

# Peace@COP28

*accelerating climate action in communities affected by conflict*

The effects of climate change, environmental degradation, and natural resource scarcity are increasingly **exacerbating insecurity and conflict risks** around the world. In turn, conflict-linked environmental destruction and military activity, sustained by fossil fuel consumption, exacerbates climate change itself. Action to mitigate and adapt to climate change is complicated by existing tensions and conflict dynamics. Conversely, **climate change adaptation and mitigation may exacerbate or create tensions and conflict dynamics** if the approach is not conflict sensitive.

Of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, **more than half** are also impacted by conflict. Trillions of dollars will be spent to accelerate the green transition over the next decade, yet **the distribution of climate finance is uneven**, leaving many of the most exposed communities behind. Further, **the energy and resource demand carries conflict potential** if heightened human rights due diligence processes are not at its heart.

**Successful implementation of the Paris Agreement will only be possible with a conflict sensitive and peace responsive approach.**

Peace, conflict prevention, and conflict sensitivity should be part of the official COP28 agenda, discussed in negotiations, and included in decisions or other outcome documents. Official statements should include **political recognition of the compounding impacts of climate change on lives and livelihoods in conflict-affected settings**. Climate finance and climate action in fragile and conflict-affected settings must be accelerated, and designed in a way that is **conflict sensitive and based on human rights**. Finally, the risk of violent conflict can be reduced through just transformative, and urgent climate action to avoid catastrophic rates of global temperature rise.

In July 2023, the UN Secretary General published *A New Agenda for Peace*, outlining a collective path forward for peace and security. He writes, "Achieving peace and prosperity in a world of interlocking threats demands that Member States find new ways to act collectively and cooperatively. Cooperation does not require States to forgo their national interest, but to recognize that they have shared goals." **Our world needs climate action for all, now.**

## Apply conflict sensitivity to climate action and climate finance

- Commit to **making all new and existing adaptation and mitigation finance conflict sensitive**, acknowledging that the absence of conflict-sensitive programming can exacerbate tensions and inequalities.
- Ensure a greater proportion of **climate finance is channeled to fragile and conflict-affected settings** by removing barriers to access and tailoring financing mechanisms to these contexts. Ensure that all climate finance interventions undertake and regularly update conflict and/or context analyses.
- Ensure that climate finance supports the **adaptive capacity of marginalized groups** as a means to prevent conflict, unrest, and involuntary (im)mobility.
- Ensure the new **loss and damage fund adequately includes fragile and conflict-affected settings** under the definition of vulnerable population and that the fund is appropriately set up to respond to and benefit this group. Guarantee the **loss and damage funding arrangements will be conflict sensitive** and reflect the needs of local communities in fragile and conflict-affected settings.
- **Provide political and financial support for peace-responsive climate action** that is gender-sensitive and community-focused in their approach. This could include but is not limited to community-led environmental peacebuilding initiatives and nature-based solutions (NbS) in climate and conflict-affected areas, as they can contribute all to climate resilience and peacebuilding objectives.

## Regulate business in fragile and conflict-affected settings

- Approach the role of business with a conflict-sensitive lens, by adopting **legislation on mandatory human rights due diligence (HRDD)**, leading to obligation to conduct heightened, conflict-sensitive due diligence in conflict-affected and high-risk areas.
- Develop policy measures and mechanisms to implement the **right to information, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and access to remedies** in case of environmental destruction in fragile and conflict-affected settings, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights.
- Adopt **land laws in line with local governance structures**, that protect the legitimate land rights of local communities, especially local small-holders, marginalized, Indigenous groups and women and implement the principles of the UN-Land Tenure Guidelines (VGGT) and fulfill the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Commit to the timely phase-out of fossil fuels. At the same time, **ensure a conflict sensitive approach to a sustainable and just energy transition to support local communities living and working where minerals and resources are being extracted** and/or produced to steer away from fueling conflict and to help build sustainable peace. Rigorous conflict-sensitive analysis as well as meaningful dialogue with local communities, including on the costs and benefits of resource extraction should happen from the outset.

## Mitigate the climate and environmental impacts of military and security-sector actors

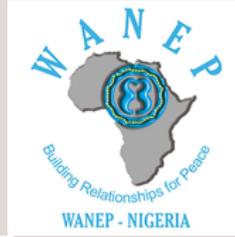
- Commit to **greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reporting mechanisms** that are robust, comparable and transparent, are based on the GHG protocol, and which are independently verified. Set clear GHG emission reduction targets for the military sector that are consistent with the 1.5°C limit specified by the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- Fully implement and respect the International Law Commission's Principles on the Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflicts, and ICRC Guidelines on the Protection of the Natural Environment in Armed Conflict, so that states can **prevent and minimize environmental harm** and enhance environmental stewardship, including climate action.
- **Invest in the resolution of conflicts within and between countries before they turn violent**, to allow for a reduction of military spending. The IPCC WGIII indicates that "moderate reductions in military spending ... could free up considerable resources for the SDG agenda."
- The IPCC should prepare a **Special Report on climate change and military activity**, collating the science that points to the need for an update to the IPCC Methodology for Greenhouse Gas Inventories to include thorough military emissions reporting.



These recommendations were developed by a wide consortium and are supported by:



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