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## **WORKING DOCUMENT**

From:	European External Action Service
To:	Political and Security Committee
Subject:	Joint Progress Report on Climate Change, Defence and Security (2020-2022)

With a view to a future PSC meeting, delegations will find attached the Joint Progress Report on Climate Change, Defence and Security (2020-2022): Implementing the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap and the Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security.

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<b>[Ref. prev. doc.]</b>	

**Joint Progress Report on Climate Change, Defence and Security (2020-2022)***Implementing the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap and the Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security***Executive summary**

This joint progress report presents the progress made in implementing the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap as well as the Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security for the period 2020-2022<sup>1</sup>. It takes into account the guidance provided by the Strategic Compass on Security and Defence, including its call on Member States to develop national plans to prepare their armed forces for climate change.

- In the ***operational domain***, first concrete steps have been taken to implement the various actions, though more remains to be done to achieve the goals set out in the Roadmap.
  - To improve climate-related situational awareness, early warning and strategic foresight, an assessment identified the need to better connect the providers and (end) users of relevant information and data, and suggested that targeted products, such as a Climate Trend Analyses could provide regional or thematic analysis for planners and decision-makers. The EU Satellite Centre has included specific actions in its work programme for 2023 related to climate change and security.
  - Progress in the shape of first practical measures has been made with regard to mainstreaming climate change and environmental aspects into the planning and implementation of CSDP mandates, most notably through the development of operational guidelines and conceptual documents, while the first environmental advisors have been deployed to civilian CSDP missions.
  - With a view to developing a light-touch reporting mechanism on the environmental footprint of all CSDP missions and operations, as set out in the Strategic Compass, progress has been made following a bottom-up approach. The operational guidelines are being finalised in three civilian missions in the second half of 2022. A fourth mission concluded pilot reporting already in 2021.
- With regard to the ***integrated approach***, the EEAS, in consultation with relevant Commission Services, is integrating climate change aspects in conflict analysis screenings that are conducted to ensure the conflict sensitivity of our programming. Their findings may also inform conflict prevention, as well as various conflict resolution, peacebuilding, stabilisation and security strategies. Programming under NDICI-Global Europe has identified several actions addressing the climate, peace and security nexus. Furthermore, minimum environmental requirements for EU funded humanitarian projects have been identified.
- In the area of ***capability development***, various EU initiatives aim at reducing dependency on fossil fuel and enhancing energy efficiency for the benefit of the strategic freedom of action of the armed forces.

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<sup>1</sup> The Council welcomed the *Climate Change and Defence Roadmap* in its conclusions on Climate and Energy Diplomacy - Delivering on the external dimension of the European Green Deal of 15 January 2021 as well as on Security and Defence of 10 May 2021. The Council welcomed the *Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security* in its conclusions on EU Climate Diplomacy: accelerating the implementation of Glasgow outcomes of 21 February 2022.

- Following an assessment of training and awareness raising needs, concrete first actions concerning EU-level curricula in the framework of the ESDC were taken, with a view to developing dedicated training modules for national and EU-level.
  - Climate change has been taken into account in the Illustrative Scenarios within the Headline Goal process, while various PESCO projects continued their work and the European Defence Fund covered calls for research and development with regard to energy management and energy efficiency.
  - Various actions within the framework of the European Defence Agency have progressed, with further steps foreseen in the implementation process, including with regard to the Green Public Procurement and energy-related directives and circular economy data gathering, sharing of research and addressing energy resilience.
- Progress was made to strengthen **partnerships** and multilateralism to address the climate and security nexus, in particular with a view to UN and NATO, with whom staff-to-staff talks have been established to explore possibilities for further dialogue and cooperation. With regard to EU-NATO cooperation, both sides expressed their interest to step up cooperation on climate and defence in the coming months in a structured manner. Climate change, security and defence also formed part of the collaboration with the AU, OSCE and LAS, and was a topic in dialogues with the US and Canada.

## **Introduction**

This is the first joint progress report on the implementation of the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap and the Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security, as prepared by the EEAS, Commission services and the EDA.

In November 2020, the Roadmap was the first EU-level policy framework to address the links between Climate Change and Defence, as part of the wider climate and security nexus. The Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security, presented by the EEAS in October 2021, complements the Roadmap by creating a framework to approach climate and security in all EU peace and security work. The implementation process is still ongoing including with further steps to be taken in the different strands of work, in order to help achieve the objectives of both documents.

Furthermore, key strategic documents have expanded upon various climate change, defence and security related aspects since 2020:

- the Communication “Commission contribution to European defence”, of February 2022, set out various new actions addressing climate/defence issues which are currently under implementation;
- the Strategic Compass on Security and Defence called upon Member States to develop national strategies to prepare the armed forces for climate change by the end of 2023 – the EEAS is engaged together with the EDA to establish a coordinated process to support Member States in this regard. The Strategic Compass also called for an update of the EU Maritime Security Strategy and Action Plan, which is expected to touch on climate defence and security issues.

Moreover, the Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2022 has led the European Union to take steps to reduce its dependencies on fossil fuel, notably imports from Russia. This is relevant for the Member States’ armed forces, which have a strategic and operational interest in enhancing energy efficiency and reducing dependency on fossil fuel. The sense of urgency of doing so has only increased further.

In addition, in recent years we have witnessed the effects of climate change through natural disasters such as forest fires and droughts in Europe, binding relevant resources including with a view to military support to civilian authorities and calling for a stronger cross-border cooperation among Member States.

EU and NATO have started exploring concrete areas of cooperation in this domain, given the shared interest in ensuring coherence and mutual reinforcement. Dialogue with the United Nations has also been productive in fostering potential synergies between respective activities.

For all these reasons, there is a clear need to step up our engagement in this field, in order to increase our level of ambition to match new developments and a changing geopolitical setting, while continuing to ensure coherence of the different work strands.

