



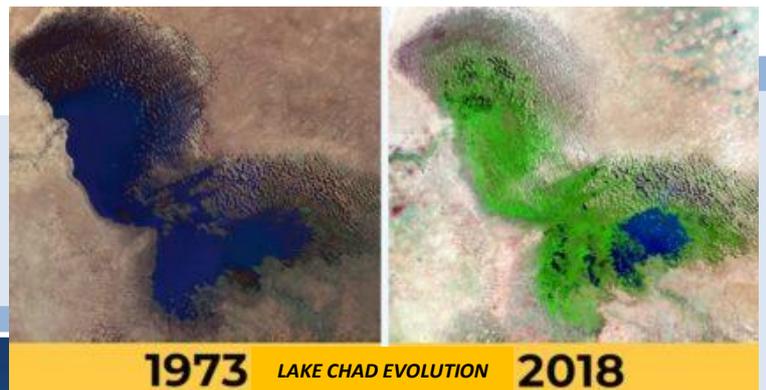
NSDS HUB

NATO STRATEGIC DIRECTION SOUTH

June 2019

ACT and NSD-S Hub STUDY DAY

Impacts of Climate Change on Stability in MENA



NSD-S Hub, *Via Madonna del Pantano, Lago Patria - Italy 80014*

www.TheSouthernHub.org

The NSDS HUB has been established at Allied Joint Force Command Naples in order to improve NATO's awareness and understanding of the opportunities and challenges from the South, while contributing to the overall coordination of NATO's activities and efforts. The NSDS HUB products are developed with open-source information from governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, academic institutions, media sources and military organizations. By design, the NSDS HUB products or links to open sourced and independently produced articles do not necessarily represent the opinions, views or official positions of any other organization.

NSD-S HUB STUDY DAY

INTRODUCTION

In the framework of its mission, the NATO Strategic Direction-South (NSD-S) Hub continues to organize events to improve NATO's situational awareness and understanding of the Southern Flank, contributing to NATO's projecting stability efforts in the South. The NSD-S Hub examines regional perspectives on challenges and opportunities to further NATO's aim of supporting stability and security for Africa and the Middle East. As part of its series of knowledge building events, the Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and NSD-S Hub co-organized a Study Day entitled, "Impact of Climate Change on Stability in Middle East and North Africa" on 30 May 2019. This event focused on how climate change multiplies social and economic transformations while aggravating security challenges.

There is an overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is occurring fast, that human activity contributes to the phenomenon and that it acts as a destabilizing global risk. Military experts, including NATO and many member states, consider climate change to be a "threat multiplier," events that will increase the severity and periodicity of current threats to security and prosperity in many different ways.

In late 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report based on 6,000 scientific studies written by 91 authors from 40 countries. The report detailed the consequences of the anticipated and unprecedented global average of 2.0 degrees Celsius. Scientists estimate several hundred million people are vulnerable to climate-related risks, in the forms of poverty, famine, disease and resource scarcity.

The aim of the Study Day was to evaluate how the effects of climate change, past, current, and future, act as social, economic, and security threat multipliers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), introducing the audience to some of the medium-long term climate change challenges in the MENA region.

This document is descriptive and relays different points of view expressed during this event.

NSD-S HUB STUDY DAY

AGENDA:

1. OPENING STATEMENT

H.E. AMB. JOSEFA LEONEL CORREIA SACKO
DR. BRIAN KLAAS

2. HOW CLIMATE CHANGE COULD LEAD TO SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

MODERATOR: DR. BRIAN KLAAS
PANELISTS: DR. WALID ALI AND MRS. NADA MAJDALANI
LECTURE BY NORTH AFRICA PANELIST
LECTURE BY MIDDLE EAST PANELIST
DISCUSSION

3. HOW CLIMATE CHANGE CAN LEAD TO ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

MODERATOR: DR. BRIAN KLAAS
PANELISTS: MRS. AMAL KANDEEL AND DR. EL MOSTAFA JAMEA
LECTURE BY NORTH AFRICA PANELIST
LECTURE BY MIDDLE EAST PANELIST
DISCUSSION

4. HOW CLIMATE CHANGE CAN LEAD TO SECURITY CHALLENGES

MODERATOR: DR. BRIAN KLAAS
PANELISTS: MR. KAWA HASSAN AND MR. FREDERICK KWAME ABABIO
LECTURE BY NORTH AFRICA PANELIST
LECTURE BY MIDDLE EAST PANELIST
DISCUSSION

5. CONCLUSIONS

H.E. AMB. JOSEFA LEONEL CORREIA SACKO
DR. BRIAN KLAAS

1. OPENING STATEMENTS

Climate change is considered to be a “threat multiplier,” a phenomenon that exacerbates existing tensions, instability and triggers new challenges. From a security perspective, adaptation mechanisms are weak, uncoordinated and especially vulnerable to insecurity related to water, food, energy and natural disasters.

