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HE Dr Bernhard Kotsch

Berlin Climate and Security Conference New York 2026

German Permanent Mission to the UN April 2026

The UN edition of the Berlin Climate and Security Conference in New York City explored how the broader UN system can more effectively fulfil its mandate in an era of climate-driven security risks and inform strategic approaches that navigate political challenges. Bridging the gap between recognition and action has emerged as one of the defining tasks of the climate, peace and security agenda.

Since its inaugural edition in Berlin in 2019, the Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC) has become the leading global forum connecting governments, international organisations, experts and practitioners working to advance the agenda. Building on regional editions in Nairobi, Cali and Rio de Janeiro, BCSC-New York brought the conversation to the heart of multilateral diplomacy.



On 29 April, UN member states, UN entities, regional organisations, civil society and practitioners convened in New York to examine priorities, opportunities and challenges within the UN system. Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN, supported by adelphi global, and organised in partnership with the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) and the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, the conference pursued three strategic goals:

- **Mapping the landscape:** Taking stock of current UN engagement on climate, peace and security (CPS), drawing lessons from recent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) initiatives and identifying entry points for strengthened action.
- **Leveraging existing mechanisms:** Exploring how the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, the CSM and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) can build political momentum and institutional capacity for integrated CPS responses.
- **Making the UN fit for purpose:** Identifying what concrete reforms – in financing, early warning, peacekeeping mandates and conflict risk analysis – are needed to address CPS challenges and deliver on the UN80 Initiative.

The day was filled with a rich mix of high-level political dialogues, thematic breakout sessions and spotlight conversations, all grounded in the question: **what must the UN system do, concretely and urgently, to move beyond recognition of climate-related security risks and drive comprehensive action?**



130+ participants



50+ Member State delegations



15+ UN entities represented



35 speakers from around the world



Opening Remarks by HE Dr Bernhard Kotsch and HE Ambassador Lara Daniel

The conference opened with remarks from **HE Dr Bernhard Kotsch**, State Secretary, German Federal Foreign Office and **HE Ambassador Lara Daniel**, Permanent Representative of Nauru to the UN, anchoring the day around two interconnected realities: responsibility and urgency.

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"We cannot afford to lose sight of the systemic risks of climate change. These risks threaten to aggravate existing conflicts or create new ones. They impact local, regional and international stability."

”

— **HE Dr Bernhard Kotsch**
State Secretary, German Federal Foreign Office

German State Secretary Bernhard Kotsch opened BCSC-New York by situating the CPS agenda within the broader pressures facing the international system. In a context of multiplying conflicts, a strained rules-based order and devastating climate impacts in the shape of floods, droughts, heatwaves, and displacement, he stressed that committed collaboration in the framework of the UN would remain the international community's strongest asset. He underlined that climate change directly threatens all three of Germany's overarching foreign policy goals – security, freedom and prosperity. Therefore, the international community needs to keep the systemic risks posed by climate change in sight even as it focuses attention on urgent conflicts around the world. He proposed three fields of action: (1) improving access to finance for fragile and conflict-affected settings through initiatives such as Germany's Investing for Peace Initiative; (2) deepening analysis of the climate-peace-security nexus and translating insights into action; and (3) building more holistic, cross-border solutions. He outlined Germany's long-standing commitment to CPS, from championing the UNSC Presidential Statement of 2011 to co-chairing the Group of Friends on Climate and Security alongside Nauru as well as C-SET together with Tuvalu, supporting the CSM and being the largest donor to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) while championing the climate security nexus in the PBC. He confirmed climate and security is high on the agenda as part of Germany's UN Security Council candidacy for 2027/28.

Ambassador Lara Daniel opened with an assessment of where the CPS agenda stands. She noted that recognition of the climate-security link is no longer the challenge. The real question is whether the international system is moving fast enough, and working coherently enough, to respond. Speaking from her dual perspective as a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) representative and Co-Chair of the Group of Friends, she identified a persistent divide: progress is happening in practice, particularly in Africa, where climate and security considerations are already being integrated into mandates and supported by dedicated advisers. At the same time, she noted that hesitation continues at the global level and on principle. Introducing CPS language into negotiated outcomes is still contested and difficult to sustain in universal frameworks. She described bridging that divide as the central challenge. She argued that the tools exist but remain underfunded, insufficiently expanded and unevenly deployed. Implementation is the true test. She closed on a note of cautious opportunity stating that there is growing openness across the UN system to engage with the CPS agenda more seriously, but the window is narrow. The question, she concluded, is whether the international community is ready to grasp it.