## **Scope and Structure**

The joint Climate Change and Defence Roadmap and the Concept for an Integrated Approach to climate change and security reflect the crosscutting nature of this file and the importance of maximising synergies and complementarity between different EU tools and instruments to address the effects of climate change in the area of security and defence. The Roadmap invited Member States to undertake certain actions. Progress on these actions is not covered by this report, however, as there is no structured information available in this regard.

While different in scope, the two documents are complementary. They both contribute to the EU's overall effort to address climate change and achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal. The Climate Change and Defence Roadmap encompasses three different interlinked areas of action: the

Operational Dimension; 2) Capability Development; and 3) Strengthening Multilateralism and Partnerships. It includes civilian CSDP and relevant defence related aspects. The Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security aims to increase the impact of the EU's external action on peace and security by ensuring that the climate and security nexus, including consideration for environmental degradation, is addressed in all relevant EU activities in this field, in full complementarity and coherence with the aforementioned policies.

This first joint progress report takes into account the guidance provided by the **Strategic Compass**<sup>2</sup> as endorsed by the European Council on 24/25 March 2022. The Compass states that “climate change, environmental, degradation and natural disasters will impact our security landscape over the next decades and are proven drivers for instability and conflict around the globe – from the Sahel to the Amazon and the Arctic region”. In view of fully implementing the Roadmap, the Compass called upon Member States to develop national strategies to prepare the armed forces for climate change while calling for all CSDP missions and operations to have environmental advisors and report on their environmental footprint by 2025. In May 2022, Member States in the relevant Council working parties agreed proposals presented by the EEAS on possible concrete steps to support them in their development of such national strategies to ensure a coherent approach allowing for comparability of different measures and linking them to EU-level activities.

The implementation of the Roadmap and the Concept is supporting the Union's objectives under the European Green Deal, by addressing and ultimately alleviating the security impacts of climate change in different regions as well as contributing to mitigation efforts. In April 2022, the European Parliament welcomed the Roadmap and Concept in a dedicated Report prepared by rapporteur Waitz, including further proposals for their implementation.<sup>3</sup>

The Roadmap set out concrete actions in the short, medium and long-term whereas the Concept provided a framework and clear guidance by identifying elements for the development and implementation of concrete measures. Furthermore, progress in the implementation of the Roadmap is more advanced given the earlier adoption of the document. The joint reporting on the implementation of these two documents thus requires some flexibility in the format of this joint progress report, while adding to the coherence and avoiding separate reporting, in the absence of a joint action plan.

The report is divided into three different sections following the structure of the Roadmap: operational dimension, capability development and strengthening partnerships. Reporting on implementation of the operational dimension of the Roadmap and the Concept is presented in a separate manner for better readability. The section on capability development mainly focuses on Roadmap actions whereas reporting on the partnerships has been merged.

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<sup>2</sup> Doc. 13638/6/21, dated 21 March 2022

<sup>3</sup> REPORT on the EEAS's Climate Change and Defence Roadmap (2021/2102(INI))

## 1. Operational Dimension

### CSDP missions and operations

A majority of the 18 ongoing CSDP missions and operations are deployed in areas that are impacted by climate change: from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa as well as the Middle East. The Roadmap launched actions to deepen our understanding of the security effects of climate change in specific regions and to mainstream climate change and environmental aspects in the mandates of CSDP missions and operations. Other actions are geared towards measuring and improving the environmental footprint of the CSDP missions and operations, complemented by the deployment of environmental advisors as a standard position as called for also by the Strategic Compass. The Roadmap covers the actions related to CSDP, which is why no separate reporting on the Concept in this field is included in the report.

- **Action (2020-21):** *The EEAS, in close cooperation with the Joint Research Centre and relevant Commission services and relying inter alia on the Copernicus services, will enhance synergies between existing tools and instruments, such as the Early Warning System, the conflict analysis tool, weather forecasting and climate prediction modelling capacities and the civilian CSDP Missions Analysis Capability (MAC), based on an assessment involving relevant actors on how to 1) foster situational awareness and understanding, 2) strengthen the links between early warning, analysis and actions and 3) develop strategic foresight capabilities, with respect to climate and environmental implications on CSDP:*

The EEAS, Commission services and the EDA have started work to identify possible synergies between respective different tools and mechanisms to improve climate-related situational awareness, early warning and strategic foresight. The aim is to make better use of the available data and analysis, and to tailor them better to user needs, which is critical to enhance climate-informed planning and decision-making for our operational actions and capability investments. Building on existing tools and instruments, such work could provide in-depth ‘climate trend analyses’ on the different impacts that climate change will have on the EU’s security, for example with regard to the growing insecurity in different regions including more extreme climatic conditions under which they will need to operate. Another possible focus could be the geopolitical shifts triggered by climate change – ranging from the melting of Arctic ice, to global energy transitions and dependencies on the often rare raw materials required for green technologies – and their implications for the defence sector. EEAS in consultation with relevant COM Services explores possibilities for trainings to raise awareness and promote better use different relevant available tools and instruments.

EEAS, in consultation with relevant Commission Services and the EDA, considers ways to assess the climate change impact on maritime security, as coastal communities in particular are affected by rising sea levels, shifting fishing grounds and degradation of the marine environment, which can make piracy, transnational crime and illegal unreported and unregulated fishing more profitable.