The security implications of climate change have become the subject of unprecedented international attention and focus of the United Nations Security Council open debate on Climate Change and Security in January 2019. Climate change could be a source that hampers good governance in fragile states. Climate change causes environmental damage that transcends borders and demands that countries cooperate closely to solve mutual problems. This Study Day focused on how the effects of climate change – current and future – will act as threat multipliers in MENA in terms of social cohesion, economic scarcity, and security risks; regions where population is projected to double by 2050.

The severity of weather events have become drivers of social insecurity in the more fragile regions of Africa and Middle East. MENA rank amongst the lowest source of greenhouse gas emitting regions while standing the burden of erratic, unpredictable, and unsustainable environmental disasters. MENA regions are desperately trying to mitigate the impact and effects of current climate changes.

Migration and urbanization are two of the main climate change challenges. These challenges are interconnected and required a common effort. Particularly, retaining youth in the MENA regions is key to ensure development and prevent the loss of valuable and sometimes irreplaceable human capital in these regions. Climate change poses a security threat to global peace and security and requires an integrated approach to effectively implement all international and regional commitments and agreements related to climate change. MENA’s disadvantaged position with respect to developed countries should always be taken into account.

In the words of former Army Chief of Staff, retired General Gordon R. Sullivan, “People are saying they want to be perfectly convinced about climate science projections...But speaking as a soldier, we never have 100 percent certainty. If you wait until you have 100 percent certainty, something bad is going to happen on the battlefield.”

2. HOW CLIMATE CHANGE COULD LEAD TO SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS: DISCUSSIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN SECURITY

By 2030, more than 60% of the world's impoverished population will live in fragile states, increasingly shaped by climate change and conflict. In the Arab region, climate change exacerbates socio-economic limitations, while reversing gains in Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). MENA contains arid and semi-arid regions, experiencing unprecedented droughts that increase social vulnerability to conflict, displacement, uprising, and unrest. Climate change is furthermore intensifying natural disasters and returning famine to the MENA region. The convergence of these multidimensional factors forecasts potential turmoil to the women and children that remain as they become even more deprived of primary human necessities like water.

The MENA region houses some eleven crisis countries, three of which include Phase III humanitarian situations. In Somalia, record drought killed up over 200,000 people and displaced millions from 2007-2017, while in Syria, the drought decimates the livelihood of rural inhabitants. Climate impacts also destabilized social cohesion in Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Palestine, while threatening to displace seven million coastal citizens of Egypt. Temperatures in the Arab region grow ahead of the global average, and evaporation of resource anticipates tensions over the distribution of water from the Nile, Tigris, and Euphrates rivers. As a threat multiplier, climate change continues to reflect in social dissatisfaction with government, radicalization, and uprisings.

There is room for hope, as recently established by Israel, Palestine, and Jordan, countries that plan to set aside their difference to discuss a sustainable plan for the future. Therefore, the effects of this phenomena can force dialogue and renewed peace relationships. Nonetheless, cultivating these efforts is crucial as we move into a century marked by uncertainty. The United Nations Development Program is using economic impacts related to climate change as an example to persuade the global community towards mutual action. Climate change is a global challenge in which security of national resources ensues from the protection of neighboring resources, thus leaving no room for individual battles.

3. HOW CLIMATE CHANGE CAN LEAD TO ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION: DISCUSSIONS ON SECURITY TRANSFORMATIONS

Climate change dominates global politics as the ultimate 21st-century challenge. The transformations associated with this issue predict adverse impacts on peace, security, and territorial integrity, food and water shortages, and increased energy demands. Scientists and policymakers concur that climate change will act as a destabilizing threat multiplier.

Due to decades of conflict, MENA remains vulnerable to climate change. Water scarcity and food insecurity resulting from resource exhaustion and lack of governance manifest in increased malnourishment statistics for Syria and Iraq. These nations exemplify countries that rely on the downstream flows of the Euphrates River. Just like the Euphrates, the Nile's downstream communities of Egypt and Sudan suffer water scarcity compounded by population growth, resource reductions, mismanagement of water supplies, and lack of long-term planning.

In those basins, international water law is crucial to security and sustainability of food security. Food must be physically and financially accessible to community members. While the deterioration of food security in MENA is largely conflict driven, climate change multiplies its effects. The impact of water scarcity will be devastating to the limited agricultural landscape that presently feeds forty percent of the area while employing most of the rural population. A shortage of water would destabilize an already crumbling social infrastructure that depends on agriculture for survival.

The economic repercussions of commercial failure in MENA would impact all other areas. Nations under water stress that use hydroelectricity would have to rely on other energy resources such as fossil fuels that will increase greenhouse emissions. Nations must begin to establish policies to protect natural resources while creating guidelines for their use. Otherwise, the MENA region governments risk growth in protests and unrest.