“

There is still a disconnect. Here in New York, this remains a highly sensitive and contested issue. But on the ground, the work is moving ahead.”

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— HE Ambassador Lara Daniel
Permanent Representative of Nauru to the UN

The opening remarks set the tone for the day: there is increasing political awareness and knowledge on entry points for action, but the gap between ambition and delivery must be closed now.



HE Ambassador Lara Daniel



High-level dialogue: Navigating the Nexus of Climate, Peace and Security

Speakers:

- **HE Andžejs Viļumsons**, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Latvia
- **HE Ambassador Ksenija Škrilec**, Special Envoy on Climate Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia
- **HE Ambassador Erastus Lokaale**, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN
- **HE Ligia Noronha**, Assistant Secretary General, United Nations Environment Programme

Moderated by **Benjamin Pohl**, Director, Climate Diplomacy and Security, adelphi

The opening high-level dialogue addressed a central question: how to embed CPS considerations systematically across the full spectrum of UN conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts.

The dialogue pointed to real and growing political momentum. Incremental progress within contested multilateral terrain is possible: Arria Formula meetings on CPS, UNSC engagement on water security and the inclusion of explicit CPS language in the EU Council conclusions on climate and energy all demonstrate that the agenda is advancing across regional and multilateral frameworks. The PBC and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion on climate obligations were identified as important reference points for deepening the institutional architecture around CPS.





Speakers were clear that political momentum alone is insufficient. The UN system has the tools and the mandate to act, but translating political commitment into operational reality requires institutional coherence across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding pillars. Integrated programming, connecting early warning, climate adaptation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding within a single analytical and operational framework, is not a nice-to-have; it is the only approach that reflects the interconnected nature of the challenge.



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HE Ambassador Erastus Lokaale; HE Ambassador Ksenija Škrilec

Priorities for action:

- **Overcome institutional barriers** by bridging silos and integrating CPS into UN conflict prevention and peacebuilding frameworks as a core analytical lens, not an add-on;
- **Empower frontline states** to shape and drive the CPS agenda within multilateral institutions, build out regional partnerships and ensure those most affected have a stronger voice in the decisions that affect them;
- **Commit to concrete efforts** to connect prevention efforts with climate risk assessments and finance.



Breakout Session: Addressing the Interlinkages Between Climate and Conflict in Africa

Speakers:

- **Jestino Sharty Gaye, Sr**, First Secretary and Climate Change Expert, Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations
- **Tanya Merceron**, Climate Peace and Security Advisor, UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

Moderation and input by **Tendai E. Kasinganeti**, Climate, Peace and Security Advisor, United Nations Office to the African Union

Across the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and West Africa, climate change is compounding governance fragilities, driving displacement and fuelling intercommunal tensions over land, water and resources. African states and regional institutions are moving from anticipating impacts to addressing them, and they are not waiting for the rest of the world to catch up.



Tendai E. Kasinganeti; Jestino Sharty Gaye, Sr; Tanya Merceron



The session made clear that the climate-conflict nexus in Africa requires integrated responses that reflect the full complexity of the challenge. Environmental degradation is interacting with the financing of armed groups while extreme weather events are disrupting UN operational capacity in the field. Climate impacts fall disproportionately on women and children. At the same time, the relationship between climate and conflict is neither simple nor deterministic. Context-specific knowledge, grounded in lived experience and local and traditional understanding, is essential for designing responses that work. Data gaps remain a real barrier: environmental impact assessments need better data, and conflict prevention tools must be adapted to reflect climate realities on the ground.