<p>Following up on the Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security, the EEAS is consulting with Commission Services and EU SATCEN on how the latter could potentially play an increased role in the different stages of CSDP missions and operations, by providing, for example, environmental footprint assessments and increasing their situational awareness including climate/environmental dimensions.</p>	
<p>➤ <b><u>Action (2020-21):</u></b> <i>To successfully mainstream climate change and environmental aspects into the planning and implementation of CSDP mandates, the EEAS will:</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>develop an Operational Concept on climate change and the crisis management toolbox, including civilian and military CSDP missions and operations:</i></li> </ul>	
<p>The EEAS, in consultation with Commission services, developed the Concept for Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security to integrate the climate and security nexus, including consideration for environmental degradation, into the instruments of the crisis response toolbox.</p> <p>A questionnaire issued to all CSDP missions and operations by the EEAS in January 2022 addressed their potential of including climate related aspects into the operational tasks and activities. The vast majority underlined the close link between climate change, environmental degradation and the security context in which they operate. Only few missions and operations reported addressing climate change/environmental degradation as part of their current operational mandate, however, even if many do see the potential of doing more either within their mandate or if it would be adjusted. Several noted that such aspects could be included in training and advisory tasks, or as part of their work to design local projects in cooperation with other EU actors, for example, although the limitations in terms of local buy-in in this regard would need to be taken into account. Cooperation with the EU Delegation and/or EUSR was highlighted as important to address climate/environmental issues. There is therefore a need to continue the work to mainstream into the CSDP mandates and address these issues consistently throughout the planning process. The deployment of environmental advisors have proven vital for these efforts.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>develop Operational Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures covering climate and environmental aspects in support of the implementation of CSDP missions and operations, covering aspects such as duty of care, awareness raising, trainings and environmental/carbon foot print management:</i></li> </ul>	
<p>During the first half of 2022, the CPCC developed Operational Guidelines to support the integration of environmental and climate aspects into the activities of civilian CSDP missions. The internal dimension includes environmental footprint reporting, duty of care and in-mission awareness-raising. The external dimension covers analysis and situational awareness of environmental security risks in the host country concerned, aiming to inform mandate development and shape operational deliverables relating to environmental and climate aspects, including fighting environmental crime. The guidelines provide a first framework to progressively integrate environmental and climate issues into civilian CSDP missions.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>develop a mini-concept on civilian CSDP and climate change to identify possible areas for increased and more effective engagement in this regard and thus</i></li> </ul>	



*providing a conceptual basis for strategic and operational planners to identify possibilities in the context of designing or reviewing mission mandates:*

In June 2022, the EEAS presented a “Mini-concept on possible civilian CSDP efforts to address security challenges related to climate change and environmental degradation” to Member States. The Mini-concept describes how civilian CSDP missions can support host State’s efforts to fight environmental crime, and how they can support host State’s Internal Security Forces to reduce their environmental footprint.

- *liaise also with the Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management:*

Relevant aspects have been addressed in the regular contacts between the EEAS and the Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management in Berlin. Furthermore, the CoE co-organized two expert workshops on climate security, which helped to define CSDP operational needs in this field and discussed options for the above-mentioned Mini-concept. The CoE developed a document to support Member States in the recruitment of environmental advisors to civilian CSDP missions.

- *initiate the development of measurement capabilities and an associated light-touch reporting process based on indicators of progress related to the environmental footprint, incl. energy, water, waste management, etc. within CSDP missions and operations*

The abovementioned questionnaire issued by EEAS to all CSDP missions and operations in early 2022, further sought feedback on challenges concerning the assessment of the environmental footprint in their respective areas of deployment. In general, the replies show a positive reception and a readiness to look for improvements in terms of resource optimisation and operational aspects, without compromising operational effectiveness and safety. Furthermore, some challenges (such as lack of dedicated and trained human resources or capabilities, dependence on external actors) need to be overcome to properly measure the environmental footprint of military missions and operations.

An Environmental Management System for CSDP is envisaged to be established. Where available in certain civilian CSDP missions, Environmental Advisors will assist in collecting and analysing comparable data (while recognising the differences in set-up etc.) and contribute to the continuous work of developing and improving methods. The Operational Guidelines for civilian CSDP provide a first framework for the Environmental Management System and environmental footprint reporting, which will be further refined through pilots involving EUCAP Somalia, EUCAP Sahel Mali, EUAM CAR and EUMM Georgia throughout 2022. A clear and precise methodology, further drawing on the experience of our partners such as the UN as well as other EU bodies, is being defined for the collection of quantitative data of the environmental footprint of CSDP missions and operations and their subsequent analysis. The EDA Energy and Environment Working Group (EnE WG)<sup>4</sup> supports the EEAS’ efforts in processing and analysing CSDP missions’ energy data, building on the group’s extensive experience in collecting and analysing energy-related data of the different types and volumes of energy resources used by the

<sup>4</sup> Recently, the EnE WG has been upgraded into a Capability Technology Group (CapTech EnE), expanding its target audience beyond the MoDs to industry and academia representatives aiming at collectively addressing energy, environmental and climate change-related challenges and vulnerabilities for the defence sector.

armed forces on an annual basis.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>review the “European Union Military Concept on Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency for EU-led military operations from 2012”<sup>10</sup>, introducing monitoring measures concerning its effective implementation.</i></li> </ul>	
<p>In 2021, the EU Military Committee agreed the revised EU Concept for Environmental Protection and Energy Optimisation for EU-led Military Operations and Missions, which provides strategic guidance for the consideration of Environmental Protection and Energy Optimisation during all phases of EU-led military Operations and Missions as part of their activities related to their mandate.</p>	
<p>➤ <b>Action (2022-24):</b> <i>To further mainstream climate change and environmental aspects into the planning, implementation and reporting of CSDP mandates, the EEAS will in 2022-2024:</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>continue to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on climate and environment applicable to the respective CSDP mission and operation without affecting their operational effectiveness and building on the Operational Guidelines:</i></li> </ul>	
<p>SOPs for civilian CSDP missions are being developed as part of the missions’ Environmental Management Systems, aiming to improve the missions’ environmental performance. The Concept for Environmental Protection and Energy Optimisation for EU-led Military Operations and Missions is applicable to all Military missions and operation, and is included as one of the standard references in the operational planning documents.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>propose to include the deployment of an environmental advisor as a standard position in CSDP missions and operations, contributing to the successful implementation of the SOPs on climate and environment and foster exchange with other security actors (e.g. UN mission personnel as well as humanitarian actors on the ground):</i></li> </ul>	
<p>The Guidelines to design civilian CSDP mission-specific organisational structures (Mission Model Structure, Doc. Ref. EEAS (2021) 278, 17 March 2021) foresees the position of an environmental advisor as a standard position in all civilian CSDP missions. The first environmental advisors have already been deployed to civilian CSDP missions, while the Strategic Compass calls for all CSDP missions and operations to have such advisors by 2025. Environmental advisors are present in EUCAP Sahel Mali and EUCAP Somalia. Additionally, EUAM CAR had an environmental analyst until August 2022, when the position was cut, and an environmental crime expert is deployed to EUPOL COPPS. EUCAP Sahel Niger has had a short-term environmental advisor (visiting expert) from August 2022. All other civilian missions have focal points for environment related aspects, as do the military missions and operations. So far, no advisor has been sent to military missions or operations.</p>	
<p>The EEAS has set up a network of all environmental advisors and dedicated environmental focal points in each CSDP mission and operation, with a first meeting taking place in November 2021. For civilian CSDP missions, the first network meeting with focal points was in March 2021. The network is used sharing knowledge, experiences and best-</p>	

