



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
SECURITY COUNCIL
2022 - 2023

Arria-formula Meeting

Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace and Security

Wednesday, 9 March, 2022 | 10:00 AM EDT

In conjunction with its presidency of the United Nations Security Council, the United Arab Emirates will convene a ministerial-level Arria-formula meeting on the need and opportunities for climate finance to support multilateral, national, and regional efforts to build and sustain peace in conflict, crisis, and post-conflict situations.

This meeting will identify and assess how climate finance and conflict prevention strategies and programs can be aligned and strengthened in relevant contexts, as well as outline potential next steps on coordination between climate and security actors over the next 12 months.

H.E. Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, will chair the meeting.



Background

Droughts, floods, food and water loss, changes in seasonality, and other climate impacts are altering the context for peacebuilding and conflict resolution in many settings, often increasing displacement, unemployment, and tensions over resources, including across borders. These impacts are particularly pronounced in vulnerable communities that depend on natural resources for their livelihoods and where conflict and insecurity have undermined coping capacities.

Since 2011 the Security Council has repeatedly recognised the adverse effects of climate change on stability and the implementation of Council mandates. The Council has also called for the inclusion of climate factors in “risk assessments” “risk management strategies,” and “long-term strategies by governments and the United Nations, based on risk assessments, to support stabilization and build resilience.”

Many governments have similarly sought to integrate climate risk factors into their stabilization, resilience, and peacebuilding plans, and the UN has also increased its capacity to assist Member States with such efforts. Efforts range from improving multi-stakeholder water and land management in areas where herders and farmers compete for resources to disbursing cash payments to fragile communities in response to droughts and extreme weather.

However, overall international support for implementation of climate-linked peacebuilding and risk management has been highly limited. Climate finance for developing countries – the largest multilateral funding source for these efforts – is already significantly below required levels, and access for conflict-affected and extremely fragile contexts is even lower. A recent UNDP analysis of US\$14 billion of multilateral climate finance disbursed between January 2014 and May 2021 found that extremely fragile states averaged \$2.1 per person of support, compared to \$10.8 per person in fragile states, and \$161.7 per person in non-fragile states.

Globally, adaptation spending is also low. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in September 2021 called for 50% of global climate finance to go to adaptation, vs around 25% today. At COP26 in Glasgow, countries pledged to double support to adaptation from 2019 levels by 2025 – from US\$20 billion to \$40 billion, compared to conservative estimates of adaptation costs of some \$70 billion per year and other estimates of \$650 billion per year. In this context, there are also over-arching needs to prevent double-counting of development, humanitarian, and security resources as “climate finance.”

At the same time, the value of conflict prevention and reduction continues to grow. The 2018 UN-World Bank “Pathways for Peace” report estimated a return of US\$16 from every US\$1 invested in conflict prevention efforts, and the Global Commission on Adaptation in 2019 similarly estimated returns on investment in climate adaptation – even in non-conflict-affected and fragile areas – ranging from \$2 to \$10 per US dollar invested.

However, increasing climate finance alone will not automatically support peace and stability, as the pathways through which climate risks play out are highly context-specific. Gender-mainstreaming and sensitization is one of the most validated tools to better serve affected communities and account for the disproportionate impacts of climate change and insecurity on women and girls. Yet, women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation in relevant decision-making – such as resource management boards, peace processes, and programme approval committees – remains uneven across security contexts and climate finance institutions. Also, according to the OECD, recently only 3% of climate finance has been primarily directed at women and girls, and only 26% has had gender equality as the secondary goal.

Similarly, climate action programmes must consider their wider impact in host communities to avoid reinforcing existing tensions and vulnerabilities. This approach also requires systematic inclusiveness in program design, implementation, and review. The recognition of the value of conflict-sensitivity in climate finance is relatively new, with few institutions having integrated it into their disbursement procedures.



Guiding Questions

The UAE encourages participants to consider addressing some of the following questions in their interventions:

- 1) Within their mandates, how can climate finance providers – such as multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and development agencies – best support conflict prevention, stabilization and peacebuilding strategies? What approaches at the country-level, where relevant, would improve coordination of related climate and security work by international agencies?
- 2) What explains the low level of multilateral climate finance disbursed in conflict-affected and fragile settings, and how can it be redressed without withdrawing critically needed climate finance from other developing countries?
- 3) What actions can ensure that climate-related risk assessments, risk management strategies, prevention strategies, and peacebuilding programs are gender-sensitive and support women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in decision-making and implementation?
- 4) What are the metrics and indicators that Security Council members and other actors can use to gauge performance over time in climate finance's contribution to peace and security? What joint deliverables should security and climate finance actors be setting for the next year?



Modalities

The meeting will be held in-person in the ECOSOC chamber of UN headquarters in New York. Member States and other stakeholders are invited to make interventions, not exceeding (3) minutes. The meeting will close no later than 13:00 (New York time). To inscribe, please contact rsvp@uaemission.org, indicating country/entity, name, and title by Friday 4 March, 2022. All participants are also invited to submit their statements in writing at the e-mail address: NYUNPRM@mofaic.gov.ae. A discussion summary and compilation of statements submitted in writing will be distributed as an official Security Council document after the meeting.

The meeting will be held with simultaneous translation into the six official languages of the UN.

For individuals outside New York, the event will also be livestreamed. Please register at <https://bit.ly/3LqFd4z> to receive the link.