

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES: NATO's APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE

November 17, 2021

PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE

(EASTERN EUROPEAN TIME)

9:30 - 9:40 Setting the stage. Mr. Yordan Bozhilov, President of Sofia Security Forum and Col. Orlin Nicolov, Director of Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence

9:40 – 10.00 – Understanding and addressing climate change, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Georgi Panayotov

10:00 - 10:30 – NATO's Agenda on Climate Change and Security, Mr. James Appathurai, Deputy Assistant Secretary General, NATO

10:30 - 11:00 – Partner's corner. Outcomes of the three-day seminar hosted by South Korea's Ministry of Defense on the Implications of the Climate change on security. Captain Chanung Kim, environmental policy officer at the Environmental Coordination Division, Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea

11.00 – 11.20 – How shall NATO and the allies address the emerging security challenges, Jamie Shea, former NATO Assistant Secretary-General

11.20 – 11.30 – Break



**This conference is supported by
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11:30 - 12:00 Climate change as a threat to sustainable development and security

Mr. Rory Keane, Head of the United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS)

12:00 - 13:00 Climate change and security: A need for a comprehensive response.

Moderators:

Ms. Gergana Vaklinova, Section Head: Concept Development and Experimentation, NATO Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence

Mr. Yordan Bozhilov, President: Sofia Security Forum

Panelists:

- Mr. Michel Rademaker, Deputy Director, Hague Centre for Security Studies, the Netherlands
- Amb. Atanas Mladenov, Ambassador-at-Large for Sustainable Development and Climate Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

13:00 - 14.00 – Lunch break

14:00 – 14.30 – EUMS’ approach to the Climate Change and Security nexus.

Lt. Gen. Giovanni Manione, Deputy Director General, European Union Military Staff (EUMS)

14.30 - 15:30 – Military response to climate change.

Moderator: Col. Plamen Iliev, CMDR COE

Panelists:

- BG (R.) Ben Barry OBE, Senior Fellow for Land Warfare, International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, UK
- Dr. Sandro Carniel, Head of Research, Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation, NATO Science and Technology Organization
- COL. Dariusz Dobron, PAF General Command, Warsaw



15:30 - 15:40 - Amb. Tomas Anker Christensen, Climate Ambassador of Denmark, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Video address)

15:40 - 16:00 – Break

16:00 - 17:00 – Climate change implications on defense: the US' and Canada's approach.

Moderator: Yordan Bozhilov, President of Sofia Security Forum

Panelists:

- Mr. Peter Hammerschmidt, Assistant Deputy Minister for Policy, Department of National Defence
- Sherri Goodman, Secretary General of the International Military Council on Climate & Security, Senior Strategist and Advisory Board Member, Center for Climate & Security, Board Chair, Council on Strategic Risks, Former Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Environmental Security), Senior Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International

17.00 – 17.30 - Closing the conference



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CONCEPT NOTE

In the Brussels Summit Communiqué issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels 14 June 2021 the Climate change is described as one of the defining challenges of the present times, as a threat multiplier that impacts Allied security, both in the Euro-Atlantic area and in the Alliance's broader neighborhood. Climate change affect the geopolitical environment and have an impact on the operations, resilience and capabilities. In addition the Allied nations are determined to contribute to the implementation of the goals of reducing the negative impact of different activities on the environment.

NATO Foreign Ministers endorsed NATO's Climate Change and Security Agenda which provides a 360-degree approach and encompasses measures to increase both NATO's and Allies' awareness of the impact of climate change on security, along with developing clear adaptation and mitigation measures, and enhanced outreach, while ensuring a credible deterrence and defense posture and upholding the priorities of the safety of military personnel and operational and cost effectiveness.

Although NATO is not the first responder for every challenge related to climate change, the Alliance has a role to play in a comprehensive response to this issue. NATO decided to hold regular high-level climate and security dialogue to exchange views and coordinate further action.

In line with the NATO's approach to the climate change, Sofia Security Forum, NATO Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence and NATO Public Diplomacy Division are organizing an international conference titled "ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES: NATO's APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE" which will be held on November 17, 2021 in a hybrid mode – in-person in Sofia, Bulgaria and via Webex platform and will be live-streamed via social networks.

The event will bring together civilian and military executives, climate and security experts, think-tankers and media representatives for an in-depth discussion on the future practical steps that NATO, allies and partners may take.



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