Summary
Berlin Climate and Security Conference 2020
Part II: 7 September – 2 October

…in brief

The Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC) was once again *the* global meeting space to discuss how climate change is affecting peace and security and to explore the concrete actions to address climate-security risks. Whilst adopting a hybrid online and in studio format this year, it proved an important space for international organisations, the scientific community, the private sector and civil society to convene.

BCSC 2020 was held online in two parts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After the success of the high-level political segment (June 2020), we capitalised on the digital format to broaden the topics of the conference, connect a wide variety of experts, and reach globally as well as sectorally diverse participants with Part II. BCSC 2020 reached an audience of over **3620** across five continents. Part II involved 22 carefully curated sessions on the most pressing or cutting edge issues pertaining to climate and security risk response.

Four sessions specifically focused on bridging the gaps between science and policy, bringing together world leading scientists and experts to inform the upcoming Global Climate Security Risk and Foresight Assessment, discussing the political implementation, and methodology, of comprehensive climate risk assessments.

Whilst keeping to an agenda focused on covering questions that are key to understanding and addressing specific risks of climate change and security, we ensured each and every session took a holistic view to situate climate and security in the broader risk landscape, such as part of a COVID recovery.

…in numbers

- **14** partner organisations

  - ➢ We were proud to bring new partners into the fold, such as the Munich Security Conference, Berghof Foundation, UNSSC and the IRC. This extension of the climate security community of practice to new and important sectors is a core value of the BCSC.

- **22** diverse, engaging and high quality partner-led online sessions

- **3620** participants in total (BCSC 2020), with an average of **110** attendees per open session (Part II)

- Almost **1000** total views of BCSC Part II sessions on YouTube so far

- BCSC once again attracted excellent participants from all levels, from the political realm, the UN system, the defence community and the private sector. Highlights included Niels Annen, John Kerry, Hindou Ibrahimi, Achim Steiner, and Matthias Berninger. We were especially proud of the gender, age and global diversity on **all** panels and see this as a benchmark of BCSC practice and key to ensuring a balanced and informed debate.

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BERLIN CLIMATE AND SECURITY CONFERENCE 2020

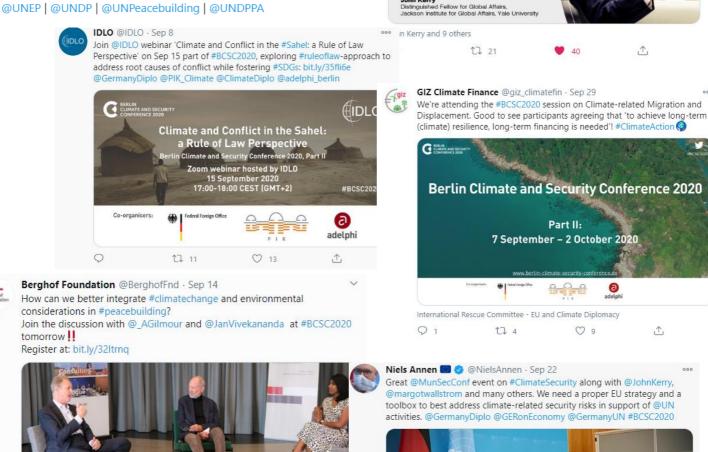## …in Tweets & images

UN Women ✓
@UN_Women

🕐 Sep 17 | 3PM CEST

Join @UNSCC's session at #BCSC2020 on #GenderClimateSecurity as experts unpack the gender dimensions of climate-related security risks and present opportunities for action.

➡️ ow.ly/uWZi50BrMDe

@UNEP | @UNDP | @UNPeacebuilding | @UNDPPA

Munich Security Conference ✓ @MunSecConf · Sep 22
Discussing #ClimateChange and security at our virtual #BCSC2020 event today, former U.S. Secretary of State @JohnKerry urged for rapid and comprehensive action. berlin-climate-security-conference.de/programme-2020... #MSCconversations

> Nothing we are doing today matches the level of the threat that we all face and the challenge that we are currently having.
>
> **John Kerry**
> Distinguished Fellow for Global Affairs,
> Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University

...n Kerry and 9 others

↻ 21   ♥ 40

IDLO @IDLO · Sep 8
Join @IDLO webinar 'Climate and Conflict in the #Sahel: a Rule of Law Perspective' on Sep 15 part of #BCSC2020, exploring #ruleoflaw-approach to address root causes of conflict while fostering #SDGs: bit.ly/35fli6e @GermanyDiplo @PIK_Climate @ClimateDiplo @adelphi_berlin

Climate and Conflict in the Sahel: a Rule of Law Perspective
Berlin Climate and Security Conference 2020, Part II
Zoom webinar hosted by IDLO
15 September 2020
17:00-18:00 CEST (GMT+2)
#BCSC202...