African agency and regional leadership were central themes. African states and regional bodies, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the AU, are developing a Common African Position on CPS, advocating at the UNSC to elevate climate as a thematic security issue and integrating CPS considerations into continental mechanisms. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) offer an important vehicle for aligning national climate commitments with conflict prevention priorities and regional peace and security frameworks. Speakers and participants further noted that the UN system must strengthen support for African-owned responses rather than imposing externally designed frameworks.

Priorities for action:

- **Close knowledge and data gaps:** Improve environmental impact assessments, expand early warning systems and integrate local and traditional knowledge systematically. Early warning mechanisms must be resourced to connect directly to early action, including pre-positioned financing.
- **Connect prevention to finance:** Dedicated, flexible financing for climate-conflict prevention must be mobilised at scale. Improvements in natural resource governance and water cooperation should be explicitly framed and funded as peacebuilding investments.
- **Centre African agency within multilateral structures:** The A3+ grouping represents a critical vehicle for advancing CPS as a thematic issue within the UNSC. Regional mechanisms must be primary partners in the design and implementation of CPS responses. The capacity of local actors should also be simultaneously built.



Breakout Session: Sea-Level Rise – Island States at the Frontlines

Speakers:

- **HE Ambassador Lara Daniel**, Permanent Representative of Nauru to the UN
- **Jesuino de Oliveira Alves**, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Timor-Leste to the UN
- **Jesus Enrique II Garcia**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN
- **Eustace Wallace**, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the UN
- **Jamie Tarawa**, Climate Security Advisor - Pacific Islands Forum, United Nations Development Programme (CSM)

Moderated by **Lauren Risi**, Senior Fellow and Director, Environmental Security Program, Stimson Center

For small island and low-lying coastal states in the Pacific, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia, climate change is a significant threat to communities, livelihoods and cultures. Extreme weather events are occurring with increasing frequency, coastal erosion is advancing, saltwater intrusion is threatening fresh water supplies, and the territorial and legal foundations upon which these states depend are under threat. In this context, speakers identified the International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion on climate obligations as a vital legal tool. The follow-up resolution that is currently being negotiated to operationalise this opinion would show where every member state stands on this issue.

Panellists emphasized that existing multilateral frameworks, including the work of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Vulnerable 20 (V20), the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the Loss and Damage Fund, provide important platforms, but interregional dialogue must be strengthened. Climate mobility frameworks – built on the rights to stay and to move – must be developed alongside resilience strategies, with communities empowered to make decisions about their own futures.



The session also surfaced a structural inequity that multilateral frameworks have yet to adequately address: high-income but climate-vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are excluded from concessional finance on the basis of GDP per capita, leaving them over-indebted and under-resourced in the face of existential risk. Given the scale and scope of the risks that island states face, speakers urged international partners to close the gap between their rhetoric and the resources they deploy.



Eustace Wallace; HE Ambassador Lara Daniel; Jesus Enrique II Garcia

Priorities for action:

- **Strengthen interregional dialogue:** The UN system should actively support dialogue between regional bodies like the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and ECOWAS in order to facilitate exchange of good practices and learning;
- **Strengthen and finance prevention:** Support locally led mediation and prevention work, which is often led by women peacebuilders and environmental defenders but remains systematically underfunded;
- **Support the implementation of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty** by investing into the protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity to support livelihoods, food security and economic survival;
- **Protect cultural identity and heritage:** the international community must recognise this dimension explicitly within legal frameworks and mobility agreements.



Breakout Session: Water Resilience in a Changing Climate

Speakers:

- **Kaveh Madani**, Director, UNU INWEH
- **Mohamet Ladiane**, First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal to the UN
- **Caroline Pellaton**, Director of Operations, Geneva Water Hub
- **Charity Watson**, Climate Security Advisor – United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Moderated by **Benjamin Pohl**, Director, Climate Diplomacy and Security, adelphi

Water security sits at one of the most consequential intersections of the CPS agenda. As climate change intensifies hydrological variability – driving more frequent droughts, floods and seasonal disruptions – the governance of shared water resources is becoming an arena for both cooperation and conflict. Around the world, water stress is compounding existing fragilities and undermining the foundations of sustainable peace.