practices.	
<p>➤ <b>Action (2022-24):</b> <i>The EEAS will collect data and best practices on energy efficiency in CSDP missions and operations and introduce key findings and analysis in the annual state of play on the Roadmap to identify where and how the energy consumption, and thereby energy dependencies, could be reduced, including through the further development of Smart Energy Camps.</i></p>	
<p>The survey conducted as part of preparing for the light touch reporting mechanism for the environmental footprint of CSDP missions and operations (see above) brought to light different plans, best practices and potential initiatives on footprint reduction, ranging from using biodiesel blend, hybrid car lease, introduction of water saving appliances and reducing the use of bottled water, to involving landlords in “missions go green” initiatives. The further sharing of best practices is facilitated by the EEAS by sharing the survey and encouraging CSDP missions and operations to review their possibilities for improvement. The work on Operational Guidelines and SOP’s assists as well.</p>	
<p>➤ <b>Action (2020-21):</b> <i>The EEAS/EU Military Staff together with the Commission services will assess ways to foster humanitarian civil-military cooperation, including preparedness and response to natural and humanitarian disasters, also taking into account the work launched in the context of the Covid19 pandemic in follow-up to the tasking by the Council in June 2020:</i></p>	
<p>The need to reinforce civilian/military cooperation in this context is effectively addressed through the work on implementing relevant lessons learned from the military assistance to civilian authorities in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on enhancing staff to staff contacts, identifying the possible support areas and ensuring the effectiveness of the coordination mechanisms that are in place to draw on Member States’ military assets when required.</p> <p>In March 2022, the Justice and Home Affairs Council adopted Council Conclusions on civil protection work in view of climate change<sup>5</sup>, which call on the Member States and the EU institutions to be prepared to tackle large-scale, multi-sectoral and cross-border emergencies that occur with increasing frequency. The conclusions particularly highlight the need for expertise-based action, and refer to the central role of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network in this regard and call for the improvement of the anticipation and response capabilities of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).</p>	
<p>➤ <b>Action (2021-22):</b> <i>The EEAS will examine the possibilities under the future European Peace Facility (EPF) to fund projects necessary to support CSDP military missions and operations that improve environmental/carbon footprint and are financially sound.</i></p>	

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/54659/st06528-en22.pdf>

Taking into account the current focus of the EPF in light of Russia's war of aggression, broader reflections at the policy level have continued.

### **EU integrated approach**

The Concept for an Integrated Approach onto Climate Change and Security identifies elements for action for the integration of the climate change and security dimension into EU peace and security work, including by integrating the climate and security nexus into different EU instruments and policies and by introducing principles to guide EU action on climate and security.

**Conflict prevention:** *The Concept calls for climate-enhanced analytics, including through the piloting of climate-enhanced conflict analyses, conflict sensitivity assessments and early warning/early action recommendations, more training and better synergies between data instruments.*

The ongoing joint EU conflict analysis screenings (CAS) of fragile and conflict-affected countries, aimed to ensure that EU programmes are conflict sensitive, also provide a unique opportunity to enhance a focus on climate- and environment related dimensions of programming. Their finding may also inform EU conflict prevention, dialogue and mediation support. Throughout 2020-2023, approximately 66 such screenings will be conducted, as much as possible with the participation of Member States. A pilot focusing on climate-enhanced conflict analysis on South Sudan has been produced and a conflict analysis of Somalia that focusses on climate and natural resources is ongoing.

The EU Early Warning System has updated its climate-relevant indicators for the risk of the outbreak of violent conflict.

Commission services, with the support of EEAS, are preparing to conduct a study to better understand the interactions between conflict, peace and natural resource management issues in ACP and OCT regions, which aims to further enhance the ongoing conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity and resilience work.

Furthermore, synergies between the different data instruments have been explored and mapped in collaboration between EEAS, Commission services and EDA as explained under the first action from the Roadmap.

**Conflict resolution, stabilisation and security strategies:** *The Concept calls for better integration of the climate and security nexus in the fields of mediation, Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR), civil protection and Security Sector Reform (SSR), cultural heritage and in operational actions under Article 28.*

The climate security dimension has been integrated in the conceptual developments regarding EU action in the field of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR). The Joint Communication on DDR of former combatants<sup>6</sup> points to implications of climate change for this

<sup>6</sup> JOIN(2021), dated 21 December 2021

field, and underlines how climate change can magnify the dynamics that lead to radicalisation and recruitment by armed groups. Simultaneously, it points to the need to assess and mitigate climate change-related risks when supporting DDR processes, for instance in socio-economic reintegration.

Following the adoption of the Concept on EU Peace Mediation of 11 December 2020, which includes a focus on climate change and the environment, efforts by EEAS to strengthen the capacity of EU staff in the field of environmental peace-making have been ongoing, including through trainings.

**External action on development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and humanitarian aid:** *The Concept emphasizes the need to deliver and monitor progress on climate change and security related programming under the geographic, thematic and rapid response pillar, and in humanitarian action, including by mainstreaming disaster preparedness in all humanitarian actions and by reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid.*

With regard to the programming under NDICI-Global Europe, which has a 30 % climate spending target and a political ambition to reach 35 %, several actions have been identified addressing the climate, peace and security nexus. Multiple initiatives funded under the geographic pillar contribute to mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation in fragile and conflict-affected states and regions.

