The State of the World: Navigating Complexity

RESOURCES FOR PEACE
At the nexus of climate change, natural resources, conflict, and peacebuilding

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• Nonpartisan, non-advocacy
• Facilitating dialogue among research, policy and practice communities
• Jane Harman, Wilson Center President
Global Sustainability & Resilience

Seeking a Sustainable Future for a Lasting Peace

– Climate-security connections
– Environmental peacebuilding
– Humanitarian and development implications

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Climate and fragility: Seven compound risks

1. Global pressures are increasing

2. Creating 7 compound risks that threaten states & societies

Source: “A New Climate for Peace”
www.newclimateforpeace.org
Climate as Threat Multiplier

- Powerful political avenue into environmental security
- Plays out in different natural resource sectors
- Makes more local dynamics much more challenging
- Can create new conflict dynamics
- Additional stressor
Navigating Complexity:
Climate, Migration, and Conflict in a Changing World

Photo: Tobin Jones/UN Photo
Displacement and Disasters

• In 2015, 19.2 million people were newly displaced by disasters
  – South Asia: 41%
  – East Asia and the Pacific: 44%
  – Countries with the highest level of displacement: India, China, Nepal, the Philippines, and Myanmar
  – Also facing high levels of displacement: Japan and Bangladesh
  – Mekong Delta and Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta

• Bangladeshi environmental migrants in India
  – India’s Army Chief Bikram Singh: this migration is a threat to national security
“Creaky” international refugee laws and conventions
- Don’t always apply to issues in the modern world

International frameworks not equipped to deal with the nexus of issues
- No talk of climate change or vulnerable groups like women, the LGBT community, or indigenous people

No international framework for climate-induced migration
Changing Geopolitics

• Data and science highlight changed conditions
• Ups and downs commodity markets such as price of oil
• Economic actors finally moving including private sector and philanthropy
• Disaster-induced awareness: storms, floods, etc
• Public attention—public demands, UN processes, changing national leaderships
• New competition for resources
Policy and Institutional Gaps

• **Climate change adaptation:**
  – Rarely address fragility and conflict comprehensively
  – Fragile countries less well positioned to access climate finance

• **Development and humanitarian aid:**
  – Progress in “climate-proofing” development work by mainstreaming climate into development programming

• **Peacebuilding:**
  – Climate change not sufficiently incorporated into fragility or peace and conflict assessments.
  – Few financing instruments earmark funds for addressing climate and fragility risks
Some Conclusions

• Questions of high politics, high security
• Countering risk in face of uncertainty
• Need to prepare for the worst, hope for the best
• Less responsive to use of force yet key roles and key implications within both narrow and broad notions of security
• Both threat and opportunity
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