Increasing climate extremes, rising temperatures and sea levels, desertification, water scarcity, biodiversity loss are making large areas uninhabitable, forcing people to leave their homes, and threatening their security and health. This in turn can have severe impacts on peace and security globally. It is time to forge a new outlook that can help adapt and strengthen Europe’s external policies and contribute to efficient and effective European armed forces that can operate in changing and challenging environments.

According to the UN, 12 of the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change and least prepared for it were in conflict in 2020.

By 2050, over 1 billion people will have insufficient access to water, soil degradation could rise to 90%, and demand for food could increase by 60% (estimate).
The implications of climate change and environmental degradation on security and defence have become more severe and complex due to:

- **Accelerating impact of climate change and environmental degradation** and the potential loss of livelihoods, increased health risks, instability and insecurity and the potential for greater migratory movements and displacement,

- **Growing global geopolitical competition** for resources, technologies and influence, especially in the context of the energy transition and raw materials,

- The need to **adapt to more challenging environments and reduce fossil fuel dependency of armed forces** without compromising their operational effectiveness and the resilience of defence-related critical infrastructure.

This **new Joint Communication by the European Commission and the High Representative** establishes an enhanced policy framework with **around 30 concrete measures** to:

- **Strengthen** climate and environment informed planning, decision-making and implementation, by improving evidence-based analysis and foresight;

- **Address** the climate and security nexus across EU external action from policy to implementation;

- **Enhance** climate adaptation and mitigation measures in the development of Member States’ civilian and military capabilities and infrastructure;

- **Reinforce** international partnerships and the EU’s work in multilateral fora, within the EU’s wider multilateral climate change and environment agenda.

## Concret measures

### Climate-informed planning, decision-making & implementation

- **New Climate and Environment Security Data and Analysis Hub** at the EU Satellite Centre to provide an easily accessible repository
- **Annual Climate and Security Trend Analyses** to inform political-level discussions and decision-making
- **Global Conflict Risk Index** to further examine effects of climate change and environmental degradation on peace and security
- **Short-term and sub-national conflict risk models** to improve the EU’s early warning and anticipation capacity

### Operationalisation of the Nexus in EU External Action

- **CSDP-Climate Package** to enable the missions and operations to deliver on climate-related objectives, including:
  - Deploying environmental advisors to all CSDP Mission/Operations by 2025
  - Integrating of lessons learnt and other relevant analytical tools
  - Reporting mechanism on missions’ environmental footprint

### Sustainable and climate-resilient security and defence capabilities & infrastructure

- **An EU Climate, Security and Defence Training Platform** at the European Security and Defence College
- **A Climate and Defence Support Mechanism** to work with Member States to promote climate adaptation and mitigation action in the armed forces
- Establishing a **Climate and Defence Network** of national experts from Ministries of Defence

### International partnerships

- **Stronger partnerships** at multilateral and regional levels on climate and environmental issues
- **New Structured Dialogue** between EU and NATO to address the many linkages related to climate change, environmental degradation, security and defence
- **Support** international efforts to comprehensively assess the risks and uncertainties of geo-engineering of the climate, and promote an international governance framework