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SOFIA SECURITY FORUM
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International conference

THE EMERGING SECURITY CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE: THE NEED FOR NEW POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS FOR ADDRESSING THEM

December 7, 2023

Central Military Club, Sofia, Bulgaria

Livestream:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81760567377?pwd=0OrSf0UogFYHkwkr6ZPt2zup0Ab3mk.1>

Languages: Bulgarian-English (simultaneous translation)

NATO 2022 STRATEGIC CONCEPT stated that the “Climate change is a defining challenge of our time, with a profound impact on Allied security. It is a crisis and threat multiplier. It can exacerbate conflict, fragility and geopolitical competition. Increasing temperatures cause rising sea levels, wildfires and more frequent and extreme weather events, disrupting our societies, undermining our security and threatening the lives and livelihoods of our citizens. Climate change also affects the way our armed forces operate. Our infrastructure, assets and bases are vulnerable to its effects. Our forces need to operate in more extreme climate conditions and our militaries are more frequently called upon to assist in disaster relief.”

The Sofia Security Forum and the Centre for the Study of New Generation Warfare decided to conduct a regional workshop with participation of representatives from Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Czech Republic, Romania and Croatia to discuss the growing consequences of climate change migration for Allied security. The event is sponsored by NATO PDD.



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Attendees: high level civilian or military representatives dealing with policy consequences of the Climate change and security and/or with helicopter/aviation experience.

EET

8.30 – 9.15 – Registration and welcoming coffee

9.15 – 9:30 – *Workshop Welcome & Objectives:*

Mr. Yordan Bozhilov, President of the Sofia Security Forum

Dr. Phillip A. Petersen, President New Generation Warfare Centre

Welcoming address by **Mr. James Appathurai, NATO DASG for Emerging Security Challenges** “NATO’s Response to the Climate Change” (pre-recorded message)

9.30 – 9.45 – *Key-note speeches:*

Ms. Ivelina Dundakova – Deputy Minister of Interior (Bulgaria) (Confirmed)

Major General Stayko Prokopiev - Director of the Defense Staff (Bulgaria) (Confirmed)

09.45 – 11:15 – *Session 1: Climate Change Migration and Its Emerging Security Consequences*

Chair: Dr. Phillip A. Petersen

The Hard Security Facts of Global Warming

VADM (ret) Michael Franken, Co-Chair, US Defense Science Board Study on Climate Change and Security (USA) (confirmed)

The Implications for Security Forces

LCOL Daniele Biron, Italy Air Force (confirmed)



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11.15 – 11.45 - Coffee Break

11.45 – 13.00 – *Session 2: Mitigation & Adaptability Options Versus Border Security*

Chair: Mr. Yordan Bozhilov

- Financial Mitigation Versus Social-Cultural Vulnerabilities

COL Kostadin Lazarov and Maj. Ralitsa Bakalova, NATO CMDR COE (Confirmed)

Mariana Trifonova, Program Director & Senior Analyst, The Economic Policy Institute, Climate Change and Security Dynamics in Southeastern Europe (Confirmed)

- Border Policy Options

- Ms. Seda Kuzucu, UNHCR Bulgaria Representative (Confirmed)

13.00 – 14.00 – Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 – *Session 3: Emergency Services, Border Security, and Military Inter-Operability*

Chair: Mr. Greg Melcher, COO New Generation Warfare Centre

- Inter-Institutional and Allied Collaboration Requirements

Viewpoints from Croatia, Czech Republic, North Macedonia and Romania*

- Case study: Impacts of the Climate Changes on the Security capabilities. Multi-Role Aircraft as a Cross-Institutional Capability for Regional Solutions (confirmed)

Bradley Rassega, Business Development, The Boeing (confirmed)

16.00 – 16.30 – *Conference Summary and Comments from Participants*: Mr. Yordan Bozhilov

16:30 – 17:30 – Cocktail



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**** Participants in the Session 3***

COL VALENTIN IVANOVSKI, Head of department of Military Aviation Authority/MoD, North Macedonia

COL GORAN PETRUSHEVSKI, officer for military strategic planning, J-5/GS, North Macedonia

MR. VIKTOR VELICHKOVSKI, Expert, MoD, North Macedonia

MARIJANA SUTOVA, Strategic Development Department, Defence Policy and Strategy Division, Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic

CAPT /N/ IOSIF BENCZE, deputy director of Romanian Defense Staff, Romania

LT.COL CRISTIAN CIULEAN, Romania

MARINA REBRACA, Head of the environmental protection department, Directorate of Material Resources, Sector for military infrastructure and environmental protection, Croatia

VALNEA KERBAVCIC DEGAC, Senior expert consultant for meteorology, Directorate of Material Resources, Sector for military infrastructure and environmental protection, Croatia



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