

Concept Note

“The Impact of Climate Change on Security and Development in Africa: Towards Risk-Informed National Planning and Programming and International Support”

Context

Despite Africa’s limited contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions – merely 3.8 per cent¹, climate change and its associated threats are jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of people in Africa, with severe repercussions for the continent’s ability to achieve sustainable development and peace.

The Sahel region, for example, has faced recurrent climate-induced droughts in the last two decades. As a result, 32 million people suffer from food insecurity and over 5 million people have been forcibly displaced². Similarly, in East Africa, increasing temperatures and rainfall variability have pushed 10 percent of the Lake Victoria Basin’s population towards chronic food insecurity. By 2030, it is estimated that 10-15 million additional people will be at risk of malaria in the historically malaria-free region of East Africa³. According to the UN World Water Development Report 2020, the impact of climate change on Africa’s water resources is already acute, and will interact with non-climate-related drivers of water scarcity and water pollution to pose serious challenge for meeting the developmental targets defined in the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063.⁴

Africa’s vulnerability to the devastating impacts of climate change are likely to increase in the future, not only because of its high climate change exposure, but also due to its relatively low government preparedness and community resilience,⁵ as well as the considerable financing gap it faces in addressing these impacts and achieving its sustainable development pathways.⁶ Moreover, according to a study by the USAID, 17 of the top 21 countries with the highest portion of their populations in high climate exposure areas are in Africa⁷. Likewise, the Adaptation Finance Gap Report (2016) has estimated that the global costs of climate adaptation will range between \$140 billion and \$300 billion by 2030, with Sub-Saharan Africa bearing the highest costs per unit of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

1 Africa: Financing Adaptation and Mitigation in the World’s Most Vulnerable Region, Amadou Sy, Brookings Institution, 2016.

2 Multilateral cooperation in the area of climate-related security and development risks, Cedric Coning & Florian Krampe, NUPI, 2020.

3 Climate Risk Profile: East Africa, USAID, January 2020.

4 The United Nations World Water Development Report 2020: Water and Climate Change, UNESCO, 2020.

Available at:

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000372985.locale=en>

5 Climate Security Vulnerability in Africa Mapping, Joshua W. Busby, Todd G. Smith & Nisha Krishnan, Elsevier, 2014.

6 Climate Financing: Global Imperatives and Implications for Climate-Resilient Development in Africa, African Climate Policy Center, 2013. Available at:

https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/policy_brief_11_climate_financing_-_global_imperatives_and_implications_for_climate-resilient_development_in_africa.pdf

7 The Intersection of Global Fragility and Climate Risks, USAID, September 2018. Available at:

<https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/The%20Intersection%20of%20Global%20Fragility%20and%20Climate%20Risks.pdf>

In facing these threats, there is no shortage of normative and policy frameworks at the disposal of African governments and organizations. All African Countries are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and fifty of them have ratified its Paris Agreement, with finance and adaptation measures being the African priority⁸. These two instruments also stipulate clear guidelines for the support to be provided by the international community to developing countries, including African countries. Moreover, and according to a recent report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), there are 16 official AU continental policy frameworks that explicitly or implicitly address elements of climate-related security risks.⁹ This include the Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework, the African Risk Capacity Strategic Framework and the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

Despite the multiplicity of policy frameworks, challenges to effective operationalization persist and the scale of action fall dramatically short of the increasing need. Many of the systematic issues that impede the translation of climate commitments into action are anchored on the siloed and reactive management of climate change threats, and the persistent financing gap.

On one hand, there is a lack of a broader understanding across government entities and regional organizations of the relationship and interdependencies between climate change risks, socioeconomic factors (e.g. structural inequalities, economic development, etc.) and peace and security issues, such as conflict, terrorism, organized crime. As a result, climate change matters continue to be dealt with by traditional actors acting in a 'siloed' approach, with a limited vertical and horizontal engagement.

A study that evaluated the institutional challenges to climate change adaptation in Uganda has explicated that the lack of adequate inclusivity among central government agencies, and between national, sub-national and community levels, particularly on issues of communication and knowledge sharing, is among the biggest challenges for climate policy implementation¹⁰. Moreover, the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) Framework (2017-2020) highlights that 80 percent of African countries don't have an economy-wide climate policy or sectoral policies to support the implementation of the adaptation commitments in the NDCs. Additionally, the lack of reliable climate data and information services, weak science-policy interface and the need for enhanced institutional capacities are among other challenges for effective climate planning and implementation.

On the other hand, many of the adaptation and other climate commitments aren't factored into national budgetary processes. Likewise, there is still need to bridge the pre-2020 climate finance gap, including the Paris Agreement commitment of providing USD 100 billion annually by 2020 by developed countries to support developing countries in responding to climate change, and to initiate discussion on the new collective quantified goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year before 2025. This leaves many African countries without the financial means to

8 Policy Implications and Financing Opportunities for the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions in Africa: Role of African Policy Makers, African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Seventeenth session, November 2019.