With the UN Water Conference approaching, this session examined how the CPS community can contribute to that process and ensure that conflict prevention and peacebuilding perspectives are embedded in the global water governance agenda. Speakers highlighted the impacts of climate change and discussed how the world has entered an era of "global water bankruptcy" where human demand for water exceeds sustainable supply, causing irreversible damage to water resources. This is driving disruption in many other systems because water is the key resource that connects to other forms of capital. Moreover, water is a critical dimension of human security: in Afghanistan, to take one of the examples discussed in this session, water determines whether people eat, children go to school and communities stay together. However, Afghanistan is facing an acute water crisis, with nearly half of internal migration driven by water scarcity and Kabul at risk of running out of water by 2030.



As speakers stressed, though, water also offers great opportunity. Water delivers immediate and very tangible benefits, making it well-suited to communicate the challenges of environmental change. Reliable water management also delivers many co-benefits across other critical dimensions such as food, water and health, including its suitability for helping to build social cohesion at different levels. Water management requires continuous cooperation, a requirement that has often helped keep conversation channels open even in conflict situations.

Hence, the panel urged the CPS community to systematically consider the potential of water and water diplomacy as entry points for conflict prevention and attenuation. The situation in Afghanistan shows how climate change and water management can create space for engagement between the de facto authorities and international actors while helping extend to engagement of women. At the transboundary level, the example of the Senegal river basin demonstrates how water can serve as a tool for economic integration, an idea prominently featured in the AU's Africa Water Vision 2063. Speakers urged the international community to reduce the pressures of our economies on water and to leverage its capacity for connecting people.

Priorities for action:

- **Invest into water as an investment into stability:** Convince partners that improving water governance is critical for human security and has many very tangible co-benefits, whereas water bankruptcy threatens not only the water-poor, but ultimately also the water-rich;
- **Use water as an entry point for engagement:** Water can be a common denominator and has featured as the last diplomatic interface for engagement in difficult conflicts; therefore, investing early into the soft aspects of water governance, including by enabling stakeholders and ensuring inclusivity, is a powerful tool for conflict prevention;
- **Leverage the UN Water Conference for stability** by underlining the need to protect water systems, not only as a legal obligation, but an investment into stability, and ensure that conflict prevention and peacebuilding perspectives are embedded in global water governance.



Breakout Session: Fostering Climate Resilient Food Systems

Speakers:

- **HE Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett**, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations
- **Angélica Jácome**, Director, FAO Liaison Office with the UN
- **Elvis Tangem**, Climate, Peace and Security Advisor, Lake Chad Basin

Moderation and input by **Erin Sikorsky**, Director, Center for Climate and Security

Conflict is one of the root causes of hunger – alongside economic shocks and climate impacts – and the links between food insecurity and instability are well-documented. Yet the UN system often continues to treat these challenges in silos when the reality on the ground is anything but. This session focused on what more coherent, anticipatory and locally grounded responses would look like in practice.

The session identified a fundamental tension at the heart of the multilateral response to climate-related food insecurity: the tools and evidence exist, but the political will and financial architecture to deploy them at scale do not. Panellists stated that the private sector has a role to play in supporting these initiatives and as an engine of growth but cannot replace ODA or other financing sources. Existing mechanisms, including FAO's climate risks toolbox for food security and the informal working group on conflict and hunger, provide a foundation, but data gaps, lack of standardised triggers and insufficient deployment remain real barriers. Integrated programming that connects climate adaptation, food systems and conflict prevention within a single framework is essential. Indigenous and traditional knowledge must be integrated into governance structures rather than treated as supplementary.

Despite these challenges, some key UNSC Member States do not yet accept CPS as a Council issue. Beyond the difficulties arising from the lack of a broad thematic resolution, there are additional immediate concerns about peacekeeping missions being reduced and thematic mandates suffering. Speakers agreed that elected UNSC members must make CPS a priority within their terms.



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Erin Sikorsky; HE Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett

Priorities for action:

- **Strengthen early warning and anticipatory financing for food security:** Data gaps and lack of standardised triggers must be addressed urgently and at scale for rapid response. Technology transfer and sharing best practices is key;
- **Finance must be flexible and fit for purpose:** Rigid reporting requirements and short time horizons are incompatible with the realities of fragile and conflict-affected settings where climate-driven food insecurity is most acute;
- **Local populations must be beneficiaries and decision-makers:** Communities on the frontlines of the climate-food-conflict nexus must be centred in the design and delivery of food security responses, with indigenous and traditional knowledge integrated into governance structures at every level.



