

The twelve key takeaways from the working groups

During the conference, specific working groups approached the overall theme of planetary security from a specific angle focusing either on a region, theme or constituency. In the coming weeks, the results of the working groups in the form of policy briefs, will be [published](#). Here, we give an overview of the key takeaways of the different [working groups](#).

Challenges in specific regions

WG 1 Arctic: [Climate Change and Food Insecurity in Nunavut](#)

- The existential threat to the Inuit's food security is currently being jeopardised by the Canadian governments' decision to allow seismic testing in the Arctic.
- Although Inuit participation is included in framework planning of human security in the Canadian Arctic, their direct inclusion in consultation processes is lacking.
- Therefore, the Indigenous people's organisations should obtain voting rights in governing bodies such as the Arctic Council in order to ensure their effective inclusion in negotiations and decisions.

WG 2 Horn of Africa: [Natural Resource Management, Conflict and Resilience](#)

- Communities such as pastoralists and smallholder farmers are key to long-term solutions in addressing conflict or peaceful cooperation; best practices developed by these communities play a critical role in the whole value chain when it comes to strengthening livestock production, which is the economic mainstay of the Horn of Africa.
- These best practices are success stories that should be recognised as valuable starting points for development efforts by local authorities and international donors.
- Scaling up of these success stories should be based on an integrated risk management plan which includes all complexities concerning the role of communities in the sustainable use of natural resources.

WG 3 [MENA: A Case for Regional Cooperation](#)

- The MENA region is diverse in its possession of water, food and energy sources, and includes countries where scarcity prevails and puts severe pressure on people's daily lives.
- At present, high level policy makers are still not fully convinced of the need to include the concept of sustainability in their policies, although this is proven to be beneficial in practice.
- Quantifying the economic benefits of a sustainable approach to address water-energy-food scarcity could be the solution to fill the gap between high-level policy makers and the situation on the ground.

WG 4 South Asia: [Water Diplomacy, Security and Justice](#)

- Livelihood security in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan will dramatically increase if diplomacy on shared river basins is enhanced.
- Multi-track water diplomacy combines diplomacy with innovation, partnerships and new funding mechanisms which enables a more effective prevention of regional, local or community-based conflicts.

Challenges on specific themes

WG 5 [Food Security: Strengthening Resilience to Climate-Fragility Risks](#)

- Strengthened regional and global cooperation could serve as a form of re-insurance against the destabilizing effects of climate change risks and should include efforts to better predict and manage supply and price volatility, improve the resilience of import-dependent developing countries, and develop contingency plans for coordinated global risk management.
- Policy makers need to go beyond the post-hoc containment of suffering and help improve risk and vulnerability governance to strengthen the resilience of the livelihoods of the poor.

WG 6 [Water Security: Conflicts and Tensions in the Past, Present and Future](#)

- In order to deal with the increasing future pressures on security, the interaction between development, water, adaptation, mitigation and security policies should be strengthened on local, river basin and global scale.
- To facilitate these interactions between the different communities and scales, a uniform method of measuring progress is crucial.

WG 7 [Building Resilience](#) by Linking Climate Change Adaptation and Peacebuilding

- Different conflict sensitive adaptation measures and peacebuilding work should be integrated and viewed through a climate lens.
- Locally obtained knowledge should be used more effectively in national or global decision processes.
- In the future, informal systems in conflict countries could provide guidance on climate sensitive adaptation for international organisations.

WG 8 [Using Foresight Tools](#) to Manage Systemic Risk

- Foresight tools such as scenario planning, gaming and anticipatory governance can support decision-making in conditions of significant uncertainty, such as when formulating responses to climate-related security risks.
- Scenario planning moves away from seeking the 'most likely' outcome to asking, 'Are we prepared if X, Y or Z happens?' Gaming is a way of trialling responses to different scenarios. Anticipatory governance combines these and other tools.
- In the context of climate security risk management, grounding foresight exercises in relevant readings of climate science can make them better-informed and more likely to meet the challenges.

Contribution of actors

WG 9 [The Role of the EU](#) in Climate Change and International Security

- EU regional strategies should take the climate and resources issues into account.
- Whereas the EU has taken concrete action on many issues that are important for addressing climate security risks, such as food security, water security and disaster resilience, it has not pursued these with climate security in mind.
- The challenge for the EU is to move forward simultaneously at both the political/strategic and institutional levels.
- At the political/strategic level, the EU could do more by integrating climate and resource issues into EU regional strategies, increasing its climate diplomatic resources and driving climate integration within the UN bodies through its member states.
- At the institutional level, climate security is still a work in progress and it remains difficult to integrate climate security into systems for conflict prevention and early warning.

WG 10 Governance and Translating [Climate Security Policy into Practice](#)

- Climate-related security risks need to be embedded in the context of development.
- To deal with the inevitable trade-offs from responding to climate-related security risks, multiple forms of leadership and organisational responses, which emerge from a common goal are needed in order to manage the transition as fairly as possible.

WG 11 The [Economics of Planetary Security](#)

- Not much is yet known about how the economics of climate change might impact security.
- Current business models are flawed because they do not correctly integrate the costs of externalities. In order to benefit from emerging profit opportunities and ensure long-term return on investments, integrating costs of externalities and emotional capital based on responsible production and investment should be taken into account.
- Investors can adopt a model of insurance to protect long term investments.

WG 12 Climate Risk Management for the [Defence and Intelligence Communities](#)

- The defence and intelligence communities have been warning about the systemic threats of climate change since the early 2000s, and remain integral to managing these risks because of their unique rapid response capabilities and the scope and time horizons of their analysis.
- Military to military engagement has resulted in initiatives to strengthen preparedness for climate-related threats, including cooperation on issues like humanitarian assistance, disaster response and disaster risk reduction.
- Despite this action, the response from governments and national security establishments in most countries is still not commensurate with the risks climate change presents. Defense and intelligence communities should work to raise awareness of climate-security implications and increase research and knowledge-sharing about climate-security causal pathways.