Co-organisers: Federal Foreign Office · P I K · adelphi

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GIZ Climate Finance @giz_climatefin · Sep 29
We're attending the #BCSC2020 session on Climate-related Migration and Displacement. Good to see participants agreeing that 'to achieve long-term (climate) resilience, long-term financing is needed'! #ClimateAction

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International Rescue Committee - EU and Climate Diplomacy

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Berghof Foundation @BerghofFnd · Sep 14
How can we better integrate #climatechange and environmental considerations in #peacebuilding?
Join the discussion with @_AGilmour and @JanVivekananda at #BCSC2020 tomorrow‼️
Register at: bit.ly/32ltrnq

We Need To Talk:
Changing Climate, Changing Conflicts
15 Sept 15:30 Fireside Chat | 16:00 LIVE Twitter Conversation #BCSC2020
Berghof Foundation

adelphi 🌐 and 6 others

💬 1   ↻ 14   ♡ 20

Niels Annen 🇪🇺 ✓ @NielsAnnen · Sep 22
Great @MunSecConf event on #ClimateSecurity along with @JohnKerry, @margotwallstrom and many others. We need a proper EU strategy and a toolbox to best address climate-related security risks in support of @UN activities. @GermanyDiplo @GERonEconomy @GermanyUN #BCSC2020

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…in issues

Our sessions brought **innovative** and **underexplored themes** to the forefront of climate-security discussions. Speakers and participants…

  ➢ discussed the **specific challenges** around the integration of peacebuilding and climate change adaptation at the Berghof Foundation, adelphi and EPLO sessions;
  ➢ assessed climate security in the Sahel through a **novel** rule of law **perspective** with the IDLO; and
  ➢ considered the important **humanitarian angle** to climate security risk and response, in sessions by the German Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and the International Rescue Committee.

This year themes and partners were specifically selected to reach communities of practice that are new to climate-security, ensuring increased attention to and engagement in these issues.

Our second core aim was to **inform future work** and gain **insights** from other **experts in the field**. Firstly, the conference clearly identified areas of concern, which need more attention. Chief among them are urban climate security risks, the overlap and interaction of migration, fragility and climate change, and the need for international work on climate change to incorporate perspectives from foreign and security policy.

Secondly, we gathered important insights into **methodologies** for the Global Climate Security Risk and Foresight Assessment, through expert elicitation. Some key take-aways from the rich discussions include:

  ➢ Qualitative methods need to inform quantitative efforts, particularly given the limitations of forecasting methods in conflict.

  ➢ Bringing in expertise from different fields and from communities on the ground ensures that assessments are as comprehensive as possible and do not miss key aspects.

  ➢ Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and forecasting methods have real value, but should be based on expert advice and incorporate expert feedback throughout.

  ➢ The quantification of systemic (as opposed to direct) risks is very difficult and risks seem arbitrary. Instead, it is better to take a broad perspective and focus on practical outcomes and policy responses.

  ➢ Good analysis will need to balance the usability of outcomes for policy-makers with scientific rigor. Policy needs work on a timeline different than scientific research where results are available more quickly and confidence thresholds can be lower.

  ➢ Forecasting is a valuable approach but should be used with caution, with awareness of limitations: being able to forecast does not imply an ability to explain why something is forecast.

BCSC 2020 will remain accessible! The recordings of all public sessions are available on the adelphi YouTube channel in a dedicated playlist each for Part I and Part II.

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Thanks to our partners!

Berghof Foundation

Clingendael
Netherlands Institute of International Relations

German Red Cross

Munich Security Conference
Münchner Sicherheitskonferenz
msc

UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE

CCCPA

E3G

IDLO

Climate Centre

CHATHAM HOUSE

EPLO
European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

UN environment programme

WIL50N CENTER
years

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