Initiatives of particular relevance in the field of climate change and security include the EU-UNEP Climate Change and Security Partnership, which aims at strengthening the resilience of partner countries by integrating climate change in peacebuilding efforts and reducing conflict risks in climate change-related programming. The pilot phase of the partnership, which concluded in February 2022, undertook pilot activities in Nepal and Sudan to develop tools and capacities to enhance environmental and climate-security analysis and preventive action. It has been agreed that the next phase will have a global thematic dimension, delivering science and environmental analysis to inform EU and UN conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives. Until 2026, UNEP and EU partners will deploy tools and capacities developed since 2017 to enhance environment and climate-security analysis and preventive action to address conflict and fragility risks.

Other examples of relevant programming include a project in Niger River basin and Lake Chad Basin titled Frexus, aiming to improve security and climate resilience in a fragile context through the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus and a project focused on climate change and resilience building in Central Asia. Additionally, a call for proposals from the Commission from 2021 focused on the nexus between climate change and conflict resulted in two new projects: one aiming to address conflict resulting from climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in West and North Darfur states and the second aiming to strengthen West African Coastal communities' resilience to cope with climate change by reducing its impact as a driver of conflict and insecurity in the region. Furthermore, the Commission supports an action aimed at strengthening resilience of conflict-affected societies by encouraging and facilitating conflict sensitive, community-based technological solutions to climate change.

With regard to humanitarian impacts of the climate and environmental crises, the Commission has developed and released minimum environmental requirements for EU humanitarian funded projects, as well as a subsequent operational Guidance document<sup>7</sup>. These requirements cover areas like clean energy, waste management, managing water resources, among others. Alongside, the

<sup>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment_en)



Commission is funding innovative approaches to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid through the Enhanced Response Capacity programme. To reinforce its commitments, the Commission became a Supporter on behalf of the EU to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations<sup>8</sup>. The Commission also signed the complementary donor declaration on climate and environment<sup>9</sup>.

Efforts continue towards the ‘greening’ of the Commission’s humanitarian field network (ECHOField). The Commission has collected and analysed Field offices’ consumption data for years 2019, 2020 and 2021, and created a comprehensive baseline showing their actual carbon footprint. Building on this, the Commission is now work on setting recommendations and reduction targets for its offices’ network. In parallel, the Commission has launched an EU Survey to its Field staff, in order to gather current green behaviours, potential strengths but also weaknesses; and identify ways of improvement to reduce the environmental impact of Commission offices (by encouraging a “greener” behaviour amongst Commission staff). Building on these two actions, the Commission is now launching a pilot project (the “Green Champions Initiative” pilot) with some identified field offices, with the aim of setting ideas and developing different carbon-reduction activities, based on these offices’ specific characteristics, needs and quick win opportunities. The results of this pilot phase will serve to inform the potential scaling-up of this initiative.

**Principles set to guide EU action on climate and security:** *The Concept introduces principles to guide EU engagement highlighting the importance of a human rights based and gender responsive approach to climate change and security, a context-specific approaches and local ownership, a coherent and coordinated approach at EU level, support for partnerships and multilateralism, and the need to enhance its expertise and awareness.*

All actions highlighted in this progress report have been guided by a human rights based approach with an understanding of the importance of local ownership, and are gender responsive/sensitive. The efforts have also been characterized with an aim for more coherence through information sharing, better coordination and more cooperation between all relevant actors.

The last section of this report on partnerships explains actions in this field and the section on capability development expands on progress with training-related actions aiming to enhance EU expertise and awareness.

Furthermore, to enhance coordination, cooperation and expertise on the topic, the EEAS supported the Seville High-Level Workshop on climate, peace and security<sup>10</sup> organised in December 2021 together with five participating Member States, think tanks and practitioners. The EEAS supports the follow-up to recommendations from this workshop and to integrate concrete suggestions for further operationalising the Concept, including for strengthened collaboration with Member State initiatives.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.climate-charter.org/signatures/#supporters>

<sup>9</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment/humanitarian-aid-donors-declaration-climate-and-environment\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment/humanitarian-aid-donors-declaration-climate-and-environment_en)

<sup>10</sup> The High-Level Workshop on Climate, Peace and Security for environmental peace-making took place on 9-10 December 2021 in Sevilla and was organized at the initiative of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supported by Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Finland and EEAS.

## 2. Capability development

Reducing dependency on fossil fuels and enhancing energy efficiency and sustainability in military capabilities is important from an environmental and climate perspective while also serving the operational efficiency and strategic freedom of action of the armed forces. The Roadmap launched actions to raise awareness, promote research and innovation, gather data, share best practices and increase synergies with other EU instruments with a view to enhancing energy efficiency, sustainability, circular economy, green procurement and energy resilience. As the EU moves towards a resilient Energy Union and aims at becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, the role of defence in this transition becomes equally vital and enduring. The Roadmap sets out the following measures to address these issues.

- **Roadmap action (2020-21): *The EEAS and EDA, and relevant Commission services, will work with the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and other training providers to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental protection aspects into EU trainings and exercises.***

Based on information provided by Member States in September 2021, the EEAS presented to the PMG its findings that showed that the vast majority of Member States have not yet mainstreamed climate change and environmental degradation into their national training curricula for their armed forces on a mandatory basis. In fact, only 21% indicated that such training is mandatory though not necessarily at all levels among the armed forces. Around 75% of respondents were in favour of a jointly developed train-the-trainer programme to mainstream these issues into national training curricula. While no similar survey has been conducted for civilian CSDP, there is also a strong need to standardise training materials to support a further operationalisation of climate change and environmental degradation by civilian CSDP missions (of note, so far environmental advisors have only been deployed to civilian missions).

