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# CLIMATE SECURITY MECHANISM

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## CLIMATE SECURITY MECHANISM PROGRESS REPORT

MAY 2023\*



*\*The present interim report will be redesigned and published in the course of 2023 and uploaded on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office gateway to replace the current version.*

# CLIMATE SECURITY MECHANISM

The **Climate Security Mechanism (CSM)** is a joint initiative by the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO). It aims to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to systematically analyze and address the linkages between climate change, peace and security.

## RATIONALE

It is increasingly clear that the severe and often irreversible impacts of climate change extend beyond ecosystems and biodiversity, with adverse implications for communities and nations as well as potentially peace and security. Integrated approaches and strong partnerships are required to find sustainable, cross-cutting solutions.



## OUR GOAL

The CSM Joint Programme works with partners to advance peace-positive climate action, catalyze climate-informed approaches to peace and security, and forge partnerships at all levels to exchange information and build the evidence base.

## OUR APPROACH

The CSM provides technical advice and tailored support to UN field missions, country teams, regional organizations and other partners to bolster the analysis, reduction and management of climate-related security risks. Beyond its own field work, the CSM seeks to build an enabling environment and catalyze action by partners at all levels by investing in knowledge management and capacity building and by leveraging the convening power of its member entities.



## OUR TEAM

A HQ-based team undertakes global workstreams – such as advocacy, knowledge co-generation and policy development – and coordinates initiatives in climate vulnerable regions around the world, including through the deployment of climate, peace and security experts and trainings.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has called the climate crisis a danger to peace. While climate change is rarely the direct cause of conflict, its interactions with socio-economic and political stressors can exacerbate conflict risks. In 2022, the IPCC highlighted again the increasingly severe, interconnected and often irreversible impacts of climate change on ecosystems, biodiversity, and human systems. Changes of this magnitude affect human, national and international peace and security. Fragile and conflict-affected countries, most of which have contributed next to nothing to climate change, are often hit hardest by its effects. They also receive the least amount of climate finance.

Since 2017, the UN Security Council has repeatedly recognized the destabilizing effects of climate change, including in the mandates of 10 UN field missions.<sup>1</sup> In several contexts, the Council has requested the respective governments and the UN to conduct climate-related security risk assessments and develop risk management strategies. There are also heightened expectations for UN field missions to report to the Security Council on the impact of climate change on the implementation of their mandates. International support for more coordinated global responses to climate, peace and security risks is growing. The Group of Friends on Climate and Security, co-chaired by Germany and Nauru, has increased to over 60 members. Pacific states in particular continue to be leading advocates on the issue of climate-related peace and security risks, whilst regional organizations are advancing both policy and practice.

Peace and security fora around the world now have climate change on the agenda and, vice versa, conflict sensitivity is increasingly a topic in climate action. The integration of climate, peace and security considerations into the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is also notable; this was visible at COP27, where the Egyptian Presidency launched the *Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace* initiative and more than 50 side events had a peace and security angle. Major conferences, such as the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development and the Berlin Climate and Security Conference, have become established fora for information exchange and partnership development. The international research community is another key contributor to this field and an important partner for the CSM. The growing body of research has enabled a more informed policy debate including major reports as part of the Environment of Peace and Weathering Risk initiatives. These point to the increasing and unmet needs of countries which suffer the dual burden of increased climate vulnerability, and conflict and insecurity.

