

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

This year's Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC) focused on **inclusive, actionable, and joined-up approaches to addressing climate-related risks to peace and security**. From 27 September to 8 October, adelphi convened the climate security community of practice digitally to discuss the most urgent and cutting-edge topics in this space.

HIGHLIGHTS



Over 2500 participants



31 partner organisations



8 Foreign Ministers and State Secretaries speaking



114 speakers from around the world, high-level to working-level



2/3 of speakers women and 4 all-female panels



22 sessions over 2 weeks

THE CONFERENCE

BCSC 2021 covered the most **urgent, important and innovative topics** connected to **climate and security**, ranging from the links between climate change and food security; human mobility; water scarcity; women, peace and security; locally-informed solutions; data; scenario development; and environmental degradation; to advancing climate-sensitive mediation and peacebuilding.

It brought together participants and speakers from **diverse backgrounds**, to collaborate on an **Agenda for Action**.

BCSC 2021 promoted **comprehensive, inclusive, locally-informed, and action-focused solutions** to climate-related security risks.

WATCH THE SESSIONS





KEY SPEAKERS

Adopting an online format, the third iteration of BCSC provided a critical space for the community of practice from high- to working-level to convene and **discuss the most urgent topics related to climate and security**. Participants and speakers came together to **share good practices** with the aim of informing multilateral, regional and local approaches to addressing climate-related drivers of conflict and instability, identify how to **move from analysis to action** and operationalise the debate on the ground.

BCSC once again attracted engaged participants from politics, the UN System, defence, diplomacy, the development community, and humanitarian sector. **Speakers included:**

- [Heiko Maas](#), Foreign Minister, German Federal Foreign Office
- [Raychelle Omamo](#), Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya
- [Rosemary A. Di Carlo](#), Under-Secretary General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, UNDP
- [Inger Andersen](#), UN Under-Secretary General, Exec. Director UNEP
- [Benedetta Bertj](#), Head of Policy Planning, NATO
- [Wolfgang Ischinger](#), Chairman, Munich Security Conference
- [Helga Maria Schmid](#), Secretary General, OSCE
- [Robert Mardini](#), Director-General, ICRC
- [General Robert Kariuki Kibochi](#), Chief of the Defence Forces, Kenya
- [Sinéad Walsh](#), Climate Envoy, Dept. for Foreign Affairs, Ireland
- [Niels Annen](#), Minister of State, German Federal Foreign Office
- [Jeppe Kofod](#), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
- [Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide](#), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- [Aminath Shauna](#), Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives
- [Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed](#), Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mauritania
- [Abdoulaye Diop](#), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mali
- [Sultan Al Jaber](#), Special Envoy for Climate, United Arab Emirates

“Fairness, justice, inclusivity of women, fact-based action and reliance on science must underpin our efforts to drive forward a multilateral momentum on climate security”

Raychelle Omamo,
Cabinet Secretary for
Foreign Affairs, Kenya

We were especially proud of the gender and global diversity on all panels, with **four panels comprising exclusively female speakers**. We see this as a benchmark of BCSC practice and key to ensuring a balanced and informed debate.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE CONFERENCE

During the opening session of BCSC, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas set the tone for the conference with his welcoming remarks: “Climate change is the existential threat of our time”, he said, and emphasised the importance of taking decisive, cooperative action to address climate related security risks: “We all share a strong consensus on the link between climate change, peace and security. Now we have to take the next step and operationalise this consensus”.

Throughout the conference, there was a strong agreement on the need for **context-specific, local analysis, as well as multilateral cooperation**. Participants highlighted the importance of targeted recommendations – for UN agencies, member states and practitioners – on how to build resilience and incorporate locally-informed climate and conflict risk analyses into policy making. Some **key issues and take-aways** from the rich discussions include:

Systemic and joint multilateral action on Climate, Peace and Stability is imperative to advance the climate security agenda

- A clear call for a multilateral, multi-stakeholder agenda for action, such as a thematic resolution on climate and security in the United Nations Security Council, is critical.
- Working across sectors, and building bridges between the different communities of practice must form the basis of multilateral climate action.
- Inclusive engagement of civil society could strengthen bottom-up approaches on climate and security.
- More alliances are needed between the EU, AU and the UN, as well as between governments, civil society and local communities.

Fairness, equity, inclusivity and specificity must form the basis of any climate security strategy

- Climate security analysis and decision-making on the ground must be context-specific, locally informed and include the voices of women, marginalised and indigenous communities, and youth.
- Programming should contribute to gender equality, climate adaptation and peacebuilding in an integrated way, particularly as women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate security risks.
- Raising awareness, resilience building and strengthening local capacities is essential.

A triple nexus approach and integrated analysis are key to addressing climate-related security risks holistically, combining diplomacy, development and defence

- Climate analysis needs to be more integrated with conflict and peacebuilding analysis.
- To achieve sustainable peace, climate lenses need to be integrated into context-specific gender and conflict analysis and vice versa.

More climate risk financing and investments in the climate-conflict nexus are necessary

- There is a need for additional funding for climate mitigation and adaptation measures that also incentivise peace and reach the most vulnerable communities.

Risk-informed and science-based data must be combined with context-specific qualitative analysis to drive effective climate security responses

- Providing practitioners with data-driven insights about the full range of climate security impacts is crucial in order to improve anticipatory action to avoid and reduce those risks.

BCSC 2021 INSPIRES

“Climate change is not distributed regularly. Women and girls face risk from both climate and conflict. Active participation with and from women and girls is integral in addressing climate security risks.”

**Rosemary DiCarlo,
Under-Secretary-General for Political
and Peacebuilding Affairs, UN
Department of Political and
Peacebuilding Affairs**

“Governance systems of indigenous communities are different (...) each community has their own protocol and create their own legislation (...) it’s integral to use participatory mapping, talk to communities about history, talk to elders about resource management and then talk to younger generations.”

**Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator,
Association of Peul Women and
Autochthonous Peoples of Chad; Board
member of International Indigenous Peoples
Forum on Climate Change**

“Adaptation needs to be front and centre in how we think about climate change and security [...] we must build bridges between the different communities of practice, working between diplomacy, defence, security and development.”

**Benedetta Berti, Head of Policy
Planning, NATO**

“Climate risk analysis must be context-specific and locally informed with a gender and conflict lens”

**Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, Director of
the Centre for Women, Peace and
Security, London School of
Economics and Political Science**

“One resounding outcome of the conference is a clear call for a multilateral, multi-stakeholder common agenda for action [...] BCSC is not the end of this process.”

**Niels Annen,
German Minister of State**

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

