

**Geneva Dialogue on Environment,
Climate, Conflict, and Peace:
Meeting 39**

24 October, Zoom

27 participants

Presentation by [Champa Patel of International Crisis Group](#), Director of Innovation and Deputy Director of the Future of Conflict Program, exploring climate security at COP27 and ICG's [COP: A Special Series](#):

- How does ICG work on climate security?
 - Organized around 3 pillars
 - Examining cascading risks: How climate impacts land degradation, livelihoods, water disputes, etc.
 - Better understanding the security implications of disaster-related displacement, climate-related migration
 - Looking at transboundary disputes
 - Developing 2 initiatives
 - Working with colleagues in academic space and NGOs to develop an early warning mechanism
 - And working on opportunities for climate security at COP
- How is ICG engaging with climate security for COP27?
 - Three main asks for COP27
 - Donor countries should invest more in fragile and conflict-affected countries
 - Fragile and conflict-affected countries receive $\frac{1}{3}$ the amount of finance as countries at peace, and the funding gap is widening over time (report on this coming out from ICG soon)
 - Donor countries should invest in climate resilience in conflict countries, so that there is a better capacity to absorb funds
 - Difficulties around this range from governance challenges to figuring out ways to engage nonstate actors
 - Climate change and conflict should be reflected in **BOTH** the UNSC and UNFCCC in the same way
 - We don't want a situation in which both bodies "kick the can" back and forth without meaningfully engaging the issue
 - Trying to demonstrate the evidence base under those asks
 - Upcoming report on how the pledged funding from previous COPs is actually being spent
 - Marrying their analysis to the historical "language of COP" - instead of speaking with our "security and peace sector" language
 - COP is about *money*, so arguments need to make sense for that audience
 - Challenges for climate security at COP
 - The UNSC and UNFCCC seem to say the other body should be the one focusing on climate security, neither taking real action

- COP relies on getting money pledged unanimously. Peace & security introduce uncertainty into the conversation, particularly because not everyone agrees what security or peace are
 - The host country for COP27 has not been very active on this topic, despite some small movements
- Opportunities
 - If this does progress in the COP space, it opens up many other conversations with donor countries, particularly when it comes to financing
 - Could lay great groundwork for COP28

Group Discussion:

- International Alert also has a set of asks for COP27, quite aligned with ICG's asks
 - Their big ask is to integrate conflict sensitivity into climate finance
 - Also looking at conflict aspects of renewable energy investments
 - Next year, looking at loss and damage
 - Our sector has not historically engaged the loss & damage conversation very much, partially due to a desire to "remain pragmatic" as the discussion had not really progressed
 - But this year, the host country has emphasized this as an important part of their agenda
- Other topics to engage at COP
 - How do we deal with compound shocks?
 - Impact on our energy sectors from the war in Ukraine as prime example
 - Donor countries are making pledges around renewable energy, but then also investing in fossil fuel
 - Military emissions
 - Demonstrating concrete examples of what we mean:
 - al-Shabaab is instrumentalizing climate change, by framing itself as the first responder, advancing its agenda
 - Looking at links of criminal violence, for example, how cartels position themselves as first responders and first lenders - they are handing out food parcels with their name and branding on it
 - International actors are so slow to respond
 - Many donors are concretely asking for the evidence base, so we have work to do.
- How might we engage climate finance at COP?
 - The financing flows coming in through the COP mechanism are going to states.
 - There is a reluctance of the COP space to engage non-state actors, because it is a multilateral framework
 - There is way more focus on getting the money than on deploying the money. How then do you best get that money to the right places?
 - [Under2 Coalition](#) working with sub-state actors
 - Opportunities with mayors, provincial leaders, etc.
 - The contacts and networks of the peacebuilding sector will be invaluable at that level

- Solutions are incredibly local - responding to conflicts is completely context dependent. But COP operates with massive, national pledges.
- How do we bridge this funding vs. implementation dilemma?
 - We all have a different role to play - some in research, some in implementation, etc. For a research and advocacy org, it can be a real challenge because people want solutions.
 - So, there is an important role of making spaces like platforms or labs or hubs that allow for different kinds of actors to come together.
 - The researchers need to talk to the implementers, and vice versa. Need to talk to economists, engineers, etc. to challenge our assumptions.
 - Need to bridge gaps between track 1, track 2, track 3 in an action-oriented way.
 - Actors that do high-level convening well **invest** in it. We need to do the same thing - invest in the skillset of bringing people together.
- What opportunities do you see with the COP27 hosts?
 - Have had more conversations with the COP28 host country than for COP27
 - The whole process has been difficult to track, process, etc. - have had some conversations
 - Egypt has announced they will host a head of state round table and launch call to action for climate security
 - https://www.cccpa-eg.org/pdf_read_download.php?type=read&newFileName=Climate+Responses+for+Sustaining+Peace+Initiative&file=5190_10103324.pdf
- Any other events on peace & security at COP that we should know about?
 - See a list of collated events here: <https://www.ecosystemforpeace.org/cop27>
 - Contact Annika (annika@gppplatform.ch) if you have events or publications to add.
 - Annika has a whatsapp group for people at or following COP27 who want to exchange updates on what is happening around peace & security in real-time. Contact her if you'd like to join.
- How do we make sense of the diversity of voices around climate security?
 - We lack the larger coalitions (like Amnesty, for example) that speak with a common voice
 - Really difficult to get everyone on the same page, get agreement on what matters across the board.
 - But on the other hand, the more noise and the more folks we have saying similar things, the better.
 - COP is not the most important date in the calendar. It's a chance to focus minds and talk about money. It's a hook to think through the other steps in the process.