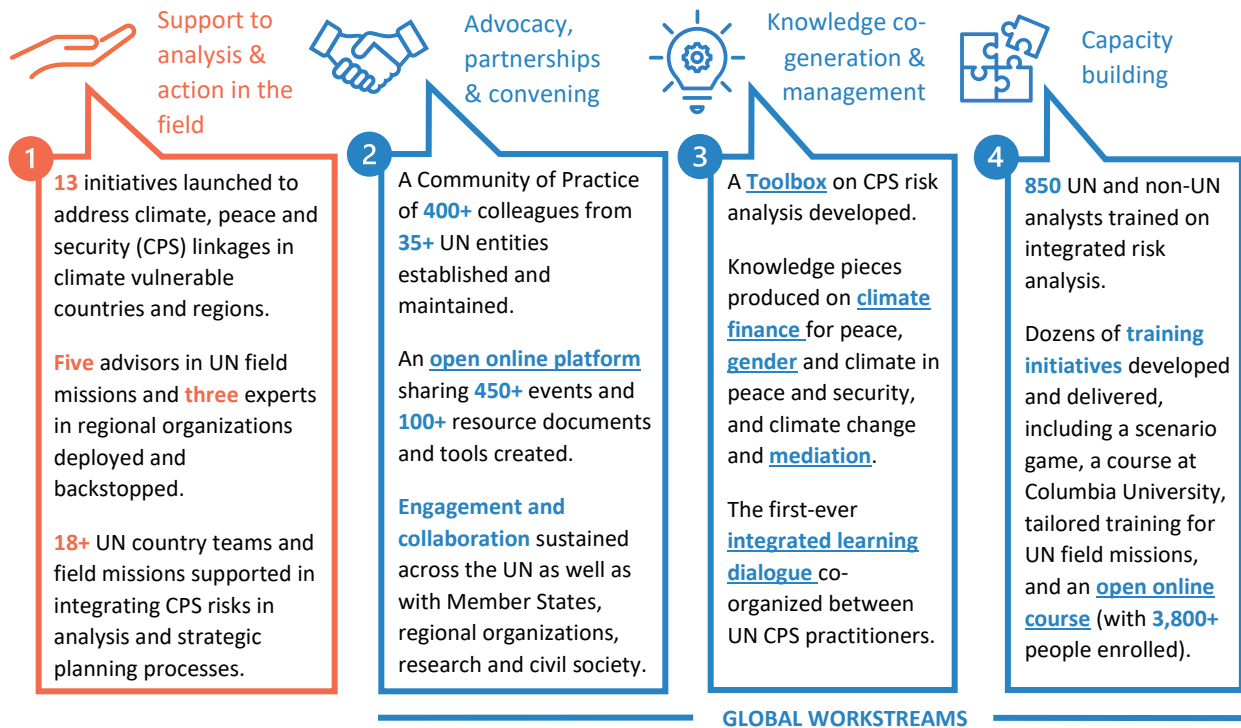
**Responding to growing calls for action by affected communities, Member States and international policymakers, the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) seeks to strengthen the capacity of the UN to systematically analyze and address the linkages between climate change, peace and security and to advance peace-positive climate action, catalyze climate-informed approaches to peace and security, and forge partnerships with actors at all levels.** Established in late 2018, the CSM draws on the resources and complementary expertise of its constituent entities – DPPA, UNDP, UNEP, and DPO – to support UN partners, regional organizations and Member States in this regard. Working in diverse contexts around the world, the CSM relies on local partners to develop tailored approaches. Lessons from these initiatives inform the CSM's work on knowledge management and capacity building, enabling the CSM to serve as a thought leader on climate, peace and security and contribute to the growing policy-practice loop in this new area.

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<sup>1</sup> Plus a reference to drought in the case of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

## Snapshot of CSM progress to date

Since 2018, the CSM has streamlined its work into **four priority areas**. Milestones include:



As of May 2023, the CSM supports **13 catalytic initiatives** on climate, peace and security:



- **UN special political missions and peacekeeping operations**

Five advisors deployed: OSE Horn of Africa (2022) / UNMISS (2022) / UNOCA (2022) / UNOWAS (2022) / UNAMI (2023) / in addition to UNSOM (pre-dating CSM)

- **Regional and sub-regional organizations**

Three experts deployed: Liptako Gourma Authority (2021) / League of Arab States (2021) / Lake Chad Basin Commission (upcoming)

- **UN Country Teams, Resident Coordinator Offices, field offices of individual UN entities and other partners**

Andean States, Northern Central America, Philippines, Somalia, Sudan

**The role of CPS advisors and experts deployed with CSM support:**

- 1) Risk analysis and management
- 2) Policy mainstreaming
- 3) Partnerships, cooperation and coordination

## CSM highlights over the past year

Date	Category	Name / description
2022 /07	Partnership	<b>Partnership with France</b> France joins the CSM Joint Programme and Joint Steering Committee
2022 /08	Field initiative	<b>Climate, Peace and Security Advisor deployed in South Sudan</b> Advisor deployed to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
2022 /09	Training	<b>Climate, Peace and Security course at Columbia University/SIPA</b> Course at Columbia School of International and Public Affairs (CSM & UNU)
2022 /09	Field initiative	<b>Climate, Peace and Security Advisor deployed in Central Africa</b> Advisor to deployed to the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)
2022 /09	Product	<b>Evaluation of CSM Phase II</b> Independent evaluation of the CSM Joint Programme covering the period 2020-2022
2022 /09	Training	<b>Climate Security Series</b> Asia-Pacific “Climate Security Series” learning programme – 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition
2022 /10	Product	<b>Practice Note on the Implications of Climate Change for Mediation</b> DPPA practice note entitled “The Implications of Climate Change for Mediation and Peace Processes”
2022 /10	Field initiative	<b>Climate, Peace and Security Advisor deployed in West Africa and the Sahel</b> Advisor deployed to the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)
2022 /11	Event	<b>COP27 Presidency Initiative: <i>Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP)</i></b> UNDP’s support to the development and launch of the CRSP Initiative at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh together with the Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA)
2022 /11	Event	<b>COP27 side event</b> Side event on “Climate Finance, Gender and Conflict: Towards Financing for Sustaining Peace and Women’s Empowerment” during COP27 (UNDP, CCCPA & CSM)
2022 /11	Product	<b>Practice Note on Gender and Climate in Peace and Security</b> DPPA practice note entitled “Weathering Two Storms”
2022 /11	Training	<b>Climate, Peace and Security Practitioners Dialogue (CASP Dialogue)</b> Workshop on lessons learned by UN and civil society practitioners from across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus – 1 <sup>st</sup> edition (CSM & UNSSC)
2022 /12	Training	<b>Climate, Peace and Security Experts Academy and scenario game pilot</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> (1 <sup>st</sup> in-person) iteration of the scenario game on the participatory exploration of climate-related security risks in the Philippines (UNDP, CSM, CCCPA & Sweden)
2023 /01	Partnership	<b>JPO support (Norway)</b> Norway furthers in-kind CSM support through the provision of a Junior Professional Officer to DPO
2023 /01	Field initiative	<b>Climate, Peace and Security Advisor deployed to Liptako Gourma Region</b> Advisor deployed to the Stabilization Facility following expert support previously deployed in 2021-22
2023 /01	Training	<b>Climate Security in the Pacific Workshop for Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> in-person) iteration of the scenario game on the participatory exploration of climate-related security risks in the Pacific (UNDP, CSM, IOM & PBSO/PBF)
2023 /02	Training	<b>Climate, Peace and Security training in Mali</b> Dedicated training conducted with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (UNEP, CSM & MINUSMA)
2023 /02	Training	<b>Climate, Peace and Security training in South Sudan</b> Dedicated training conducted with the UN Mission in South Sudan (DPPA, DPO, CSM & UNMISS)
2023 /04	Product	<b>Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding</b> Report by UNU CPR on global trends and approaches to sustaining peace through climate, peace and security efforts and recent Peacebuilding Fund projects (PBSO, FAO, UNICEF & CSM)
2023 /05	Product / Event	<b>Study on Climate, Peace and Security in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)</b> UNDP study on “Re-envisioning Climate Change Adaptation Policy to Sustain Peace - A typology & analysis of the National Adaptation Plans”
2023 /05	Field initiative	<b>New CSM catalytic field initiative in Iraq</b> New initiative launched with the deployment of a Climate, Peace and Security Advisor to the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

