Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace:
Meeting 19

18 May, Zoom
Participants: 45 participants

Presentation on SIPRI's Environment of Peace project by Claire McAllister, Project Lead:

[Link to powerpoint](#)
Notes:
- The project lasts two years and considers how best to secure peace in a context of environmental change
  - Not just looking at climate change but a host of other environmental challenges
- The project's goals are:
  - 1) build awareness and understanding among policy-makers
  - 2) provide clear evidence-based recommendations
- The project is constructed from different inputs, including:
  - A team of researchers within and beyond SIPRI
  - An international panel of experts
  - A number of commissioned input papers and case studies
  - Testing and verifying findings with the larger community of practice through dialogue
- Target audiences include:
  - Decision & policy makers at the nexus of environment, peace, and security
  - Decision & policy makers (formal and informal) from the fields of environment, defense, diplomacy and development.
  - Broader communities of peace, environment actors
  - Public/CSOs, advocacy groups, finance and private sector, academics
- A shorter, policy-oriented version of the report will launch in May 2022 in advance of Stockholm+50. The longer, full report will launch later in 2022.
  - They will also host panel events throughout the period to discuss findings
  - And are exploring & tailoring other kinds of outputs, too

Discussion:
Because of the high number of participants, the conversation was divided into three breakout rooms, each with a leader from SIPRI/Environment of Peace: Claire McAllister, David Michel, and Jürg Staudenmann with Jörg Balsiger. The breakout rooms are not comprehensively noted here, though some questions and answers are. GPP sends its thanks to participants in the Young Peacebuilder's Academy for sharing their notes for this document.

How will the report/the launch tie into the Stockholm+50 process?
- The report launch is planned to take place the week before +50 conference.
- SIPRI have also been exploring different ways the Environment of Peace initiative could inform or contribute to the conference itself.

How are conflicts' impacts on the environment reflected in the paper and policy recommendations?

- The paper will touch upon them in places however this is not its focus. You can see in the conflict cycle that conflicts can degrade resources and livelihoods, making it harder to address environmental challenges
- Focus however will be the pathways between environmental change/climate change and risks to security
- Complexity is often used as an excuse by some policy-makers for refraining from taking action, delaying action, or only pursuing certain actions until uncertainties are resolved
  - The report needs to show where the obstacles *and* entry points are to move all towards solutions

What is the scope of the study, is it also looking at other studies *not* branded as environmental security (i.e., including human rights, etc…)?

- Question raised about accounting for a legacy of work that might not be labelled as "environmental peacebuilding"
- Societal stressors that can be related to environmental security. Problems can arise from governance problems as well as issues of access.

What is the scope of the study in the participation of NGOs and researchers from countries facing conflicts and environmental degradation?

- Quite a bit. SIPRI is trying to ensure representativeness through a strong outreach program. There are also panel members and researchers from countries that are highly affected by these issues
- The compass of the report/analysis is meant to be global
  - The recommendations won't be universal, but SIPRI hopes all communities will recognize the questions/challenges addressed in the report
  - Report will cover challenges and solutions faced *everywhere*, and not just in the "global south"

It seems projects are mostly policy oriented, do you believe more practical individuals can still enjoy the report?

- Report is more directed at policy makers but practitioners will still be interested in the report since it will certainly cover different aspects of their various areas of work. SIPRI welcome inputs on the document as well.
- SIPRI hope recommendations will speak to a broad array of constituencies.
- Hope to try to tailor findings for different audiences in 2nd half of 2022, the first report will focus on the global challenges.

Note from the chat:

A few publications from QUNO's side that might be interesting:

- QUNO (2020) The Peacebuilding Implications of Energy Transitions to a Carbon-Neutral Future/

https://quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/QUNO%20The%20Peacebuilding%20Implicati ons%20%20of%20Energy%20Transitions%20to%20a%20%20Carbon-Neutral%20Future_12OCT2020.pdf

- QUNO (2018) Role of DRE in Peacebuilding/ https://quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/QUNO_Role%20of%20DRE%20in%20Peacebu ilding_FINAL_0.pdf
- QUNO & FAO (2017) Farmer seed systems and sustaining peace (QUNO & FAO) / http://www.fao.org/3/ca1793en/CA1793EN.pdf
- QUNO (2015) Building peace_principle 10 / https://quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/building%20peace_pr10.pdf
- QUNO (2013) Building peace around water land and food.pdf / https://quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/QUNO%20%282013%29%20Building%20peac e%20around%20water%20land%20and%20food.pdf