Mitigation measures include the development of better warning systems to address hazards, investments in renewable technologies to achieve resource efficiency and sustainability, planning, policy frameworks, regulatory guidelines, and most of all commitment and participation of citizens via awareness and accountability programs.

4. HOW CLIMATE CHANGE CAN LEAD TO SECURITY CHALLENGES

Climate change requires global management of the ensuing security transformations. While the international community continues to debate on what term to use to describe the nexus between climate change and security - threat multiplier or conflict catalyst - this multidimensional and multilayer challenge continues to drive instability through fast-paced population growth, water scarcity, sea level rises, urban swelling, and desert expansion into greenbelts.

Meanwhile, desperate men and women continue to undertake the dangerous journey to Europe as water shortages and droughts amplify inequality. The Sahel, for example, has come to embody the association between climate change and security threats. Global security debate regarding how much we can blame climate change for violent conflicts also continues to play out in the international community, while some politicians of the MENA region beginning to blame their shortfalls on environmental change.

Climate change will require plans for food and water shortages, improved energy infrastructure, transportation, expansion of green zones, and social interventions to resuscitate the economy of the Sahel.

Iraq is an example of how, despite the continuous efforts of the international community to help the Iraqi government build a future for its people; climate change is still affecting the results of this huge effort. That's why some projects have begun to consider agricultural restorations, water diplomacy and sustainable water management to mitigate Iraq's dependence on neighboring countries water flows.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The discussions during the Study Day allowed us to identify six challenges: water stress/scarcity, food insecurity, social inequality, displacement, economic impacts, and conflicts and war. It was emphasized that displacement and migration are shared challenges in MENA regions with an impact on NATO countries. It was also identified that long term planning is needed to deal with climate change impacts which raise the prospects of 21st-century climate war. The panellists also identified six areas in which international and regional organizations, and NATO in particular, could contribute to mitigate the adverse climate change effects:

1. Encourage developed nations to share technological innovations to reduce the impact of climate change.
2. Support capacity building of security services to mitigate the insecurity of fragile MENA nations and the potential effects of climate change.
3. Strategic information campaign on climate change as a credible security threat.
4. Influence Allies and partners to cooperate in addressing climate-related security threats, as regional water disputes among others.
5. Support the development of a regional climate effect early warning system to anticipate and coordinate the consequences.
6. Design exercises to build relationships and increase knowledge and awareness of climate-related security threats.

The Study Day ended with the closing remarks from African Union Commission (AUC), Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H. E. Josefa Sacko, who stressed the importance of highlighting climate change events in order to show the “real picture of what is Climate Change” and their implications for the African Continent. The Commissioner also stated that the AU will share the important challenges identified during the Study Day with her colleagues and the Ministers of the Environment of African countries. Water scarcity was identified as the paramount challenge and the first priority that African countries will have to face in the near future.

H. E. Josefa Sacko believes that the study day and other similar events helps promote this important issue not only with NATO and AU but also with other important organizations and partners, who will be able to help mitigate future water scarcity driven conflicts. H. E.

Josefa Sacko stated to all that “if we want a sustainable global planet we need to start to work now to make sure that we have a legacy for the next generations”. This initiative will bring a clear picture of the new approach of NATO in Africa which is different to the approach of previous decades; putting people and the environment first. The AU 2063 agenda, “The Africa That We Want”, is putting people first. The 2030 agenda is focused on human issues and capacity of adaptation and resilience of people in the African Continent.

H. E. Josefa Sacko stressed the need of an early warning system in order to detect future crises and catastrophes that help nations to be proactive instead of reactive. On this matter H. E. Josefa Sacko implores that the AU with NATO, European Union, and other organizations and partners, work together, as this is the only way to provide a sustainable planet for future generations.

ANNEX 1: BIOGRAPHIES



H.E JOSEFA SACKO
AUC'S COMMISSIONER FOR RURAL ECONOMY
AND AGRICULTURE

H.E. Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, an Angolan national, and leading African Agronomist. Prior to her election as Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, she was the Special Adviser to two Ministers in Angola, the Angolan Minister of Environment where she served as Goodwill Ambassador responsible for Climate Change; and advisor to the Minister of Agriculture; where she oversaw Food Security, Eradication of Hunger and Poverty Reduction. She also served as Secretary General of the Inter African Coffee Organization (IACO) for 13 years in Cote D'Ivoire where she represented 25 African Coffee producing countries. H.E Amb. Josefa Sacko has been named one of the 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy 2019 by Apolitical, a peer-to-peer learning platform for governments for her efforts towards influencing climate policy on the continent.