## SUPPORT TO ANALYSIS & ACTION IN THE FIELD



Through support to analysis and action in the field, the CSM works with the UN system to help partners recognize climate, peace and security linkages, develop and implement inclusive risk management strategies and plans, and identify opportunities for co-benefits between peacebuilding and climate action. To do this the CSM draws on its partnerships across sectors as well as with Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society and the global research community.

The CSM supports integrated climate-related security risk assessments and the development of forward-looking risk management strategies in regions and countries most affected by the linkages between climate change, peace and security. It works to catalyze action through context-specific field initiatives that deliver results for communities on the frontlines. As of May 2023, the CSM jointly with partners has developed 13 catalytic field initiatives in the Americas, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, all of which are rooted in gender-sensitive analysis and participatory approaches. The CSM supports analysis and solution design by helping partners to identify, collect and apply existing analysis, methodologies, tools and initiatives relevant to their specific contexts and challenges, building on CSM guidance materials and on its broader advocacy, knowledge and capacity building efforts. Climate, Peace and Security Advisors (CPSAs) and experts are now deployed through the CSM in five UN field missions and three subregional organizations.

### Update on the 13 catalytic field initiatives supported by the CSM over the past year:

**In the Andean States** (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru), a scoping study on climate change, transboundary waters, peace, and security in the Andean region was completed. Data visualizations of key geospatial indicators were developed and used to map sub-regional CPS risks and potential hotspots.

**In Central Africa**, the deployment of a CPSA has helped the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and ECCAS complete a regional CPS risk assessment. The Advisor leads on the implementation of key recommendations, including mainstreaming climate considerations across UNOCA's good offices, reporting and other mandated activities, promoting the importance of a healthy Congo Basin rainforest for regional stability, and advising ECCAS on a conflict-sensitive regional climate action strategy.

**In Iraq**, a CPSA was deployed in to advance the work of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) on CPS linkages including in the areas of environment, water-sharing and resilience building.

**In the Arab States**, with support from the deployed Policy Specialist, a White Paper and Regional Initiative on Climate Security was developed and launched by the League of Arab States (LAS) at COP27. The paper is intended to provide strategic foundation, galvanize political support and play a catalytic role to advance a regional agenda on climate security and climate finance for peace and security in the Arab region.

**In the Horn of Africa**, the CPSA in the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (OSE HoA) worked closely with IGAD to implement the direction by Member States to establish a Regional Climate Security Mechanism for the Horn of Africa, in collaboration with the OSE HoA and the CSM. To support this process, the UN has decided to establish the first regional CPS Hub in Nairobi.

**In the Lake Chad Basin**, an integrated assessment and action plan was developed together with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). The deployment of a Climate and Security Risk Programme Specialist to be co-located within the Regional Stabilization Facility hosted by the LCBC Secretariat is foreseen to strengthen LCBC's capacity to analyze and respond to CPS risks.

**In the Liptako Gourma region**, institutional frameworks addressing climate-related security risks were analyzed and shared with stakeholders. Data collection on CPS risks, led by International Alert, took place in target areas for stabilization efforts. Methodology and data collection tools were developed and reviewed, and training was provided to national consultants. A new CPS Specialist was deployed to the Liptako Gourma Authority.

**In the Philippines**, a risk assessment is underway in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) following Super Typhoon Rai. It integrates CPS risks into local planning and budgeting processes and support to communities, livelihoods, and social cohesion. CPS action plans, nature-based solutions and cash-for-work initiatives have been implemented. Supportive measures involved procuring a solar-powered ice block making machine for a fishermen cooperative and distributing backyard farming implements and seeds to indigenous communities.