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NEW YORK

Spotlight Session: Climate Mobility

Moderated by **Holger Klitzing**, Head of Climate and Security Division, German Federal Foreign Office

As climate impacts intensify, the movement of people, across and within borders, is increasingly shaped by the intersection of environmental stress, resource competition and conflict. Yet international frameworks to manage climate mobility remain fragmented and disconnected from the broader peace and security architecture.



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Holger Klitzing; Sarah Rosengaertner

Global Partnerships in Action

Speaker: **Sarah Rosengaertner**, Deputy Managing Director, Global Centre for Climate Mobility (GCCM)

This session illustrated that what matters most is not so much why people are moving but how. The conversation centred around the importance of opening opportunities, and about rights, including heritage and culture. The speaker shared that nine high-level principles for addressing climate mobility are being developed ahead of the Berlin Climate Mobility Forum. They are being built on two foundational rights: the right to stay and the right to move. Government endorsement and multi-stakeholder implementation plans for these nine principles are key next steps.



Priorities for action:

- **Secure government endorsement of the nine principles:** With 120 countries consulted and no objections currently raised, the conditions for formal endorsement are in place. Momentum must be converted into political commitment, with clear timelines for adoption;
- **Develop multi-stakeholder implementation plans:** Principles must translate into concrete action plans that connect a wide variety of stakeholders, including government, private sector and civil society.



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Holger Klitzing; Barbra Lukunka

Displacement, Conflict and Peacebuilding in the Sahel and East Africa

Speaker: **Barbra Lukunka**, Senior Policy and Programme Officer, IOM

On the ground, seasonal migration patterns are already changing. People are moving earlier and along different routes as a result of environmental degradation. The speaker highlighted how operational tracking tools, such as IOM's Transhumance Tracking Tool in the Sahel, make these shifts visible and function simultaneously as early warning systems. When pastoralists arrive earlier than expected, community mediators can activate conflict prevention mechanisms before tensions escalate. The session underscored that conflict-sensitive, community-based planning, inclusive of women and youth, works, but the tools enabling it are now at risk from funding shortfalls.



Priorities for action:

- Protect and scale funding for operational early warning tools: Instruments such as the Transhumance Tracking Tool are proven conflict prevention mechanisms. Funding shortfalls threaten their continuity and must be addressed as a peace and security investment, not solely a humanitarian one;
- Mainstream conflict-sensitive climate mobility planning into national and regional frameworks: Community-based approaches inclusive of women and youth have demonstrated impact. They must be embedded in local committees to regional security architectures to ensure sustainability beyond project cycles.





Spotlight Session: Weathering Risk Peace Pillar

Speakers:

- **Hisham Al-Omeisy**, Senior Yemen Advisor, European Institute of Peace
- **Cynthia Brady**, Senior Associate, adelphi

The Weathering Risk Peace Pillar spotlight presented evaluation evidence from five years of project implementation in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and highlighted insights from the Yemen project. In one of the world's most protracted conflicts, shared climate risks, particularly water scarcity, have created unexpected opportunities for dialogue. By starting conversations around water, land degradation and environmental rather than hard security issues, it became possible to bring parties to the table that conventional peacebuilding approaches had not managed to convene. The session highlighted a key insight: it is often the perception of inequity, not scarcity itself, that generates conflict. At the same time, local expertise in Yemen, including among women, proved far deeper than initially assumed. These observations during the session pointed to a broader lesson: peace processes that focus only on military and political dimensions miss the entry points that climate and environmental issues can open. Integrated programming is what makes these entry points actionable.

Priorities for action:

- Frame **shared environmental** and resource **risks as entry points** for cooperation, trust-building, and preventive diplomacy;
- Pair peace dialogues with joint initiatives on environmental governance, from resource management to pollution control, to **turn cooperation into lasting relationships**;
- **Link climate adaptation, environmental governance, and peacebuilding** so progress in one area strengthens the others and scale successful models through partnerships and shared learnings.