Taking into account the training requirements analysis (TRA) on environmental management and climate change within the EU civilian training area as put forward by the EU Civilian Training Group (EUCTG) in 2021<sup>11</sup>, the EEAS conducted an internal assessment with the aim to improve training and awareness raising activities. Initial findings include:

- The ESDC co-organises courses on climate and security at least twice a year (in 2021 three courses were organised on this topic). The courses cover a broad range of relevant issues, including CSDP/defence aspects but generally on a very strategic/political level allowing to gain awareness of the overarching implications of climate change on security.
- On a more operational/tactical level however, climate change is not yet mainstreamed into all relevant training curricula, most notably the mandatory pre-deployment training for all missions and operations run by the ESDC. It has been agreed that the curriculum for these courses is updated by February 2023 with the

<sup>11</sup> Training Requirements Analysis Report on Environmental Management and Climate Change, WK 5701/2021 INIT

process of revising the curriculum starting in November 2022. ESDC will involve relevant stakeholders in the revision with the aim to include a session focused on the implication of climate change for CSDP missions and operations.

- Furthermore, the existing ESDC e-learning module (Autonomous Knowledge Unit) on climate change will be updated in 2022 reflecting the rapid development of the file.

The EEAS is also working in close cooperation with ESDC to develop dedicated training modules available for EU-level and national curricula, including specific modules for civilian and military training audiences respectively. The development of this training package benefits from existing training material and incorporate feedback from Member States' training providers. The aim is to have this training package fully ready by the end of 2022.

Furthermore, a training for EU staff on environmental peacemaking and the climate-environment-security nexus is scheduled to take place later this year with (limited) Member State participation.

Finally, EEAS has identified needs for targeted training activities within the scope of the CSDP, e.g. with regard to environmental crime experts, environmental engineers, or the development of capabilities with regard of climate-informed risk analysis. In addition, there needs to be consideration for training needs beyond CSDP creating synergies, also in close coordination with Member States, the ESDC and national training providers to allow for better overview of supply and demand.

The process to develop civilian capacities addressing the needs of civilian CSDP missions will include scenarios that also respond to new threats such as climate change. Moreover, the EEAS aims to enhance the role of green technology and sustainable digitalisation and mainstream climate change and environmental considerations throughout our civilian CSDP missions. This can be taken up in the context of the Civilian CSDP Compact review following the Strategic Compass.

➤ **Roadmap action (2020-21):** *The Commission services and EDA are exploring the potential impact of energy-related directives, including the Green Public Procurement options, for military infrastructure (such as offices, headquarters, barracks, hospitals, academies) as part of the European Green Deal (i.e. the new energy efficiency action “the Renovation Wave”, but also the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive and of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.*

The Commission and EDA are currently following up on this, in the context of the February 2022 Defence package. So far, a study conducted in the context of the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector<sup>12</sup> found that:

- The military domain has not been an active stakeholder in consulting or

<sup>12</sup> The Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS) is a European Commission H2020-funded initiative managed by EDA.



implementing specific policy instruments and tools, such as the national energy and climate plans (NECPs) or the long-term renovation strategies in the public building sector, even if the armed forces could contribute to each EU Member State's specific energy and climate goals.

- There are constraints in accessing national and EU funding for MoDs, which means that national defence renovation programmes continue to lack appropriate financial support.
- With regard to the "renovation wave" that is part of the European Green Deal, the defence public sector should be considered a key target, on account of its high energy consumption profile.
- The lack of funding and human resources (skills), and regulatory barriers, were identified as the main obstacles for renovation measures in the defence public sector.
- The upcoming adoption of revised energy efficiency targets stemming from the implementation of the renovation wave (with the strategic aim to double the rate of the annual renovation rate of public buildings) will vastly affect the defence community.

With regard to Green public procurement (GPP), there is a lack of data and little evidence of harmonisation in the application of GPP by defence sector purchasers. GPP offers the opportunity both to address the environmental impact of purchases and to boost resilience in supply chains by ensuring sustainable practices in production and consumption of goods, services and works. The key challenges that are currently limiting the uptake of GPP in the defence sector include:

- a lack of knowledge/understanding of the environmental impacts of procurement;
- lack of good practice examples from the defence sector;
- concerns about the impact on cost or operational performance of green products and services;
- lack of data/standards/criteria,
- the need for specific skills to evaluate and compare bids based on environmental criteria,
- lack of senior management support.

The study therefore shows that there is a clear need to develop policies, measures and actions to promote the active involvement of MoD's in implementing NECP goals based on long-term strategies and access to national and EU funding schemes. Moreover, there is a need to promote a more pro-active implementation of Green Public Procurement in the defence sector, reflecting energy and climate commitments, and integration with sustainability, climate and energy policies.

**Roadmap action (2022-24):** *The EEAS/EU Military Staff will make proposals, in consultation with relevant Commission services to take into account climate*

<b><i>change-related risks to improve the Illustrative Scenarios and related Strategic Planning Assumptions within the Headline Goal process (2022-24):</i></b>	
<p>The ongoing update and review of the Illustrative Scenarios (IS) for the military Headline Goal process, based on proposals by the EEAS/EU Military Staff, provides an opportunity to include climate change effects (as a driver of instability, natural disasters and extreme weather events) in view of identifying the implications in terms of required military capabilities.</p> <p>Initial steps have focused on the adaptation of the IS' frameworks and Strategic Planning Assumptions, as part of the Revision of Requirements (RoR) phase, based on the Strategic Compass. Following the Direction and guidance of the EUMC, the EUMS has started with the updating of the Scenarios Peace Enforcement (PE), Support to Stabilization and Capacity Building (SSCB) and Rescue and Evacuation (RE). Climate change factors have been further integrated in the scenarios, by emphasizing and expanding the scope of the effects of climate change on the operational environment (flooded terrain, extreme weather events, lack of resources). This will have afterwards an impact both on the need for adapting capabilities to operate under these situations and on the force composition. Work will continue within the overall Headline Goal process to better mainstream climate change.</p>	
<p>➤ <b><i>Roadmap action (2022-24): The EEAS and EDA will encourage Member States to develop new technologies to increase resilience and operational efficiency in capability projects, including in the context of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO):</i></b></p>	
<p>Several concrete projects within the PESCO framework have continued their work to develop new technologies and deliver enhanced energy efficiency, notably the project "Energy Operational Function". Member States in the Council have been informed on the progress of PESCO projects<sup>13</sup>.</p>	
<p>➤ <b><i>Roadmap action (2022-24): Under the forthcoming European Defence Fund (EDF) Regulation to be implemented by the Commission, and in line with the procedures and criteria set out therein, funding of research and development activities for defence-oriented solutions for energy generation, storage, efficiency and management and on applications to operate under extreme conditions may be allocated. Under the same conditions, advanced solutions for improved resource efficiency, including through addressing circular economy aspects such as durability, modularity, reparability and upgradability could be considered, thereby contributing to the reduction of the defence environmental and carbon footprint:</i></b></p>	
<p>The 2021 EDF work programme identified topics related to energy management and energy efficiency, with EUR 133 million dedicated to a specific call to support research and development of defence technologies and products addressing these topics. The proposals have been submitted in response to the Commission calls and their evaluation performed with the assistance of independent experts has been concluded. The signature of</p>	