**In South Sudan**, a CPSA was deployed to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The Advisor has increased UNMISS' ability to factor in climate-related security risks and enhance coordination with the UN Country Team. A training for UN personnel on CPS in UNMISS was conducted.

**In West Africa and the Sahel**, the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) expanded its work on CPS through risk assessments and consultations in Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania, Liberia, and Senegal and its deepening partnership with ECOWAS to inform conflict-sensitive climate adaptation plans. UNOWAS organized multi-stakeholder meetings on youth and women empowerment, climate change and peace which informed COP27 side events co-hosted by UNOWAS. A CPSA was deployed to UNOWAS to further strengthen the integration of climate considerations and lead the mission's CPS work and partnerships.

**In Northern Central America** (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras), a CSM-IOM study on the urban dimensions of migration, climate, peace, and security mapped holistic approaches for urban resilience. Together with the Institute for Economics and Peace, a CPS barometer was validated with local stakeholders. Support was provided to formulating national approaches.

**In Somalia**, a CPS training was undertaken involving stakeholders at federal and state levels. Community-based CPS plans have been developed and operationalized in Hirshabelle, Mogadishu and Puntland. UNDP and the CSM supported the first ever participation of a Somali youth delegation in COP27, ahead of which three consultation workshops involved more than 150 youth climate champions across the country.

**In Sudan**, support was provided to at-risk youth, vulnerable women, displaced populations, and community members in Kormota and North Halanga. Activities included the creation of climate-resilient livelihood options, production of 2,000 solar stoves, support for farmers impacted by drought and floods, dissemination of climate change adaptation practices through media, screening of a PVE advocacy film, awareness sessions on climate change and linkages to extremism, and the establishment of community security committees for peacebuilding.



## GLOBAL WORKSTREAMS

In addition to supporting catalytic field initiatives, the CSM maintains thematic global workstreams that connect the different activities under its three other priority areas to support an enabling environment for more climate, peace and security work to emerge across the UN system and beyond and amplify the CSM's impact. Over the past year, partnerships, including the inter-agency Community of Practice on Climate, Peace and Security and the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, were leveraged to operationalize the climate, peace and security agenda and link it to other policy areas such as climate finance and mediation. The CSM will continue to build on, consolidate and further strategic foresight, data and innovation approaches to help strengthen early warning capabilities, enhance preparedness and advance a common understanding of possible futures among diverse stakeholders. The CSM has collected feedback from users of its guidance materials, such as the [Climate Security Toolbox](#), the [Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace](#) study, and the [Climate and Mediation note](#), and used this to develop targeted new training programs, building on and complementing existing offerings.

### Advocacy, partnerships & convening



Through advocacy, partnerships and convening, the CSM works with global, regional and national decision-makers to further harmonize climate action, peace and security policies, scale up climate finance and improve access to climate finance in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

The Community of Practice (CoP) on Climate, Peace and Security, established by the CSM in 2019, now comprises 400+ UN staff from 35+ entities working at headquarters, regional and field level across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus. This informal platform brings together the UN system around a shared interest in understanding and addressing climate-related security risks and to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and identify opportunities for cooperation. Since June 2022, six CoP meetings have been convened (out of a total of 17 since 2020), providing an interactive space for peer-to-peer exchanges and learning on good practice in the field.

Over the past year, the CSM sustained its engagement with Member States, including the Group of Friends on Climate and Security and the informal expert group of members of the Security Council on climate and security. In 2023, the CSM has partnered with Member State-led initiatives such as the *Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP)* Initiative launched by the COP27 Egyptian Presidency. Further, at the 2022 Berlin Climate and Security Conference, the CSM played a role in the multilateral *Climate for Peace (CAP)* Initiative initiated by Germany.

An example of the CSM's collaboration with regional organizations is the ongoing partnership between the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (OSE HoA). Through analysis, programming and advocacy, the CSM has begun to support the implementation of key climate, peace and security policies and plans in the region, including the UN Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy, the IGAD Regional Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030, the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance, and the Kampala Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change. In November 2022, IGAD decided to set up a Climate Security Coordination Mechanism, to be housed at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), which will work through IGAD's

Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) in collaboration with the OSE HoA and the CSM and prioritize capacity building of IGAD Member States<sup>2</sup>.

### CSM Dialogue: Mobilizing Partnerships to Bridge Climate Action, Peace and Security

The CSM convened a roundtable entitled “CSM Dialogue: Mobilizing Partnerships to Bridge Climate Action, Peace and Security” on 28 April 2023 in New York and online. The CSM Dialogue showcased how the CSM is working with partners to maximize its catalytic impact and deliver results on the ground. Partners as well as climate, peace and security advisors and experts deployed with CSM support highlighted progress and perspectives with examples from the Arab States, the Horn of Africa, the Philippines, and Northern Central America. The CSM team presented the priorities for the CSM’s next phase (2023-2025), which focuses on field support, knowledge generation, data and evidence, and diversification of partnerships. An opportunity for current and prospective partners to deepen their understanding of the CSM’s work and vision, the Dialogue was attended by 90+ participants, including 35+ Member States among which current donor partners, members of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, and members of the *Climate for Peace* initiative.

