Peace@COP27: A brief review

What is COP?
The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the annual UN Climate Change Conference and decision-making body of the UNFCCC, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. COP27 was held from 6-18 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt and created a space for negotiating representatives from the 198 signatory countries to the convention, as well as civil society, to come together. More information on COP27 can be found here: https://www.cop27.eg/.

Peace and conflict sensitivity are inextricably linked to progress against climate change.

Building on a successful multi stakeholder collaboration at Stockholm+50 (https://www.ecosystemforpeace.org/stockholm50), an open group of 20 organizations and more than 40 individuals collaborated to bring peace & security into focus at COP27. The group aimed to make visible the importance of peace & security considerations for climate change policy through side events and a physical presence at the conference. Efforts of the group were collected and presented here: https://www.ecosystemforpeace.org/cop27.

COP27 outcomes for peace and conflict sensitivity:
Peace & security continues to gain momentum within climate change policy spaces. At COP27:

- The COP27 presidency launched the initiative “Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace,” which seeks to mobilize integrated climate responses that advance sustainable peace and development. The initiative was developed by the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It was the first-ever COP presidency initiative on this issue. Learn more here.
- The German initiative “Climate for Peace” was presented prominently at COP27. It was established by Germany during its G7 presidency and committed to by the G7 Foreign Ministers in May 2022. The initiative was launched at the Berlin Climate and Security Conference in October 2022. Learn more here.
- Leadership and organization from the Ukraine Pavilion prompted, for the first time in a prominent manner at COP, serious discussion about the environmental impacts of war and military emissions.
- Parties to the convention agreed to establish a “Loss and Damage Fund.” Loss and damage refers to “the consequences of climate change” that go beyond what people can adapt to.” This represented a historical agreement which seeks to pursue climate justice and address global inequality. A transitional committee will consider and recommend mechanisms and next steps by COP28.
• Conflict sensitivity featured in the Youth Global Statement, from COY17 which preceded COP27: "Adopt conflict-sensitive lenses for adaptation interventions at regional, national and local level. In particular, young people play a crucial role in conflict-affected and fragile settings, being both the most vulnerable to and critical agents for peacebuilding."

A number of institutions have published articles, videos, and other resources exploring peace and security at COP27 and detailing additional outcomes. For a full list and links to these resources, please visit: https://www.ecosystemforpeace.org/cop27.

Finally, peace and conflict sensitivity were mentioned numerous times on the floor of official proceedings by a range of different states or actors, including but not limited to:

• Barbados
• Egypt
• European Union
• France
• Germany
• Republic of Seychelles
• Sweden
• Switzerland
• Ukraine

Events on peace and climate security:
23 total events on peace, security, and conflict sensitivity were held through the COP27 space, with potentially more that are not detailed on this list. They included:

• Monday 7 November, 10h00-11h30, Resilience Hub, - Navigating the current food crisis at the nexus between climate, conflict, and food security - Explore the multiple solutions space, by Stockholm Hub on Environment, Climate, and Security, World Resources Institute (WRI), GRP, SRC, and SIPRI
• Tuesday 8 November, 14h20-15h25, Children and Youth Pavilion - Imaginative World-Building: Youth on Environmental Peacebuilding, by Institute for Climate and Peace, The Environmental Peacebuilding Association, Motum, Peace on Climate, Somali Greenpeace Association, Re-Imagining New Communities
• Wednesday 9 November, 13h15-14h45, Osiris - Dealing with military and conflict related emissions under the UNFCCC, by Ukraine and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
• Thursday 10 November, 8h00-9h30, Zoom - Climate finance, gender and conflict – towards financing for sustaining peace and women’s empowerment (report
launch) by UNDP, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) and the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM)

- Thursday 10 November, 9h30, GEF-GCF Pavilion, COP27: Embracing Nature as the Foundation for Global Security, by CAP and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

- Friday 11 November, 13h00-14h00, Bellona Pavilion - Creating an environment of peace from the ground up, by SIPRI

- Friday 11 November, 13h15-14h45, Thutmos - Climate-resilient food systems and peace: exploring the interconnections, by World Food Programme (WFP), SIPRI, FAO, Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance, and Switzerland

- Saturday 12 November, 10h00-12h00, Horus-Presidency Room - High-level launch of the Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP) Initiative, by United Nations Development Programme and Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA)

- Saturday 12 November, 14h00, UNFCCC Action Hub - Enabling peaceful resilience in a new era of risk, by SIPRI

- Saturday 12 November, 15h00-16h00, Resilience Hub - Navigating the food crisis at the nexus of climate, conflict and food security, by Stockholm Hub on Environment, Climate and Security Food and Land use Coalition (FOLU) Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

- Monday 14 November, 13h15-14h45, Osiris - Delivering climate resilient food systems during multiple crises and fragility, by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and Stichting Wageningen Research (WR)

- Monday 14 November, 15h00-16h30, Ukraine Pavilion - Announcement of Ukrainian High Level Initiative: Global platform for the assessment of climate and environmental damage from military actions, by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Ukraine

- Tuesday 15 November, 13h15-15h45, Hatshepsut - Call To Action; Regional Conference On Climate Change, Peace & Security, by United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and World Food Programme (WFP)

- Tuesday 15 November, 16h45-18h15, Osiris - Nature-based solutions for Water and Climate Security, by International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and World Water Council (WWC)

- Wednesday 16 November, 15h00-16h30, Blue Zone, UNDP Pavilion - Enhancing Food and Water Security in the Arab States: Challenges and Opportunities, by UNDP and CGIAR Climate Security
These events were collated on the Ecosystem for Peace website on a webpage dedicated to COP27. The page received more than 800 page views between 1 September and 1 December 2022.

The representatives from a number of peace & security-related institutions and organizations coordinated daily on relevant issues throughout the conference, a promising example of cooperation among varied institutions. The group’s efforts resulted in a list of promising leads for championship on these issues for COP28, as well as better cohesion among organizations working on this topic.

For more information on the collaborative effort and to get involved, please visit:
https://www.ecosystemforpeace.org/cop27.