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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1114TH MEETING (MINISTERIAL LEVEL)

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
18 OCTOBER 2022

PSC/MIN/CN.1114 (2022)

CONCEPT NOTE

**CLIMATE CHANGE PEACE AND SECURITY NEXUS: BUILDING RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION
FOR FOOD SECURITY IN THE AFRICAN ISLAND STATES – TOWARDS COP27**

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CLIMATE CHANGE PEACE AND SECURITY NEXUS: BUILDING RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION FOR FOOD SECURITY IN THE AFRICAN ISLAND STATES – TOWARDS COP27

I. BACKGROUND

1. All countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

2. As global temperatures continue to increase, the rising sea levels pose a significant risk to Small-Island Developing States (SIDS) in this case, African Islands and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, this represents the gravest threat to their survival and viability.

3. SIDS are recognized as a distinct group of developing countries facing specific socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities. They are low-lying island nations that are highly vulnerable and often affected by **weather extremes** and climate change, including the increased severity of cyclones, storm surges, heavy rains, droughts, sea-level rise and ocean acidification.

4. The countries share similar sustainable development challenges including small but growing populations, limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural hazards, vulnerability to external shocks, excessive dependency on external trade, and fragile environments.

5. The countries are prone to hydro-meteorological hazards, such as tropical cyclones (tropical storms and hurricanes), thunderstorms and/or lightning, coastal storm surges, floods, flash floods, coastal flooding, river flooding, drought, strong winds, heat waves, and dust or haze – with the following potential impacts: coastal erosion, landslides, mudslides, epidemics, and the movement and spread of toxic substances and volcanic material.

6. Changes in climate, demography and urbanization are rapidly changing Africa's security landscape. By 2050, parts of Africa will become hotter and more arid while others will become increasingly more prone to flooding, rising sea levels, and related natural disasters. This may continue to increase international migration and see levels of internally displaced persons grow, while also creating competition for resources.

7. Over the next decade, the continent's proportion of people of working age is projected to increase sharply and new entrants to the job market may find it increasingly difficult to gain employment. Increased urbanization and internal displacement will cause a rise in the number of urban dwellers living in slums. In this context, a lack of service delivery, unemployment and underemployment, and political and social marginalization will make vulnerable groups, and particularly youth, more susceptible to recruitment into various forms of violence.

8. Climate change undermines human security and acts as a driver of conflict in Africa under certain circumstances and through different pathways. Defining a direct causal link between climate change and conflict can be challenging. For example, statistical studies have found no direct causal link between precipitation levels and violent conflict. Rather, climate change undermines human security and drives local conflicts and other types of violence, by interacting with other intervening variables, such as social, political, and economic marginalization; water scarcity and resource competition; food insecurity; low economic development; weak institutions; population displacement and migration, among others.

9. It must be noted that conflict and human security threats are multi-layered and highly complex, even without climate change as a contributing factor. Climate-induced risks may only be one factor to exacerbate existing issues, which is why climate change is often described as a threat multiplier/ intensifier/ catalyst. However, the importance of climate change as a threat-multiplier should not be underestimated or trivialized.

10. Climate change may contribute to an increase in the frequency and intensity of conflict and human security issues on the continent, creating protracted and multifaceted humanitarian and security crises that will strain the capacity of existing peace and security mechanisms to effectively respond.

11. Despite the indirectness of the nexus between climate change and conflict—in terms of the causal processes according to a 2016 study by SIPRI major factors that can explain the link pertain to deteriorating livelihoods; increased migration; and changing mobility patterns among pastoralists.

12. Climate change affects the livelihoods of **farmers and pastoralist** communities as they are highly dependent on the agro-ecosystem for their livelihoods, any change that affects the agro-ecosystem causes strains in their interaction leading to violent confrontations. Climate change induced migration would also link climate change to violent conflicts when resource scarcity leads to migration to more favorable areas within the same region between sedentary population and migrants who compete over the fertile farm and grazing lands and scarce water resources. Changing mobility patterns among pastoralists pastoralist communities are under increasing stress to change the migration route to their traditional grazing areas. According to a recent study conducted by SIPRI, 'the cause of altered migration routes could be that sedentary farmers or new landowners engage in climate adaptation which require larger areas.

13. It is in this context that a Peace and Security Council Ministerial level meeting is being organised on climate change, peace and security nexus and its impact on food security, in order to facilitate efforts towards promoting effective adaptation measures in the areas of climate smart agriculture in building resilience and guaranteeing food security in the African Island States as part of preparations towards COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt. During the meeting, the Commission will present the '**key messages**' on the nexus between climate change, peace and security within the context of the implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture to facilitate the development of a Common African Position on climate change, peace and security nexus. The key messages will be presented in line with the decision of the Peace and Security Council requesting the AU Commission to advance African priorities for a common position and concrete actions on global climate change, while stressing the need for Member States to speak with one voice at global forums.

INTERVENTIONS

14. While Small Island Developing States and Member Island Territories are already enhancing their weather and climate services, further improvement and sustainable modernization is essential. In addition to investments in observing networks, more funding is needed for communication systems and service delivery.

