# Points to address:

- Introduction: Work on climate change and SSG/R within DCAF
- Climate change: key scientific warnings
- Climate change as emerging security challenge & its securitization
- Pathways of climate-security spillovers
- Implications for the security sector
- The Way Forward: Mainstreaming strategies to counter security spillovers of climate change within SSR
- Further readings

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# DCAF`s Work on climate change and SSG/R

**Policy and Research Division:**

- New portfolio on emerging security challenges and SSG/R (health crises, migration, digitalization and climate change)
- Conceptual work based on desk research (extensive literature review, content analysis, process tracing and expert interviews)
- Initiated work on climate change within DCAF with a Reflection Paper (2020) mapping out the nexus between climate change and security and exploring the implications of climate change for SSG/R and the security sector
- Led fruitful cross-institutional dialogues on the topic within DCAF, disseminating the topic within DCAF
- Knowledge products: Policy Paper (cross-institutional), Policy Brief UNIGE, SSR Backgrounders and SSR Paper (forthcoming), contribution to the Compendium of the White Paper on Environmental Peacebuilding and institutional support.
- Outreach activities UNOG-DCAF Highlevel Panel (2020); webinars with experts from Southeast Asia & East Asia (together with APU) (2021); Panel at the 2nd International Conferance on  Environmental Peacebuilding (2022).

**Gender and Security Division:**

- Research study on the gendered impact of climate change, with key case studies in Colombia, Yemen and Mali (see the research report).

# DCAF`s Work on climate change and SSG/R
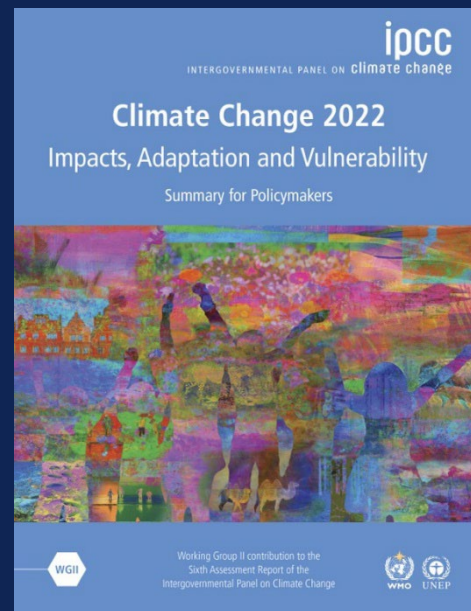
**Asia-Pacific Unit:**

- The Asia-Pacific Unit published two in-depth thematic briefs on the links between climate security and SSG/R, focusing on Southeast Asia and East Asia. Both research efforts were kickstarted by two two-day workshops, one in October 2021 (Southeast Asia) and one in November 2021 (East Asia). The workshops brought together regional and international experts, and the reports include key recommendations for security sector actors and policymakers in addressing climate change related threats and risks.

**OPD/ISSAT – Stocktaking Study:**

- On the role of the security sector in climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and environmental protection.
- Palestine (MENA Division), Brazil (LAC Unit), Sierra Leone (SSAD Division) - missions completed and reports will be soon published - and the Philippines (AP Unit) (mission planed in January 2023) are the key case studies for this effort, for whom the output will include a set of recommendations for the international community for their SSG/R programming connected to environmental and climate security.
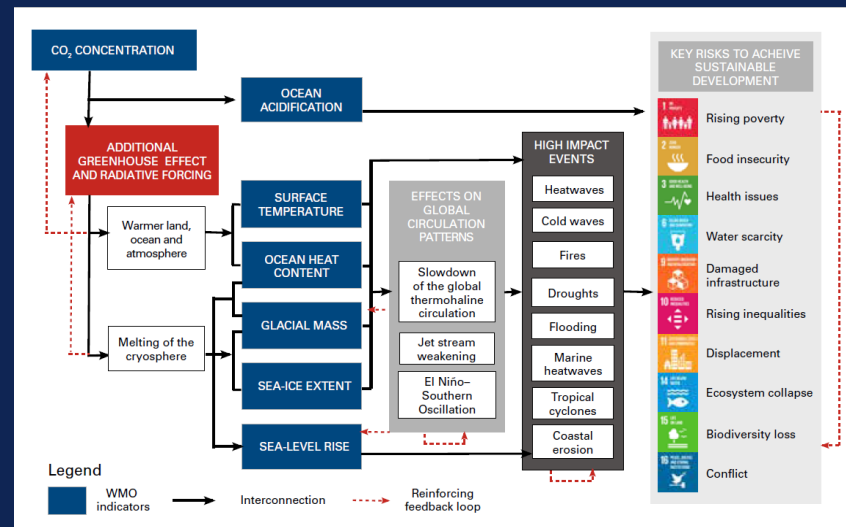- The stocktaking is supported by (among others) FBA/ Sweden.