## Knowledge co-generation & management



Through knowledge co-generation and management, the CSM contributes to a stronger and data-driven evidence base as well as a set of tools enabling UN entities, in particular at the field level, to analyze climate-related security risks and develop response strategies in an integrated, gender-sensitive manner that takes local and indigenous knowledge and nature-based solutions into account.

A strong global evidence base of region-specific linkages between climate change, peace and security is an important building block toward effective risk management. The [Climate Security Toolbox](#) developed in 2020 has enabled the CSM to strengthen the understanding and mainstreaming of climate, peace and security risks, including through support to 18 UN joint analysis and strategic planning processes. Over the past year, the CSM has expanded its work on knowledge management and co-creation with partners. DPPA published two practice notes, on [Gender and Climate in Peace and Security](#) (November 2022) and the [Implications of Climate Change for Mediation and Peace Processes](#) (September 2022), which combined new research with practitioner insights emerging from the field. Building on an earlier report on [Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace](#) (UNDP & CSM, December 2021), in May 2023, UNDP, CCCPA and the COP27 Presidency published a study on [Re-envisioning Climate Change Adaptation Policy to Sustain Peace](#) to map the extent to which climate, peace and security intersections are addressed in the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), which offers a blueprint for the mainstreaming of climate-related security risk into the NAPs and for synergies between adaptation policies and peacebuilding efforts.

In 2022, the CSM continued to work with field partners to bolster data-driven impact assessment and monitoring, including by developing a climate, peace and security barometer in Northern Central America and data visualizations of key geospatial indicators to map risks and hotspots in the Andean region. The application of foresight as a training and analytical tool, in collaboration with communities, national and international counterparts, has strengthened scenario-building and the identification of necessary

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<sup>2</sup> [Communiqué](#) – Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (OSEHOA) High Level Inter-Ministerial Event on Climate Change, Peace, and Security at the Margins of COP27, 7 November 2022.

actions, as exemplified by support provided to maritime and coastal climate security foresight in Somalia and new iterations of the scenario game on the participatory exploration of climate-related security risks piloted by the CSM.

To connect and learn from a growing cadre of colleagues in the field, the CSM convened the first ever [Climate, Peace and Security Practitioners Dialogue](#) in November 2022 together with the UN System Staff College (UNSSC) with a focus on translating climate, peace and security analysis into practice (see the “Lessons learned” section). 2022 was also a year of stock-taking of the CSM’s work in contributing to this rapidly growing global agenda. The CSM commissioned an [independent evaluation](#) of its Phase II (2020-2022), which had a forward-looking focus and offered key recommendations (see the “Lessons learned” section). The CSM Phase III (2023-2025) has been designed to scale up good practices from the CSM’s work to date as captured in the evaluation. It will also build on the 2023 UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) thematic evaluation on climate-related security risks in UN field missions. In addition, the CSM supported the [Peacebuilding Fund Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding](#) published in April 2023 (see text box below<sup>3</sup>).

#### Thematic Review on Climate Security & Peacebuilding

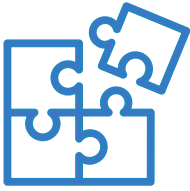
The 2023 Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding, commissioned by the Peacebuilding Support Office in partnership with FAO, UNICEF, the CSM and the UK, and led by UN University’s Centre for Policy Research, distills trends and lessons from climate, peace and security and environmental peacebuilding programming supported by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and suggests guidance for future investments in climate, peace and security efforts in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Some of the key findings and recommendations include:

- **Cross-border and regional approaches:** Due to the transnational nature of climate, peace and security risks, cross-border and regional climate, peace and security approaches are key and related programming should have a greater focus on building political engagement around the issue.
- **Risk-tolerant approach:** Of the 10 countries that received the most PBF climate-security and environmental peacebuilding funding between 2017-2021, nine were among the most vulnerable to climate change. Effective PBF investments can offer proof of concept that other climate funds and donors can consider scaling up.
- **Co-benefits of climate, peace and security:** Investment in climate, peace and security and environmental peacebuilding approaches, including improvements to agriculture and natural resource infrastructure, get to the heart of what many communities view as both their most pressing human security concerns, and the factors that contribute to persistent conflict and competition. Greater such investment should be encouraged.
- **Gender-climate-peace and security nexus:** Many projects utilize natural resource management or localized climate adaptation as an entry point for greater inclusion of women and youth in local governance and decision-making processes. Greater support to learning in this field is however still necessary.
- **Reinforcing project design, learning and innovation:** While it is important to continue to reinforce existing guidance on project design, monitoring and evaluation, it is critical to promote flexible project implementation and encourage check-ins or referrals back to the “theory of change” throughout the project cycle to strengthen learning and reflection on the relatively new field of climate, peace and security programming.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: [Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding 2023](#), United Nations Peacebuilding, April 2023.

## Capacity building



Through capacity building, the CSM enables policymakers and practitioners in UN entities and beyond to combine technical and political expertise to develop a shared understanding and approach regarding the complex interlinkages between climate change, peace and security.