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NEW YORK

Panel Discussion: Climate Finance for Peace – Bridging the Funding Gap

Speakers:

- **Habib Mayar**, Deputy Secretary-General, G7+ Secretariat
- **HE Ambassador Helen King**, ECOSOC Ambassador of the United Kingdom
- **Marcus Lenzen**, Deputy Chief of the Peacebuilding Fund Branch, UN Peacebuilding and Peace Support Office
- **Pascal Yaka**, Climate, Peace and Security Advisor, Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA)

Moderated by **Cynthia Brady**, Senior Associate, adelphi

The closing panel tackled the question that connected to many issues discussed at BCSC–New York: how can more and better financing flow to fragile and conflict-affected countries?



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Cynthia Brady; HE Ambassador Helen King; Marcus Lenzen, Pascal Yaka, Habib Mayar



The panel identified a structural paradox at the heart of the conversation surrounding climate finance and peace. Fragile and conflict-affected countries, including the G7+, collectively hold significant forest stocks, renewable energy potential and critical mineral reserves, yet the financial system is not designed for the realities of fragility and conflict. Accessing climate finance remains extraordinarily difficult for the countries that need it most. Panellists agreed that making access easier and more direct, supporting countries in building national climate funds and project pipelines, and ensuring system coherence across bilateral, multilateral and private finance are practical steps that can be taken now. Somalia's experience, supported in establishing a national climate fund and project pipeline that has resulted in a USD 95 million Green Climate Fund (GCF) project was highlighted, demonstrating what is possible with the right accompaniment and political commitment.

The PBF model was cited as a powerful bridge between the climate finance and peacebuilding worlds. With strong demand from member states and the ability to move from idea to project start rather quickly in six to nine months, the PBF can take risks that larger, more risk-averse funds cannot. Speakers stated that it is already beginning to shift the behaviour of vertical climate funds – with the African Development Bank examining the PBF model with a view to scaling it. The expressed goal is to extend this to the GCF and other vertical funds, and to shift the entire system from conflict sensitivity to peace positivity: not just asking how to avoid doing harm, but how to actively reduce conflict risk and build peace through climate action. The panel concluded on a quote of the UN Secretary-General that "peace is made in budgets, not just in negotiations."

Priorities for action:

- **Reform access:** Simplify accreditation, expand direct access and provide technical support from the start of the project cycle;
- **Finance Fragile and Conflict-Affected States explicitly:** Develop financial instruments specifically designed for fragile and conflict-affected settings, with risk profiles that reflect operational realities;
- **Scale the PBF model:** Extend its speed, risk appetite and peace-positive approach to larger climate funds, including the Green Climate Fund;
- **Localise genuinely:** Build the capacity of local and national institutions to receive, manage and account for funds, and centre them as decision-makers, not only recipients.



Closing Remarks and Key Takeaways

HE Ambassador Thomas Zahneisen, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, closed the day by drawing together the threads from across all sessions. BCSC–New York fulfilled three core rationales: to learn, to identify better answers and to strengthen the community of CPS supporters.

Several cross-cutting themes and key takeaways emerged:

- **The evidence base is strong – action is vital:** The analytical case for integrating climate into peace and security frameworks is no longer in dispute. The Horn of Africa, the Sahel, the Pacific, Afghanistan, Yemen – the evidence from each context tells the same story: climate stress compounds conflict, and conflict compounds climate vulnerability. While there will always be gaps in data and analysis, this must not be an excuse for not taking action.
- **Bridge the silos – institutionally and in practice:** From food systems to water governance to climate finance, the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding pillars of the UN system continue to operate in separation when the challenges they face are deeply interconnected. Connecting the HDP nexus in practice – not just in policy – is one of the most urgent reforms the UN system must make. Integrated programming is not a methodological fad; it is a prerequisite for effective action.
- **Use every multilateral lever available:** NDCs, regional frameworks, PBF programming, the Group of Friends, the CSM, the ICJ advisory opinion, the Loss and Damage Fund – the multilateral architecture is more developed than it was five years ago. The task now is to use these instruments actively and in combination. Regional bodies – including the AU, ECOWAS and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) – must be genuine partners, not implementing agents of externally designed programmes.
- **Trust local actors to lead:** Whether in climate finance, early warning systems or peacebuilding programming, the communities most affected must be at the centre of decision-making. This means building local capacity, reforming access mechanisms and trusting national and community actors to lead.