# Setting the scene: what science tells us?

- Climate change is one of the major challenges of our time
- Climate crisis is here to stay and even worsen

- Bold national and international political action is paramount
- Both mitigation and adaptation policies are essential

# Cascading Impacts of Climate Change

- Climate change has deep and complex impacts on interrelated physical and human systems

- 2030 Agenda  (SDG 13)
- Sustaining Peace Agenda
- Climate Security Mechanism (2018)
- UNFCCC/COP  & IPCC
- Paris Agreement (2015)
  – security sector not addressed, and security impacts underrepresented
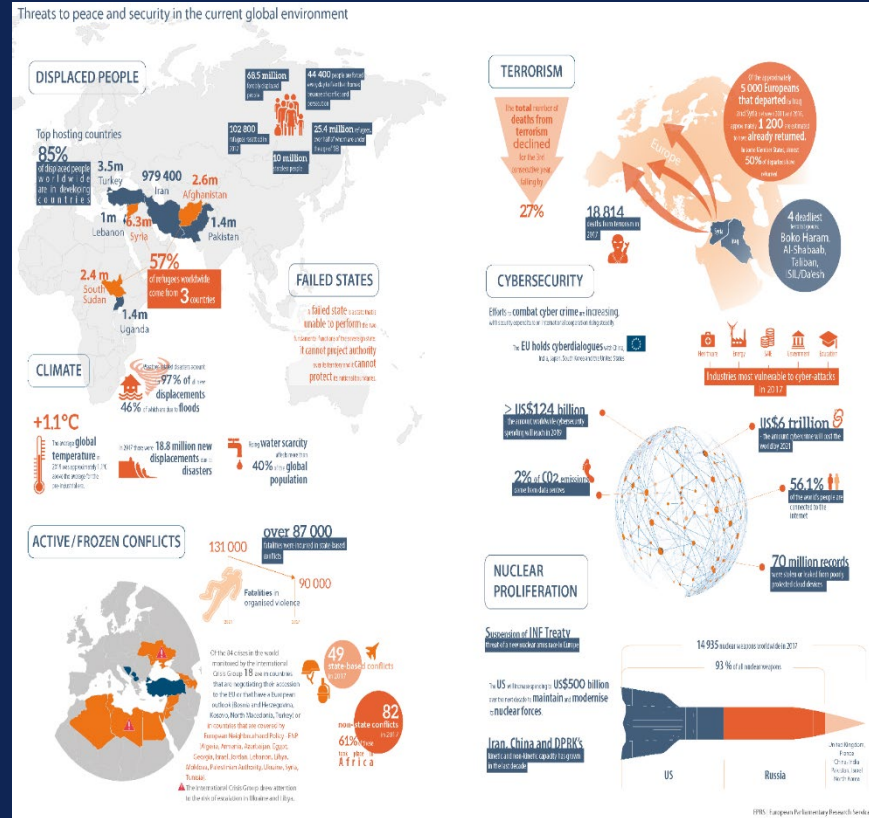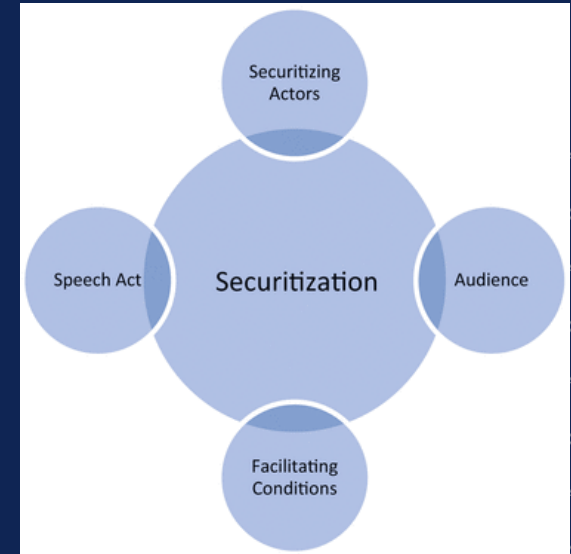


(Source: WMO – No. 1264 , p.31)