Given increasing demand, capacity building has remained a fast-growing area of the CSM's work. The Mechanism has developed an ambitious capacity building programme by mainstreaming climate, peace and security into broader UN training offerings as well as developing in-depth, targeted courses. Online and in-person trainings co-designed and delivered by the CSM have reached 850 practitioners and have helped consolidate a shared vocabulary and conceptual understanding across sectors. Building on the [Toolbox](#) and emphasizing a gender and social inclusion lens, the courses focus on risk analysis and on translating analytical findings into programming and planning. Highlights over the past year included:

- A second edition of the **Asia-Pacific “Climate Security Series”** convened by the CSM and the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention was conducted in the fall of 2022. Through this three-session learning programme, 30+ UN practitioners, including Peace and Development Advisors, deepened their understanding of climate-related security risks and the nexus between climate, peace and security, violent extremism, and human mobility.
- The CSM co-led a **pilot graduate course at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)** in collaboration with UN University from September to October 2022, which examined the latest scholarship and practical experience in the field. It provided 30 students with a baseline understanding of climate science, the many pathways linking climate change and insecurity, the efforts to “climate proof” international conflict resolution, prevention and peacebuilding, and connections between peacebuilding and climate action.
- UNDP held the first iteration of the **Climate, Peace and Security Experts Academy** in New York in December 2022, which also served as a global induction for its climate security advisors from Asia, Europe, Central Asia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Latin America and the Caribbean, Mali, the Pacific, Panama, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the participation of CSM, CCCPA, GPPAC, the EU, and the Permanent Missions of Germany, Sweden, Norway and the UK. The strategic foresight game developed with the CSM and DCO was piloted in-person, drawing on the experience of the CSM Phase II initiative implemented in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARM, Philippines).
- In February 2023, UNEP and the CSM organized an in-person **training on environment, climate, peace and security together with MINUSMA**, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. This participatory exchange of experiences examined the Integrated Environmental Assessment by UNEP, UNDP and the Government of Mali, as well as the findings of the Mali climate security assessment by adelphi. It further identified solutions building on examples by the Peacebuilding Fund, the Malian NGO Azhar and UNEP.
- DPPA, DPO and the CSM launched a dedicated **climate, peace and security training curriculum for UN special political missions and peacekeeping operations, with the first pilot delivered in South Sudan** in February 2023 together with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA).

## LESSONS LEARNED

Given the fast-evolving field of climate, peace and security, there is an “action gap” between the ambition for integrated approaches and current practice. The Climate Security Mechanism has supported work that aims to close this gap by raising awareness, connecting UN entities, leveraging existing UN expertise across mandates and building up the knowledge base. While the CSM lacks the resources and mandate to directly address the full extent of the action gap, it can be instrumental in helping more climate, peace and security work to emerge and in increasing impact through collaborating with initiatives such as *Climate for Peace (C4P)* and *Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP)*.

### Lessons learned: Climate, Peace and Security Practitioners Dialogue

The CSM and the UN System Staff College (UNSSC) organized the first ever [Climate, Peace and Security Practitioners Dialogue](#) (CASP Dialogue), designed as a lesson learning workshop and entitled “From Analysis to Action”, on 21-22 November 2022 at the UNSSC Campus in Turin. Participants included climate, peace and security (CPS) advisors deployed with UN field missions, representatives from UN agencies across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus<sup>4</sup> as well as civil society experts from affected regions, representing a geographic scope covering Afghanistan, Gabon, Guatemala, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Mali, Nepal, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. In-depth discussions demonstrated the importance of creating a space for engagement, experience-sharing and cross-fertilization among practitioners working on CPS who are often tasked with driving forward a novel approach in challenging circumstances. Participants recognized the following good practices for turning CPS analysis into action:

**1) Defining climate, peace, and security leads to better measurement of success**

Consideration of minimum criteria and an agreed definition of CPS would facilitate monitoring and evaluation practices in this space, notably the development of SMART and attributable indicators which could be integrated into data collection, risk management and reporting. Including CPS indicators into broader frameworks and existing planning and analysis processes represents an opportunity for mainstreaming.

**2) Emphasizing opportunities in climate, peace and security creates new entry points for actors**

Participants agreed that the adverse effects of climate change on peace and security represent an opportunity for practitioners to rethink existing approaches and identify entry points for innovative, forward-looking actions to sustain peace with a gender, human security and human rights lens.

**3) Making climate finance conflict and peace-informed bolsters better climate programming**

Climate finance is an important funding pool for peace-positive climate action if it translates into peace dividends. This requires that vulnerable countries have increased access to these funds; this is where CPS actors could engage in de-risking investments through conflict-sensitive programming. Projects should consider the limits of adaptation, as some places/communities have already reached a “point of no return”. Short-term funding cycles can be an obstacle to long-term adaptation and a short-term focus may increase conflict (as mentioned in the IPCC AR6 WGII report).

**4) Promoting context-specific analysis and local ownership strengthens sustainability**

Context-specificity and community ownership were emphasized as preconditions for sustainable solutions and prevention of maladaptation. It is important to promote inclusive and locally sustainable approaches that consider the legal and policy context as well as pre-existing agreements and stakeholder dynamics (including gender dynamics) at different levels. Ownership of data by local and national actors is critical for their buy-in. More effort should thus be made to connect to Global South-based research institutions and to factor in local expertise and indigenous knowledge.