15. Meteorological services also need the ability to gain greater access to information from the leading global weather centers. Investments in disaster risk reduction, including early warning systems and adaptation measures for critical sectors, are essential for building resilient communities and facilitating sustainable development. There is also need to improve the institutional capacity building to improve the ecological and economic resilience island nations.

16. In responding to Climate Change, the African Union remains strongly committed to the global fight against climate change – whose impacts affect the continent most. The African Union through its Committee of African Heads of States and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) continues to **Champion** climate change issues at the Heads of State and Government level. CAHOSCC, provides political leadership and strategic guidance on the continent’s engagement on climate change. It also advocates for the upholding of a Common African Position on climate change that ensures a strong African voice at the climate negotiations. Given the mandate of CAHOSCC, there’s need to coordinate climate related decisions and programmes including on migration and security under the auspices of CAHOSCC.

17. The Commission is enhancing its efforts to support the work and operationalization of the three Climate Commissions established at COP 22 in Marrakech – the African Islands Climate Commission led by the President of the Republic of Seychelles, the Congo Basin Climate Commission led by the President of the Republic of Congo and the Sahel Climate Commission led by the President of the Republic of Niger. A meeting of the African Islands Climate Commission has been scheduled to take place in October on the margins of the 10th Climate Change for Development in Africa Conference (CCDA-X) taking place on 24-28 October 2022 in Windhoek, Namibia.

18. The oceans, seas, and their resources are important for global food security and for achieving sustainable economic prosperity and combatting climate change. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Improved Ocean Governance, notably to combat marine pollution, sustainable management of Marine biodiversity, fisheries resources could be achieved through a holistic and integrated approach to addressing issues such as coastal erosion, carbon sequestration which are all part of building coastal resilience of ecosystems and fishing communities.

19. Adapting to climate change will require investments in Climate Information Services, Disaster Risk Reduction, including early warning systems and adaptation measures for critical sectors. These are essential for building resilient communities and facilitating sustainable development.

II. OBJECTIVES

20. The main objective of the meeting is to provide a forum for the PSC to reflect on climate change, peace and security nexus and innovative practical means and ways of building resilience and adaptation for food security in the African Island States and specifically:

- a) Improving the national resilience of Island countries to climate change shocks, among others, through encouraging investments in disaster risk reduction, including early warning systems, mitigation and adaptation measures;
- b) Achieving sustainable economic prosperity through integration of Blue Economy as a key component of national development programmes;
- c) Conserving biodiversity and in particular marine and coastal resources for their ecosystem services for the well-being of the populations and also for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change;
- d) Improved Ocean Governance including addressing the challenge of marine pollution and sustainable management of fisheries;
- e) Facilitating the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Nationally Determined Contributions and;
- f) Supporting the implementation of Climate Change Commissions established at the Climate Change Conference held in Marrakech in 2016: the Congo Basin Climate Commission, the Sahel Climate Commission and the Small Island States Climate Commission.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOME

21. It is expected that at the end of the meeting, the PSC will adopt a Communique highlighting the need to:

- a) Strengthen the capacity of Member States and RECs to develop more integrated responses to climate-related security risks including coordination between policy areas;
- b) Include discussions on Climate and Security in the agenda of the meetings of Committee of African Heads of States and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC);
- c) Improve resilience through encouraging investments in climate information services, and disaster risk reduction, including early warning systems and adaptation measures for critical sectors;
- d) Improved ocean governance through conservation of biodiversity and in particular marine and coastal resources for their ecosystem services and also for combatting climate change;
- e) Strengthen cooperation between the Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning System and Early Action (AMHEWAS) Situation Room and the Continental Conflict Early Warning Situation (CEWS) Room;

- f) Strengthen policies that address trans boundary resources including pastoral lands, forests, wildlife, rivers and lake basins.
- g) Enhance synergies of the African Climate Commissions through convening joint sessions of the three African Climate Commissions – (African Islands, Congo Basin and the Sahel); and
- h) Fast track implementation of the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan.

IV. PARTICIPATION

22. The meeting will be attended by PSC Members, the AU Commission and the following invited guests:

- a) Island Member States (Cape Verde; Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles);
- b) The United Kingdom as Outgoing Chair of COP27;
- c) The Arab Republic of Egypt as Incoming Chair of COP27;
- d) The World Food Programme;
- e) United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);
- f) The Commission of Island Countries;
- g) The Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) Foundation; and
- h) Climate Change Competence Center (4c Maroc).

V. DATE, VENUE, FORMAT AND WORKING LANGUAGES

23. The Ministerial meeting will take place virtually on 18 October 2022 starting at 4:00 pm (16:00hrs), Addis Ababa local time. The following four official working languages of the AU will be used, namely: Arabic, English, French, and Portuguese.

2022-10-18

Communiqué of the 1114th Ministerial Meeting of the Peace and Security Council, Held on 18 October 2022 on Climate Change Peace and Security Nexus: Building Resilience and Adaptation for Food Security in the African Island States – Towards Cop27.

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