<sup>13</sup> PESCO Projects Progress Report, 12252/22 (29 June 20220)

grant agreements for selected projects is planned by the end of 2022.	
Moreover, the next EDF Work Programme 2022 has an estimated budget of EUR 20 million for energy efficiency and environmental transition category containing a research topic dedicated to sustainable components for underwater applications. The respective Commission's call for proposals will be released with a submission deadline at the end of the year. <sup>14</sup>	
<p>➤ <b><u>Roadmap action (2022-24):</u></b> <i>The Commission actively and continuously contributes to climate objectives in the field of transport infrastructure through the trans-European network for transport (TEN-T) policy coupled with the financial support of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). As of 2021, the Commission services will for the first time also start implementing dual-use transport infrastructure projects to foster military mobility funded through the CEF. Selected projects will have to demonstrate both civilian and defence related benefits to obtain grants and 60 % of CEF expenditure must contribute to climate objectives:</i></p>	
<p>In 2021, the Commission services for the first time launched calls for proposals for the co-funding of dual-use transport infrastructure projects to foster military mobility through the CEF. The first call granted €339 million to 22 projects. A third of the budget for the first call supports railway projects. This fosters the modal shift of transport from road to rail. Consequently, it is in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal by directly contributing to the efforts to achieve a 90% reduction in transport-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. A second call was launched in 2022, and the evaluation procedure has been accelerated because of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Selected projects have to demonstrate both civilian- and defence related benefits to obtain grants and 60 % of the overall CEF budget must contribute to climate objectives.</p>	
<p>➤ <b><u>Roadmap action (2022-24):</u></b> <i>The EDA will launch and manage an Incubation Forum on Circular Economy in European Defence (IF CEED), co-funded by the Commission's managed LIFE Programme aimed at identifying new collaborative projects by Member States, defence industry and Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) to address i.a. waste management, safe use of chemicals, component tracing, environmental protection, water management, resource inputs, etc., through design, maintenance, repair, reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishing and recycling:</i></p>	
<p>The EDA's Incubation Forum for Circular Economy in European Defence (IF CEED), co-funded by the Commission's managed LIFE Programme brings together 23 Ministries of Defence and more than 100 experts from 26 countries, both from private and public entities (industry, research and technology organisations, ministries, universities, etc.). Nine thematic communities of these experts, so-called "Project Circles" (PCs), discuss</p>	

<sup>14</sup> Commission Implementing Decision of 30 June 2021 on the financing of the European Defence Fund established by Regulation (EU) No 2021/697 of the European Parliament and the Council and the adoption of the work programme for 2021, C(2021) 4910 final.

collaborative and transnational project ideas with the aim to combine the principles of circularity and the defence sector's requirements.<sup>15</sup>

- **Roadmap action (2022-2024):** *The Commission services, in cooperation with EEAS and EDA, will assess the feasibility of establishing a suitable mechanism to act as the EU's repository, observatory and research platform. The mechanism could aim at assisting national authorities (e.g. EU Ministries of Defence, Interior, Energy, Environment, etc.) to reduce energy consumption, increasing energy efficiency and thereby contributing to the implementation of the EU's climate and energy targets:*

This assessment is currently underway in the Commission in cooperation with EDA and the EEAS. A study conducted by EDA in the framework of CF SEDSS contributes to this work, by presenting possible ways to support the policy and decision-making processes of the MoDs to increase energy efficiency.

It identifies a need to support the policy and decision-making processes of Member States' MoDs to increase energy efficiency and enhance defence energy resilience and autonomy, while ensuring alignment with the EU efforts for climate neutrality by 2050. It also points to the importance of accelerating cross-border cooperation, including fostering civilian and military cooperation in the energy and climate change domains while generating significant economic savings and enabling additional means allocated to military priorities.

To improve the information exchange between Member States on the various energy-related activities in the ministries of Defence, the EDA is launching a European Defence Sustainable Energy Profiles platform. This digital platform compiles and showcases notable energy sustainability efforts and activities based in inputs from the EDA participating Member States (pMS), thus giving visibility to successful initiatives from which other members can benefit.