**5) Expand knowledge platforms and networks for practitioners**

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<sup>4</sup> Including DCO, DPO, DPPA, FAO, IOM, PBSO, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNHCR, UN Women and WFP practitioners.

The need to expand knowledge platforms and networks for CPS practitioners to strengthen analytical capacities was identified as a priority. Despite the highly contextual nature of this work, and the need for tailored solutions, many of the experiences, approaches and challenges transcend borders and could apply to different situations.

Building on the successful experience of this dialogue, UNSSC and the CSM are planning to turn this initiative into a regular forum for knowledge sharing and capacity building.

## Lessons learned: Strengthening the Mechanism

The [independent evaluation](#) of Phase II of the CSM Joint Programme (2020-2022) conducted in 2022 had a forward-looking focus and included the following recommendations:

**Preserve the nature of the Mechanism.** A nimble mechanism embedded in the New York-based UN development/peace and security architecture has demonstrated its value for maintaining climate, peace and security as a policy field that goes beyond ad-hoc collaboration. It is capable of scaling up climate, peace and security support based on good practice. However, “the centrifugal effects of multiple applications and the global momentum of interest” require the CSM to sharpen its focus and further refine the division of labour among entities, while maintaining representative geographical coverage.

**Become more data-driven, enhance the CSM’s role as a “threshold actor”.** A solid evidence base is the centerpiece for the CSM’s advocacy, capacity building and catalytic field support work. The CSM will strengthen shared systems of data and information collection, retrieval, storage, monitoring and analysis. It will also deepen its bridging role as a “threshold actor” between environmental/climate, development and peace and security communities. Specifically, it will develop tailored backstopping packages for climate, peace and security advisors to connect these to networks of environmental specialists (such as hydrologists, climate scientists, or restoration experts) for analysis and solutions design.

**Bring in new partners.** The CSM will engage more actively with Member States representing the diversity of climate, peace and security frontline experiences. In addition, targeted outreach will diversify partnerships with regional organizations and research institutions and establish closer models of collaboration with international financial institutions, climate funds and the private sector. The CSM will continue to engage with various fora around the world to broaden the climate, peace and security agenda and make it more inclusive.

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2023-2025

**The new phase of the CSM (2023-2025)** has been designed to scale up good practices from the CSM’s work to date, expand its service offer, and maximize its catalytic impact in the field. The CSM will leverage the political and technical expertise of its members to accelerate the mainstreaming of climate, peace and security across policy areas. With the inclusion of DPO, whose four largest peace operations are all located in highly climate vulnerable contexts and the deployment of climate, peace and security advisors and experts to Asia-Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa, the CSM is able to reach more of the world’s most vulnerable populations. Through a set of targeting criteria, the CSM identifies contexts where its added value is greatest and where its support to UN entities, regional organizations and other partners can most effectively bolster the anticipation, reduction, and management of climate-related security risks.

**The principles and approaches** that have fueled the CSM's successes so far – such as tailored actions, multi-disciplinary partnerships, inclusion and gender equality, local ownership and context-specificity, science-based analysis and strong knowledge management – will remain the bedrock of the CSM's work going forward. In addition, a greater emphasis on consolidating and promoting foresight, innovation and data-driven approaches and research will contribute to strengthening analytical capacity, enhancing monitoring and evaluation, and tightening the policy-practice loop.