DR. BRIAN KLAAS
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GLOBAL POLITICS,
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Dr. Brian Klaas is an assistant professor of global politics at University College London and a columnist for The Washington Post. He is an expert on democratization, authoritarianism, and American foreign policy. Klaas has written three books: *The Despot's Accomplice* (Oxford University Press, 2016) *The Despot's Apprentice* (Hurst & Co, 2017); and *How to Rig an Election* (Yale University Press, 2018). Klaas has advised governments, NGOs, and international organizations. He is a regular contributor to CNN, BBC News, MSNBC, Bloomberg, CNBC, Sky News, Al-Jazeera, and National Public Radio. Klaas also holds an MPhil in Politics from Oxford and a BA (Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude) in International Relations/History from Carleton College.

**DR. WALID ALI****UNDP REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIALIST**

Dr. Walid Ali is Climate Change Specialist at the UNDP Regional Hub in Amman providing integrated support on climate change policy, implementation of Paris Agreement on climate change and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Dr. Walid Ali brings over 15 years' professional work experience working at country, regional and international levels with specialized focus on climate change, DRR and the environment. Dr. Walid Ali also helped to establish UNDPs strategic thinking in the Arab region on the topic of climate action in crisis contexts with expanded support on climate security and fragility.



NADA MAJDALANI
PALESTINIAN DIRECTOR IN ECOPEACE MIDDLE
EAST

Nada Majdalani holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Assessment and Management from Oxford Brookes University, the UK and served in leading technical positions with several international agencies in the areas of infrastructure development, mainly water and sanitation, sustainable and clear production as well as various tasks on institutional capacity building and policy advisory support. As a strong believer in the impact of proactive dialogue she had been part of several affiliation of Palestinian- Israeli groups including the OneVoice Movement and the Palestinian-Israeli Young Entrepreneurs Forum.



DR. EL MOSTAFA JAMEA
MENA RENEWABLES AND SUSTAINABILITY

Dr. El Mostafa Jamea is managing (MENARES) MENA Renewables and Sustainability Institute and currently works on a range of research and consulting projects in partnership with international development organizations, consulting firms and academic institutions mainly on renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate change and on the water-energy-food nexus. Dr. Jamea is an engineer by training and holds a Ph.D. from the Polytechnic University of Ancona. He is certified Re-grid Manager (integration of large amount of renewable energy into grid) by the German Renewables Academy, and holds a certificate on financing mechanisms for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in developing countries from the University of Lund.



AMAL A. KANDEEL
POLICY ADVISOR, UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION

Amal A. Kandeel is an advisor to government, quasi-government, international, and private entities on economic and public policy; natural resources and development; and conflict/peace and human security. She is a policy advisor to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and a non-resident scholar at the Middle East Institute. Her work is focused on the Middle East and North Africa's political economy and development, freshwater resources, climate change, food security, and women in development.

Amal taught at Georgetown University, worked for the Library of Congress, and advised Arab diplomatic missions and organizations, on socioeconomic development and security, transboundary freshwater, and food security issues. She has founded and directed Pioneers International, a small consultancy focused on identifying and supporting renewable energy, eco-friendly construction, and public health solutions for small project development in Egypt.

She earned master's degrees in international public policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced and International Studies, and in economics from the American University, Cairo. She graduated as a valedictorian from the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, Cairo University, Egypt.



KWAME ABABIO
NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S
DEVELOPMENT

Frederick Kwame Ababio is a Development Policy Professional with almost 15 years working experience in public policy design and development practice at multilevels focusing on implementation, coordination and institutional efficiency within national, regional and global parameters. Highly motivated personality and keen advocate for placing Africa at the core of global development discourse. Ababio specializes in Environment and Climate Change, Climate Diplomacy and Development Cooperation, Project development, implementation and management and Public Policy and Practice. Frederick Kwame Ababio is Senior Programme Officer, Environmental Governance and Climate Change Directorate of Programme Implementation and Coordination at NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA). He is the liaison of NEPAD Agency on Africa's engagements within the global climate change negotiations and contact person for African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on Climate Change and African Ministers of Environment Conference (AMCEN) Coordinator, NEPAD Climate Change and Agriculture Programme which supports continental policy coherence and implementation support to African Union member states on agriculture and climate change.



KAWA HASSAN
EASTWEST INSTITUTE

Kawa Hassan is the Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa Program at EastWest Institute's Brussels Office where he leads Track 1.5 and Track 2 diplomacy initiatives focused on trust building, conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Kawa Hassan is author and co-editor of numerous publications and a frequent commentator on international, regional and national media about Iraq, Syria, Kurdish politics and Middle East affairs. He is co-author of the research report "Iraq, Climate-Related Security Risk Assessment" which was used in July 2018 UN Security Council debate on nexus between climate change and security, brought forward under Swedish Presidency of the Council. Kawa Hassan holds a Master of Science in International Relations, Political Science from the University of Amsterdam (1996-2003), and studied English and German at the Al-Mustansiriya University, Baghdad, Iraq (1988- 1991).