# Climate change is an Emerging Security Challenge

- Non-traditional/non-conventional security issues

- Transnational/transboundary character

- Their security impact is indirect and diffuse, multilayered, cascading and complex (may lead to overlapping security crises)

- Generate strategic surprise

- Costly to prepare for through resource allocation and contingency plans

- Emergent actors enter the scene

- They are the result of a process of *securitization*

# Securitization of Climate Change

- International arena (focus on UNSC since 2007)
- Partial global consensus
- Articulation of security frames/pathways
- Identifying role/s for security sector actors within these climate-security pathways
- Generating both positive and negative effects:
    - Turning climate change into an existential threat to human, national and international security, thereby mobilizing support and resources for climate change (positive)
    - Opening the way for possible use of traditional security means/concepts to deal with it (negative)
    - Rendering easier for (strategic) actors to bypass democratic procedures and public debates when dealing with climate-related risks (negative)



(Y. Kurniawan, 2017, pp.9-44)

# Pathway 1: Sudden/extreme weather events and slow onset natural hazards

- Droughts, floods etc.
- Rising sea level
- Environmental degradation
- Outbreak of contagious diseases
- Loss of biodiversity
- Scarcity of vital natural resources (water, food, land, fishery),
- Famine and loss of livelihoods, with harm being especially severe in areas already affected by poverty and inequality.
- Destruction of critical infrastructure

# Pathway 2: Displacement and Migration
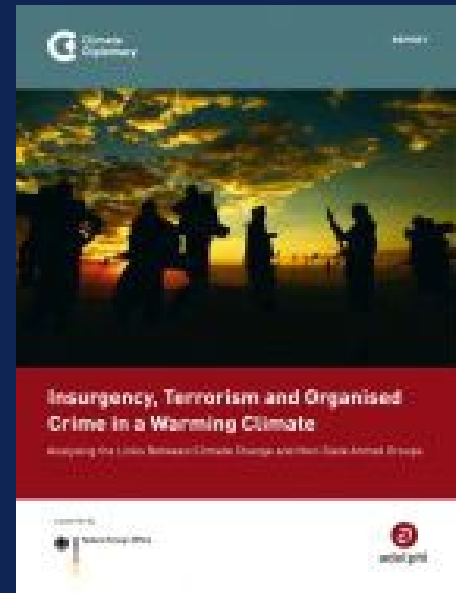
- National and international protection of climate refugees
- Migration Management

# Pathway 4: Criminality, Terrorism, Radicalization



- Weaponization of scarce ressources by armed groups
- Old and new type of illegal and criminal activities, including environmental crimes
- Illegal coping mechanisms
- Enhanced recruitement by terrorist or radical networks

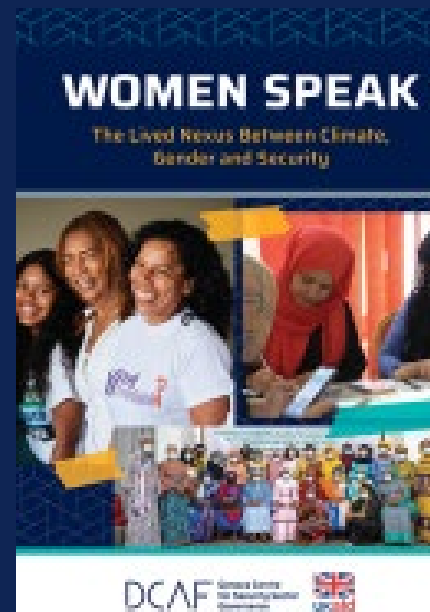# Pathway 4: New geopolitical conflicts



- Climate change as driver of old and new inter-state armed conflicts

- Ressource wars

- New geopolitical conflicts and international tensions

# Security Spillovers of Climate Change are « *Gendered* »

- Gender power dynamics impact differently men and women`s capacity to cope with climate-induced resource scarcity
- Women are more affected by conflicts over land and natural resources and are under-represented in political decision-making
- Climate change aggravates GBV and increases the risks of sexual and GBV during and after extreme weather events.
- Women environmentalists are more exposed to violence including by security sesctor personnel



**WOMEN SPEAK**
The Lived Nexus Between Climate, Gender and Security

# Implications for the Security Sector and its Good Governance

- Climate change as a potential «threat multiplier» may aggravate existing tensions, social instability and state fragility, conditions which in turn negatively impact SSG/R:
    - May erode governamental capacities and state lagitimacy, by extension of the security sector
    - Highly dependent upon robust governance mechanisms, including of the security sector

