



Berlin Climate and Security Conference, New York 2026

(BCSC-New York 2026)

April 29, 2026 – German Permanent Mission to the UN, New York

Concept Note

Climate change is fundamentally reshaping the international peace and security landscape, with climate-related instabilities increasingly manifesting across regions and conflict contexts. Through its various bodies and organisations, the United Nations is uniquely positioned to address this issue. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), as the primary body responsible for maintaining international peace and security, faces both significant opportunities and persistent challenges in addressing these interconnected threats. Recent UNSC engagement—including under Sierra Leone's and Guyana's leadership on climate, peace and security more broadly as well as climate-related food security—demonstrates growing momentum, yet comprehensive action remains limited. At the same time, the broader UN system is increasingly building up its capacity in responding to risks linked to the growing impacts of climate change around the world. The Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) leverages joint action and knowledge, in particular through the deployment of dedicated Climate, Peace and Security Advisors on the ground. Moreover, many UN agencies are assessing how the instability risks related to climate impact their mandates and operations and are seeking to proactively address them.

Since its inaugural edition in 2019, the annual Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC) hosted by the German Federal Foreign Office has become *the* global forum connecting governments, international organisations, experts and practitioners working to better address the impacts of climate change on international peace and security through diplomacy, development and defence approaches. Building on the success of BCSC-Nairobi 2023, BCSC-Cali 2024 and BCSC-Rio 2025, BCSC-New York 2026 will convene at the heart of multilateral diplomacy to examine climate, peace and security (CPS) priorities within the UN system, including on UNSC engagement and opportunities for advancing the CPS agenda.

BCSC-New York will be hosted by the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN, with support from adelphi global, and in partnership with the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) and the Group of Friends on Climate and Security. It will aim to provide a strategic platform for analysis and forward-looking dialogue on how the broader UN system can more effectively integrate climate security considerations into conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. The event will spotlight existing multilateral mechanisms—including the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security (IEG), the Group of Joint Pledgers in the UNSC, the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, and the Climate Security Mechanism—whilst examining pathways to strengthen institutional capacity and political will for CPS action.



Strategic Goals of BCSC-New York

The conference will focus on three strategic goals:

1. **Mapping the current landscape of UN engagement on CPS in various formats**, including lessons learnt from recent UNSC initiatives such as Sierra Leone's briefing, Guyana's open debate on food security, Slovenia's initiatives on water security, and the functioning of the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security, to identify entry points and priorities for strengthened action;
2. **Exploring opportunities to leverage existing multilateral mechanisms**, including the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, the Climate Security Mechanism and Peacebuilding Commission mandates, to build political momentum and institutional capacity for integrated CPS responses;
3. **Making the UN system fit for purpose in addressing CPS challenges and delivering to the UN80 Initiative**, including climate adaptation and financing in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, enhanced early warning capacities, climate-responsive peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates, improved financing mechanisms and systematic integration of climate risk analysis into conflict prevention and sustaining peace efforts.

The purpose of BCSC-New York is to convene UN member states, including Security Council members, UN entities, regional organisations, civil society and practitioners to examine CPS priorities, opportunities and challenges within the UN system. The one-day conference will be comprised of a mix of political dialogues and interactive sessions that increase shared understanding, identify strategic opportunities and create space for coalition-building across member states and stakeholders. The impetus of BCSC-New York is to provide a frank, forward-looking assessment of how the broader UN system can more effectively fulfil its mandate in an era of climate-driven security risks, and to inform strategic approaches that navigate political challenges whilst advancing concrete action on climate, peace and security.

Draft Agenda and Topics Overview

Welcome	Opening by State Secretary Kotsch, German Federal Foreign Office
High-level dialogue	Navigating the Nexus of Climate, Peace and Security
Breakout sessions I	1. Addressing the Interlinkage between Climate and Conflict 2. Sea-Level Rise: Island States at the Frontlines
Lunch	Lunch
Breakout sessions II	1. Water Security in a Changing Climate 2. Fostering Climate Resilient Food Systems
Plenary panel discussion	Climate Finance for Peace – Bridging the Funding Gap
Networking reception	Light Dinner and Drinks