9 Policy Responses to Climate-related Security Risks: The African Union, Vane Aminga, Sipri, May 2020.

10 Institutional challenges to climate change adaptation: A case study on policy action gaps in Uganda. Ampaire et. al, Environmental Science and Policy, September 2017.

implement these policies. To make matters worse, Africa receives only 4 per cent of global climate change finance¹¹.

With these challenges in mind, national governments with the support of the international community need to (1) demystify the multidimensional and transnational nature of climate-related security and development risks, (2) to take an approach to climate threats, development and peacebuilding that takes into account the systematic interplay between these risks: that is, in other words, risk-informed and (3) assess the means of implementation, including finance, needed to address these challenges. This entails coordinated and integrated knowledge and data sharing, utilizing and adapting risk assessment tools and methodologies, vertical and horizontal engagement across stakeholders, building of capacities and expertise and assessing financing needs and opportunities, including innovative financing mechanisms, among others.

Objective:

Acting in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), in partnership with adelphi, will host a series of webinars on **“The Impact of Climate Change on Security and Development in Africa: Towards Risk-Informed National Planning and Programming and International Support”** as part of the Berlin Climate and Security Conference 2020 (Part II).

The workshop aims to develop policy recommendations and action points on how to integrate climate-related security and development risks in climate adaptation, development and peacebuilding planning and programming, how to translate risk-informed planning into implementation, and how to assess and mobilize the means of implementation needed to respond to these risks. The last webinar will be conducted as a training on “Risk Assessment Tools and Methodologies for National Planning and Programming”.

Africa Webinar Series Format:

The webinar series include **three** sessions, as follows:

Webinar (1)

Assessing Climate-related Security and Development Risks in Africa

Aim: this session aims to highlight the multidimensional and transnational nature of climate-related security and development risks in Africa and the imperative for breaking the silos between relevant national and regional actors in addressing them, including through national planning and programming and international support.

Key Questions:

- What are the major development and security risks that climate change and its associated threats pose for African governments and regional organizations?

¹¹ Policy Implications and Financing Opportunities for the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions in Africa: Role of African Policy Makers, African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Seventeenth Session, November 2019.

- How do African governments and regional organizations integrate climate-related security and development risks into climate-targeted responses, peacebuilding and conflict prevention?
- What are good practices for integrated responses to climate threats and for mainstreaming climate in development and peacebuilding efforts?
- What are some of the key support avenues needed from the international community to make available the means of implementation to address these challenges?

Duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Date and Time: Tuesday, 8 September 2020 at 02:00 PM GMT+2

Platform: Zoom

Webinar (2)
Integrating Climate-related Security and Development Risks into National Planning and Programming in Africa and the Role of International Support

Aim: this session aims to identify action points for African governments and regional organizations on how to shift towards risk-based decision making when planning for climate-targeted responses, development and peacebuilding and how to translate risk-informed planning into implementation. It will also aim to identify action points for African governments, regional organizations and the international community to assess and mobilize the means of implementation necessary for African Countries to enable the Continent to deal with climate change and its associated threats.

Key Questions:

- How to alter existing decision-making processes towards risk-based decision making to account for the complex interplay of risks, opportunities and uncertainties when planning and programming for climate risks?
- What are the opportunities and challenges for realizing this shift towards risk-based decision-making?
- How to institutionalize an integrated and systematic approach towards climate-related threats into national planning and programming?
- How to enhance cooperation and align actions across the peace-development-and-humanitarian actors to ensure coherence and avoid the duplication and fragmentation of climate responses, including climate finance?
- How can governments and the international community provide sufficient means of implementation, including financing support, and how can they unlock private investments to support in this regard?
- How to ensure that risk informed planning for climate threats is mirrored in national budgetary processes?

Duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Date and Time: Tuesday, 15 September 2020 at 02:00 PM GMT+2

Platform: Zoom

Webinar (3): Training
“Risk Assessment Tools and Methodologies for National Planning and Programming”

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this training session, participants will be able to:

- Assess the relationship and interlinkages between climate change, security and development risks, through the utilization of risk assessment frameworks and methodologies
- Better understand how to mainstream this complex and integrated analysis of climate threats into national development, peacebuilding and conflict prevention planning and programming

Duration: 2 hours and 30 minutes

Date and Time: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 at 02:00 PM GMT+2

Platform: Zoom

Participation:

The webinar series will bring together 35-40 participants from African Ministries that sit on the intersection between climate change, security and development. Namely, the Ministries of Environment/Natural Resources/Mining, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Management, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development, etc.

Participants will also include relevant representatives from the AU, RECs/RMs, UN agencies, financial institutions and development banks, bilateral and multilateral partners including donors, researchers and practitioners, local non-governmental organizations and experts from the scientific community.

Outcome:

A Chairman Summary of Discussions will be drafted and published on CCCPA’s website. This should infer recommendations and action points for governments and peace-humanitarian-and development actors at large on how to integrate and institutionalize climate-related security and development risks when planning and programming for climate-related threats and for development, conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