- Securitization of climate change
    - Promote a disproportionate militarized, hard security approach to the human security implications of climate change
    - Hamper Security Sector Reform by carving new mission creeps for unreformed security institutions
    - Jeoperdize democratic standards of security provision

- New/Intensified areas of intervention and entrenched humanitarian crises
    - Increase pressure on the security sector to take over more responsability in facing climate change challenges

# Climate Change Impacts the Security Sector

- Affected itself by climate change (infrastructure, personnel, operational readiness etc.);
- Under emergency crises, there is a proven risk of:
  - breackdown of law enforcement systems
  - encroachments upon democratic systems, weaking parliamentary control of the securty sector.
- May generate potential shifts in roles, mandates, operations, strategy, threat nature and logistics of the security sector;
- Reconsideration of national security strategies and policies;

# Security Sector as Intervening Factor in the Climate Crisis

- Poor SSG increases the desruptive potential of climate change;
- SSR & democratic SSG stregthens the resilience of states and communities;
- Security sector (military) contributes to high emissions of GHGs
- Direct involvement or failure to tackle environmental crimes
- Positive examples: «green militarization» in conservation practices such as reforestration, peacebuidling, humanitarian and emergency crises
- Development of green technology by the miliatry and potential civilan use;

# Security Sector and Climate Change need a "Middle Ground"

- the security sector should be prepared to face climate change challenges in an effective and accountable way to reduce the risk of security actors doing more harm than good, transforming the world in a less secure and peaceful place.

- Lacking preparedness and strategic planning will not only affect the capacity of national security sectors to operate, but also the capacity of states to deliver both human and state/traditional security.

- Since climate change aggravates fragility, insecurity and poverty worldwide, it is paramount, the security sector contributes its share to the prevention/mitigation of and adaptation to climate change impact.

- SSG/R provides the middle ground for such an involvement, immunizing national security sectors against the risks of securitization and militarization of climate change

# The Way Forward: Mainstreaming climate change strategies within SSR

- National security sectors – both from effectiveness and accountability perspectives- need to be proactive, planned and strategic, instead of reactive and ad-hoc.

- The involvement of the security sector should not divert (including funds) from the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies in the civilian domain – but follow a balanced and integrated (whole-of-government) approach.

- It should not divert from their main/traditional roles and mandates, risking to de-professionalize security actors.

- It should be decided following democratic procedures and standards.

# The Way Forward: Mainstreaming climate change strategies within SSR

Follow a clear methodology :

1. Plan for climate change mitigation within the security sector, aiming at reducing environmental footprint and GHG emissions with transparent and measurable targets.

2. Plan for climate change adaptation regarding security sector actors` own capabilities, infrastructure, budgets, procurements, logistics, as well as security strategies and policies .

3. Identify areas of climate change intervention that are within their current mandates and roles (by conducting security actor- and context-specific assessments) and develop clear procedures and rules of intervention that respect democratic standards and are subject to democratic oversight.

4. Identify if there are new areas, not within their traditional roles/original mandates and, eventually, develop additional "support" roles for security providers, only after having assessed whether other non-security actors are more suitable to empower.

# The Way Forward: Mainstreaming climate change strategies within SSR

- Climate change factors should be integrated at all three levels of the SSR framework:
  1. **Strategic**: Ensuring that legal, political and policy frameworks of the security sector reflect climate change targets/aims (as laid down in the Paris Agreement) and acknowledge climate-related security and fragility risks.
  2. **Organizational**: Making security sector actors/institutions greener and more aware of climate-related security risks.
  3. **Operational**: Making climate change and climate-related security and fragility risks part of security provision.

- Incorporate in the agenda, practice and rules, guiding security management institutions, security providers and security oversight actors.

# Further readings :

- Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Nejat Anbarci, Mehmet A. Ulubasoglu (2022): "Storm autocracies": Islands as natural experiments, *Journal of Development Economics* 159, https://www.elsevier.com/locate/devec

- Lucile Maertens (2021): Climatizing the UN Security Council, *International Politics* 58: 640–660.

- Signe Marie Cold-Ravnkilde and Boubacar Ba (2022):  Unpacking 'new climate wars':Actors and Drivers of Conflict in the Sahel,  Danish Institute for International Studies.

- Dhanasree Jayaram, Marie Claire Brisbois (2021): Aiding or undermining? The military as an emergent actor in global climate governance, *Earth System Governance,* *www.journals.elsevier.com/earth-system-governance*.

- Jones, Nathan and Sullivan, John P. (2019): "Climate Change and Global Security." *Journal of Strategic Security* 13 (4 ) : i-iv,.