

Peace@Stockholm: A brief review

Compiled by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

What is Stockholm+50?

Stockholm+50 was a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, providing a moment for the international environmental community to gather, reaffirm multilateralism, and move forward together. It was held 2-3 June in Stockholm, Sweden, a two-day meeting at the ministerial level, bringing together policymakers and government representatives. Three "Leadership Dialogues" were held on three different topics each led by a pair of countries. There were no formal outcomes adopted at the conference.

Peace and conflict sensitivity are inextricably linked to environmental policy.

An open group of 18 organizations and more than 40 individuals collaborated throughout 2021 and 2022 to bring peace & security into focus at Stockholm+50. The group aimed to visibilize policy recommendations on conflict sensitivity through events, communications, active attendance at preparatory Leadership Dialogue meetings, bilateral discussions with the Stockholm+50 Secretariat, and a physical presence at the conference. Efforts of the group, including specific policy messages, were collected and presented here: <https://www.ecosystemforpeace.org/stockholm50>.

Stockholm+50 outcomes for peace and conflict sensitivity:

References to peace and conflict prevention in the various outcome documents of Stockholm+50 represent a marked difference and turning point in the global discussion on sustainable development and should be celebrated as such.

For example, the Leadership Dialogues reference peace directly in their emerging recommendations and key messages:

- Preamble: "Peace and stability is fundamental to achieving a healthy planet. Ongoing conflicts displace millions of citizens, undo development gains and have negative impacts on land degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change and human security. All Actors must respect international law and the protection it provides to civilians and the environment in armed conflict."
- LD3, Key Message 1 on finance, Point 9: "Private and public finance actors to ensure that accelerated financing for development and the environment fully integrates peacebuilding and conflict prevention perspectives. A just transition and prosperity for all is only realized through durable peace."

The general Stockholm+50 Key Outcomes state:

- Outcome 1: "Place human well-being at the centre of a healthy planet and prosperity for all, through recognising that a healthy planet is a prerequisite for peaceful, cohesive and prosperous societies; restoring our relationship with nature by integrating ethical values;

and adopting a fundamental change in attitudes, habits, and behaviours, to support our common prosperity.”

- Outcome 7: “Rebuild relationships of trust for strengthened cooperation and solidarity.”

The Stockholm+50 Youth Coalition-led Policy Paper clearly calls on policymakers to:

- “Utilise non-violent and respectful dialogue in negotiations to solve disputes, commit to multilateral cooperation to build peace with respect to geopolitical situations and recognize the detrimental impact of violent conflicts and war on human lives, development, and the environment.”
- They also call for peace to be regarded and protected as a global common good, for protecting democratic spaces and institutions, and ending violence against youth and other activists.

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

- Argentina
- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Germany
- Greece
- Finland
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Libya
- Lithuania
- Norway
- Sweden
- Palestine
- Philippines
- Portugal
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States

It should be noted that there was no formal negotiated outcome from Stockholm+50, by design.

Events on peace and conflict sensitivity:

18 total events on peace, security, and conflict sensitivity were held through the Stockholm+50 space, both inside the official venue and outside around Stockholm. They included:

- 4 events inside the venue as official Side Events
 - “Improving Sustainable Development by Integrating Peace: Approaches, Tools, and Lessons from Environmental Peacebuilding” (*Environmental Peacebuilding*)

- Association, Environmental Law Institute, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, PeaceNexus Foundation, United Nations Environment Programme, University for Peace, Externado Universidad de Colombia, International Union for Conservation of Nature – Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy)*
- "Environment of Peace: Securing a just and peaceful transition in a new era of risk" (*Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's Environment of Peace initiative*)
 - "Environmental Crises as Humanitarian Crises" (*International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Committee of the Red Cross, Kenya Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, United Nations Environment Programme, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Joint Environment Unit, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF*)
 - "Global Call for Financial Action towards the Nexus between Climate and Security" (*The Republic of Kenya*)
- 14 events outside the venue as Associated Events
 - "Symposium on the Law for Security and Sustainable Development" (*Stockholm University, Lund University, Environmental Law Institute, Environmental Peacebuilding Association*)
 - "Making Peace with Nature: Environmental Peacebuilding for Sustainable Development" (*Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Normandy Chair for Peace, Environmental Peacebuilding Association, University for Peace, International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy, the International Council of Environmental Law, Swedwatch, and the Working Group for Peace and Development (FriEnt)*)
 - "Climate Peace and Human Security: An Intergenerational Dialogue" (*Swedish Member of Parliament Elisabeth Björnsdotter Rahm, and the G100 Security and Defence Wing*)
 - "Environment of peace- Security in a new era of risk" (*Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's Environment of Peace initiative*)
 - "Making Peace with Nature: A Consultation On The Unfulfilled Promise of Environmental Law" (*Normandy Chair for Peace, University for Peace, International Council of Environmental Law*)
 - "Feminist Priorities for People, Planet and Peace" (*Women's Major Group with support of WECF – Women Engage for a Common Future*)
 - "Co-Creating Eco-Peace" (*Chulalongkorn University Right Livelihood Summerschool*)
 - "Ecocide Law -- the Stockholm Legacy" (*End Ecocide Sweden, Stop Ecocide International, We Don't Have Time*)
 - "Youth for Ecocide Law: The Legal Framework for the Future We Want" (*Youth Environmental Assembly and the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force*)
 - "Ending the Era of Militarism, Protecting the Planet (and Why We Need Feminism to Get There)" (*Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF, Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, Women's International*

- League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), WILPF Sweden, Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN), Kvinna till Kvinna, Laudato Si' Movement)*
- "Urgent Legal Action for a Healthy Planet: A New International Crime of Ecocide" (*Stop Ecocide International, End Ecocide Sweden, Stop Ecocide Foundation, Olof Palme International Center, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Planetary Emergency Partnership*)
 - "Ecocide Law and the Respect for Mother Earth: Perspectives from the Americas" (*Stop Ecocidio (Stop Ecocide International in Spain and Americas), OPIC, Planet Amazon, Lacemos*)
 - "Panel Discussion: Youth Environmental Activism in Conflict-Affected Areas" (*IM Swedish Development Partner*)
 - "An Environmental Agenda for Colombia" (*Voces 2030 Colombia*)

The events inside Stockholm+50 were very well attended, often completely full/at capacity. Notably, most participants were “new” connections for the peace sector, including many actors outside of the general network, often coming from the “environment silo.”

Communications on peace and conflict sensitivity:

An extensive communications campaign sought to build buzz and conversation around these issues online and in person. A comprehensive social media toolkit was prepared, as well as a collection of blog posts written by collaborating institutions, each offering concrete policy recommendations and opportunities at Stockholm+50. These efforts resulted in:

- More than 1000 views on the [peace@Stockholm blog series](#)
- More than 1500 views on the group's dedicated [S+50 webpage](#)
- Peace and security topics were very often within the top ten most “popular” tweets under the #Stockholm50 feed
- Handed out 300 copies of the [White Paper](#), 100 “business cards for peace”

The communications approach also allowed organizations and individuals not physically present in Stockholm to be active in the network and collective effort.

A group of 35 individuals representing a wide variety of institutions was also physically present in Stockholm. The group met multiple times throughout the week and coordinated to track every mention of peace, conflict, and security throughout the conference and its associated events. It was a remarkable example of collective and cooperative effort among institutions that may compete for similar funding or priorities. The group's efforts resulted in a list of promising leads for championship on these issues in the policy world, as well as better cohesion among organizations working on this topic.

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