nile and many more places where this action has to happen.

Our steps must be concrete in getting from urgency to action to get things moving. This is a call to everyone to continue their important work to scale up, and to look for partnerships and synergies. With the Water Peace and Security partnership, we are clearly there for you to help connect and build partnerships. I would like to encourage everyone in the meeting today to reach out to reach out to each other. Thank you.

## Related publications on climate and security:

### **WPS Global Early Warning Tool March 2021 Quarterly Update – Conflict Overview**

<https://waterpeacesecurity.org/info/global-tool-update-March-2021> “Our machine learning model forecasts peace or conflict over the next 12 months. It does this on the basis of 15-20 global indicators that serve as model inputs.”

### **Remarks by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the Leaders Summit on Climate on 22 April 2021**

[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions\\_183257.htm?selectedLocale=en](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_183257.htm?selectedLocale=en) “Increasingly our troops are being called on to respond to natural disasters, at home and abroad. Climate change affects where and how we operate.”

**Jens Stoltenberg: NATO’s climate challenge**; politico.eu; 22 April 2021

<https://www.politico.eu/article/jens-stoltenberg-nato-climate-change-challenge/> The alliance’s secretary general on why its members must work together to adapt to rising temperatures and cut emissions.

**Leaders Summit on Climate**; 22 April 2021

<https://www.state.gov/leaders-summit-on-climate/> U.S. President Biden convened 40 world leaders in a virtual Leaders Summit on Climate to rally the world in tackling the climate crisis and meeting the demands of science.

**Towards a Better Understanding of Climate Security Practices**, Report from the Planetary Security Initiative, April 2021

[https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/PSI-2021\\_Climate-Security-Practices\\_final.pdf](https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/PSI-2021_Climate-Security-Practices_final.pdf) “This report reviews and reflects on existing practices in the emerging field of climate security.”

**Sustainable Peace & Security in a Changing Climate: Recommendations for NATO 2030**, Report from the North-Atlantic Civil-Society Working-Group on Environment and Security, 30 April 2021: <https://www.brusselsdialogue.net/ncwes>

“There is no more luxury of time for us to try to better understand and respond to this challenge.”

**About the Water Peace and Security partnership:** The Water, Peace and Security partnership is designing innovative tools and services that can identify and support stakeholders to address water-related security risks. These innovative tools and services are able to show short term water shortage changes and impacts, and link them to social, political, economic, and hydrological factors, while supporting actors to take informed and conflict-sensitive action. This leads to evidence-based and inclusive actions that allow risks to be addressed, and human insecurity prevented or mitigated.

**About The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security:** The Roundtable supports global cooperation on climate risks to peace, sustainable development, and political stability. This independent forum facilitates a dialogue among representatives of governments, NGOs, education institutions, development organizations, military, private sector, and donor organizations – which may be stakeholders who do not exchange ideas and strategies on these threats. Participants are encouraged, in a less-formal setting, to voice: 1) their biggest challenges 2) concrete actions to be taken 3) what they can offer 4) what they need. The initiative is based in The Hague, a city known for peace and justice, and as a hub for global issues. Donor support and content contributions are invited to help future meetings connect adaptation action.

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