Climate Change, Energy & Security: Challenges & Prospects

1st Preparatory Meeting, 21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Vienna, 4 February 2013

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Topics and Services

Creative Solutions and Service Provider for ecological, social, economic, and political challenges

- Strategies and solutions for global sustainability topics
- Integrated research and consulting approach
- Interdisciplinary team of experts with 80 staff members
- Global network of partners and service providers
- Worldwide 500 successfully completed projects
Introduction

Key Questions:

• How is climate change related to peace and security?
• How will future energy consumption affect climate change?
• How can climate & energy policies support security, stability and also wealth?
Scale of Climate Impacts

Sea level rise threatens major global cities, including London, Shanghai, New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong.

Small increases in hurricane intensity lead to a doubling of damage costs in the U.S.

Onset of irreversible melting of the Greenland ice sheet.

Climate, Conflicts and Stability

Resources: Competition over resources (land, water, energy, food, labour, income, …) will increase.

Borders: Sea-level rise will question the territorial integrity of states and it may exacerbate unresolved maritime issues.

Fragility: Changing distribution of resources and inadequate management of climate impacts may erode the social contract – and may (further) destabilise states.
“Regions at risk”

Already fragile/unstable states are primarily affected by climate change

Crisis and Wars in 2011 (HIIK 2012); German Advisory Council on Global Change (WGBU) (2007)

Energy, Fossil Fuels and Climate Change
Global Energy Prospects

World Energy Outlook 2012
"Taking all new developments and policies into account, the world is still failing to put the global energy system onto a more sustainable path."

Sustainable Prospects (2010-2035):
* Share renewables / global electricity: 20% >> 31%
* Share global water use for energy: 15 >> 35%

Energy-related CO2 emissions:
31.2 Gt >> 37.0 Gt (2011-2035)

Fossil fuel share/global energy mix:
81% >> 75%


Possible fossil fuels & climate change scenario “Point of no return”

The impact of 14 enormous coal, oil and shale gas extraction projects

Source: Greenpeace 2013: “The massive climate threats we must avoid”
Climate Change and Security at the UN level

“The Security Council expresses its concern that possible adverse effects of climate change may, in the long run, aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security.”

April 2007: Debate in the UN Security Council at the Initiative of the UK

June 2009: UN Resolution on climate change and security, report by the Secretary-General

July 2011: Debate in the UN Security Council under the German Presidency - PRST
Climate Change and Security at the UN level

Areas of activity for climate diplomacy

Area 1: Adaptation to Climate Change
Conflict-sensitive approaches, policy coordination, participation, institutional strengthening, long-term financing

Area 2: Transboundary Environmental Cooperation
River basins, Nature reserves (Peace Parks), trust- and peace-building,

Area 3: Early Warning Systems and Vulnerability Assessment
Integrate natural, geographical and political information, assessments as basis for informed decision making, early warning – early action

Area 4: Sustainable Energy Policies and Green Economy
Build partnerships to design / implement policy measures such as low carbon and green growth strategies, renewable energy incentives or emission trading
Please find more information at www.climate-diplomacy.org