HE Ambassador Thomas Zahneisen

- **Finance must reach the most vulnerable – at speed and at scale:** The gap between available finance and finance flowing to FCAS is one of the most concrete failures the international system must address. Reforming accreditation, expanding direct access, developing FCAS-specific instruments and shifting to peace positivity are practical steps available now.
- **Women are not only victims – they are agents of change:** Across sessions on food systems, climate mobility, sea-level rise and finance, women were consistently identified as both the most affected and the most effective responders. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and CPS agendas must advance together.
- **Convert political will into action:** The Group of Friends is growing. The CSM is deploying advisers on the ground. The African Common Position, the EU Council conclusions, the ICJ advisory opinion – the political architecture is developing. What must follow is institutional coherence, enhanced financing and sustained commitment to translate statements into operational reality.

The climate and security agenda cannot wait for more favourable geopolitical conditions. It requires action now, in the institutions we have, with the partners we have, and with the tools we have.



Outlook: The CPS Agenda in International Fora

BCSC–New York took place at a very dynamic moment. The conversations of 29 April feed directly into a series of upcoming international processes where the CPS agenda can be advanced and the commitments made in New York will be tested.

- **Berlin Climate Mobility Forum:** the Global Centre for Climate Mobility (GCCM) will present nine high-level principles for addressing climate mobility. Governments are invited to endorse the principles and develop implementation roadmaps with a broad coalition of states, civil society and the private sector. The principles offer a foundation for integrating climate mobility into NDCs and national adaptation frameworks.
- **Berlin Climate and Security Conference:** The annual BCSC returns to the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin on 6 October. The discussions from New York – on multilateral frameworks, island state resilience, water diplomacy, climate mobility, food systems and finance reform – will feed directly into that agenda.
- **COP31:** Multiple sessions at BCSC–New York pointed to COP31 as a critical moment, e.g. with Burkina Faso committing to presenting its national CPS strategy there to establish new partnerships. Participants called for a dedicated CPS day at COP31 and COP32, and for successive COP presidencies to build on the COP28 Declaration on Peace, Relief and Recovery.
- **UN Water Conference:** BCSC–New York participants called for the CPS community to engage actively in the UN Water Conference, ensuring that conflict prevention and peacebuilding perspectives are embedded in the global water governance agenda and that transboundary water governance frameworks reflect the full complexity of climate-security linkages.



- **The UN Security Council:** The CPS agenda's relationship with the UNSC remains its most contested frontier. Elected UNSC members have both the opportunity and the responsibility to make CPS a priority within their terms. The Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security, the Group of Joint Pledgers and the Group of Friends provide the institutional scaffolding; consistent political pressure from the widest possible coalition of member states must follow.
- **The Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund:** The PBC was identified across multiple sessions as an under-utilised entry point for CPS action. Participants called on the PBC to integrate CPS more systematically into its work programme. They also encouraged the PBF to further build out its role in funding data collection for the CPS evidence base, acting as a bridge between climate finance and peacebuilding programming and catalysing longer-term investments through the GCF and other vertical funds.

BCSC-New York left the CPS community with a clear shared agenda and responsibility: to ensure that the political momentum visible in this room translates into institutional action.

The conference summary was produced by adelphi global.

Special thanks to the Australian Permanent Mission to the UN for hosting the speaker reception, and to the UAE Permanent Mission to the UN for hosting the breakout session on water resilience in a changing climate. We also extend our gratitude to all of the organisations who hosted and supported side events throughout the week.

Our particular thanks go to Swathi Veeravalli, our Master of Ceremonies, for expertly guiding us through the day.

BCSC-New York was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN, with support from adelphi global, and in partnership with the Climate Security Mechanism and the Group of Friends on Climate and Security.

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