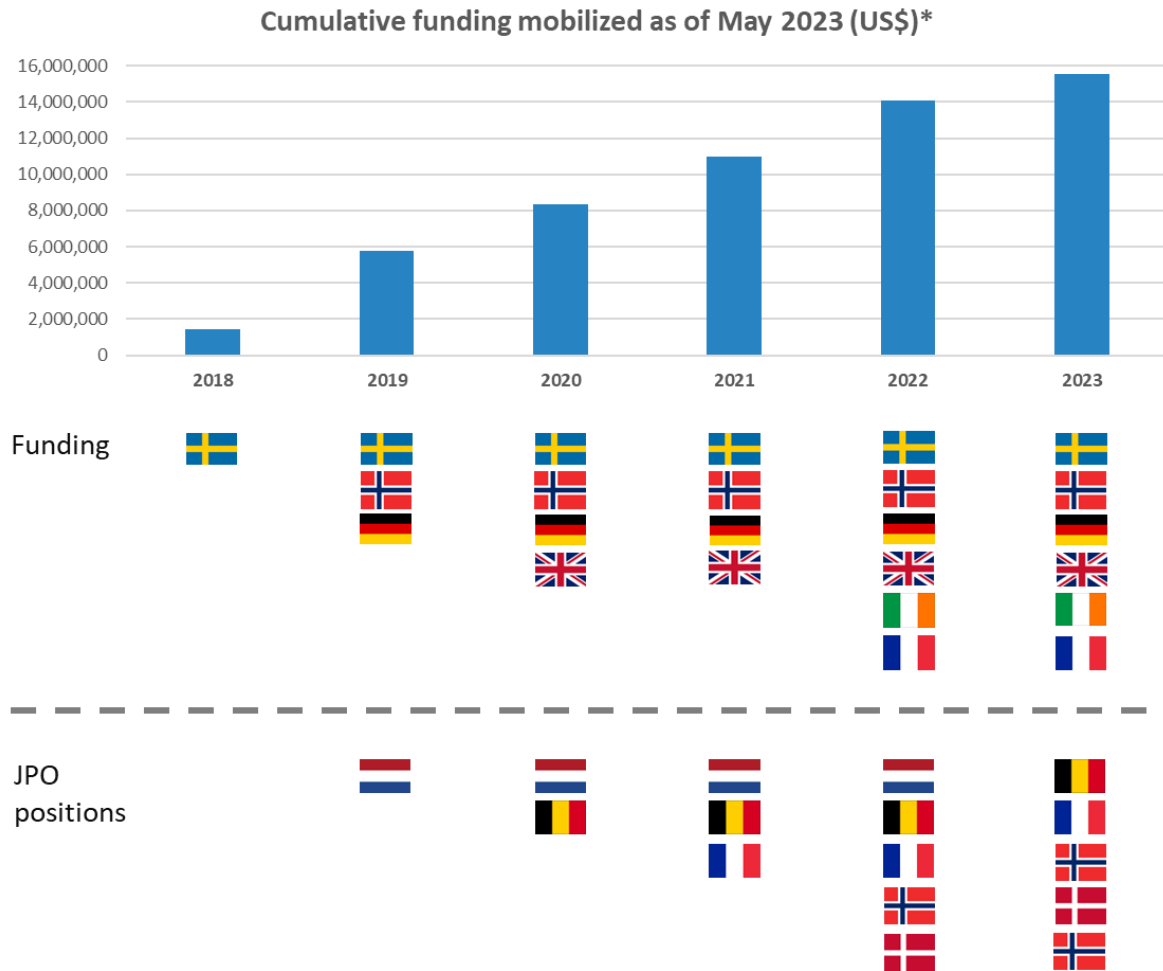
**Support to analysis and action** in the field remains the CSM's most direct way of catalyzing impact in countries and regions affected by climate-related security risks, in particular through targeted assistance delivered via climate, peace and security advisors and experts deployed with CSM support. While there is a need and demand for more initiatives to be developed, the number of CSM-led initiatives in the field will grow proportionally to funding support. The constellation of CSM members and their footprint in the field, combining the work of UN field missions and country teams, facilitates the long-term perspective needed for conflict prevention, peacekeeping, mediation, peacebuilding, stabilization, and mission transitions, and the development of climate policies in particularly vulnerable or underserved areas. CSM engagement in the field has already contributed to a multiplier effect, where climate, peace and security human resources, programmes and actions are expanding outside the UN system.

**The global workstreams** of the CSM will continue to be critical to create an enabling environment and amplify impact. Partnerships, including the Community of Practice on Climate, Peace and Security, the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, *Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace*, and *Climate for Peace* will remain vital to operationalize the agenda and link it to other policy areas such as climate finance, mediation, Women, Peace and Security, human rights, or ecosystem restoration. Targeted outreach will diversify partnerships with Member States, regional organizations and research institutions and establish closer models of collaboration with international financial institutions, climate funds and the private sector. Building on, consolidating and furthering strategic foresight, data and innovation approaches will help strengthen early warning capabilities, enhance preparedness, and advance a common understanding of possible futures among diverse stakeholders. The CSM as a knowledge hub will facilitate the collection and sharing of relevant analysis, methodologies, tools and initiatives with practitioners and other stakeholders within the UN and beyond, leveraging local knowledge and building on existing approaches. CSM guidance materials will be complemented by new training programmes to give concrete insights and tools to a growing number of experts.

Lessons from the early CSM work in the field as well as at headquarters are reflected in a **consolidated yet flexible model of delivery**. The CSM seeks to leverage the strengths of its core entities, expand the network of partners at all levels, and boost the support structures for its catalytic field initiatives, including in UN field missions and regional organizations. A strong feedback loop connected to the field allows the CSM to provide critical backstopping functions and support partners in designing and sustaining high-quality risk management solutions, while feeding lessons back into global policy making. The CSM Joint Programme, managed by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), provides the CSM with a flexible and efficient pooled funding modality to support its work around the world.

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

As of May 2023, a total of US\$ 15.5 million of US\$ 52.4 million has been mobilized by the Climate Security Mechanism since the inception of the first phase of its work in late 2018.<sup>5</sup> The graph below shows the CSM’s estimated cumulative resources, highlighting both funding and in-kind contributions from Member State partners.



\*The above graph reflects funds mobilized as of May 2023 and therefore do not reflect the entire year 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Calculated using UN’s operational rates of exchange on the dates the respective transfers were made.



## THANK YOU

The CSM would like to express its gratitude to the Government of Sweden, as founding partner of the CSM, and to the Governments of Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom, Ireland and France for their generous contributions and consistent support including through MPTFO. The CSM would also like to thank the Governments of the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Norway and Denmark for their in-kind support through Junior Professional Officers. Without the strong support from partners, including at political and technical levels, the work of the CSM would not be possible.

The CSM would like to thank its partners in different UN entities, regional and sub-regional organizations, the research community, and civil society for their strong collaboration. These partnerships have helped foster innovative thinking, a shared language, a more robust evidence base and, critically, entry points for working together. They will remain vital in advancing this agenda globally and in more effectively addressing the linkages between climate change, peace and security.



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