- **Roadmap action (2022-24):** *The EDA will produce studies on the impact of climate change on the European defence infrastructure in line with increasing efforts to strengthen research on the resilience of defence-related critical energy infrastructure (CEI) against hybrid and asymmetrical threats*

<sup>15</sup> These groups address issue such as circularity in critical raw materials, circular additive manufacturing (including deployable capabilities), circularity in materials for textiles, eco-design in defence capabilities, the SCIP database established under the Waste Framework Directive, "greening" procurement under a circularity perspective, EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) for military experimental ranges, circular data and spare parts management. IF CEED has identified specific topics to be addressed such as the analysis of complex supply chains for critical raw materials relevant to defence (including their circularity by design, reuse, recycling and possible replacement), or data sharing for circularity (concept of a defence digital product passport), to foster strategic autonomy and boost a digital and circular sustainable economy. Furthermore, the ongoing discussion and activities with pMS' experts of different EDA's fora (i.e. IF CEED Green Procurement PC, Defence Acquisition Experts Network and CF SEDSS) is helping trigger concrete collaborative actions and projects aiming at strengthening the green/circular procurement in the defence area. IF CEED is also already providing its stakeholders with guidance on funding opportunities at European level (including with the European Investment Bank) for dual-use and "pure" defence projects and is laying down the foundation for collaborative business cases to incubate transnational collaborative project ideas and related roadmaps. Furthermore, it creates synergies with the REACH Task Force and other relevant fora, both internally (e.g., EnE CapTech, Materials CapTech, Project Team Logistic Support, CF SEDSS, Security of Supply SoS and Key Strategic Activities KSA, Defence Acquisition Experts Network, Defence Test and Evaluation Base Network) and externally (e.g. NATO, ESA, JRC, EIT, European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform) to EDA.

<i>through the activities of CF SEDSS III and thereby further support the development and implementation of relevant project ideas:</i>	
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As an energy-intensive and large consumer of fossil energy and the largest public owner of free land and infrastructure, it is critical for the defence sector and armed forces to increase their energy resilience. This approach becomes vital as extreme and severe weather conditions could impact the security of gas supply and increase the risk of an electricity crisis compromising the armed forces' operational effectiveness, for example.<sup>16</sup>

EDA, in collaboration with DG Joint Research Centre (JRC), is working, in the context of the CF SEDSS, on a research study to assess the impacts of climate change on defence-related critical energy infrastructure (CEI) and military capabilities, to identify policy options to build resilience and to strengthen multinational collaboration and contributions towards EU's climate-neutrality and resilience targets. It has identified the need for a multi-stakeholder forum to address risk reduction and resilience building, as well as for an overarching strategic approach to accompany national strategies, as called for in the Strategic Compass.

EDA, in coordination with DG ENER and DG JRC, is currently conducting, in the context of the CF SEDSS, a study to explore options for increasing the resilience of defence-related CEI against hybrid threats. Although the study will be finalised in early 2023, its initial findings recommend to promote civil-military collaboration at EU-level to further enhance the resilience of defence-related CEI, and support the Member States to address vulnerabilities and risks, as well as to provide suitable platform for raising awareness, sharing knowledge, expertise and best practices, promote synergies and complementarity and foster cross-border cooperation by developing joint collaborative projects/research and table-top exercises. In this context, EDA and DG JRC are organising in Spring 2023 a table-top exercise (TTX) to explore the dependencies on the defence sector when defence-related CEI is compromised or cannot operate due to hybrid threats.

### 3. Strengthening Partnerships

The Roadmap and Concept both emphasize the importance of strengthening partnerships and multilateralism to address the climate and security nexus. To this end, the Roadmap includes a short-term action for the EEAS to promote efforts towards international organisations and third countries, where appropriate, to address the links between climate change/environmental degradation on the one hand, and the defence sector and civilian and military missions and operations on the other, as part of the broader climate and security nexus. The Concept calls for closer and more systematic cooperation and coordination with these actors, especially on a regional and transboundary basis. Due to inherently joint work strands, reporting on this element is presented by organisation and not by action.

<sup>16</sup> REGULATION (EU) 2017/1938 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2017 concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply and repealing Regulation (EU), available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R1938&from=EN> and REGULATION (EU) 2019/941 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 5 June 2019 on risk-preparedness in the electricity sector and repealing Directive 2005/89/EC, available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R0941&from=EN>



## ➤ EU-UN cooperation

- Informal staff-to-staff exchanges in June 2021 focused on the methodology for measuring the environmental footprint on the ground, where the UN is well advanced in their approach and in delivering concrete result as well, as on fostering energy efficient innovations in military equipment, where the UN has been invited to join initiatives run by the European Defence Agency (EDA), such as the CF SEDSS. Furthermore, cooperation with the UN on the wider climate, peace and security nexus takes place through regular informal dialogues. The first informal EU-UN dialogue on climate change and security took place in December 2020. It was followed by a dialogue with UNDP and UNEP focused on programming in September 2021. Climate change and security also featured prominently on the agenda of the EU-UN dialogue in June 2022 with one dedicated session on climate, peace and security and two geographical sessions with a specific focus on the topic. Additionally, the EU is engaged in a regular exchange with the UN Climate Security Mechanism to share experiences and seek joint approaches, including in the field of training.
- The recently renewed set of priorities for the EU-UN partnership on crisis management and peace operations (2022-2024) now includes for the first time also elements on climate change which reflects the strategic importance of this file.
- Initial steps have been taken to discuss training needs in both the EU and the UN system, in particular in view of the on-going recruitments for environmental advisor/ climate and security advisors in both systems. Initial steps have been taken to discuss training needs in both the EU and the UN system,

## ➤ EU-NATO cooperation

- In June 2021, the EEAS together with Commission services and the EDA held a first staff-to-staff meeting with NATO to explore possibilities for dialogue and cooperation. Possible areas of cooperation include a) the sharing of research and foresight analyses, b) capability development as well as c) training and exercises. It is envisaged to continue the dialogue with another meeting to be held in the second half of 2022, during which opportunities for cooperation can also take into account NATO's Climate Change and Security Action Plan (June 2021). NATO also provided speakers for the two annual conferences on climate and defence organised by the EEAS thus far.
- On 10 of January, EVP Timmermans visited NATO where he met with NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg, briefed the North Atlantic Council and had a meeting with the non-EU Allies' Ambassadors. Both sides welcomed ongoing discussions to reflect climate and defence/security considerations in the forthcoming EU-NATO Joint Declaration and highlighted the importance of staff-to-staff exchange as organised in the past.
- At military level, climate change and defence has been included in the DGs conference held in November 2021, where both the DGEUMS and DGIMS agreed to develop a specific Line of Development for climate change and defence, setting up specific actions to be taking forward in this field. This year's DG's conference

reaffirmed the strong commitment of both military Staffs to deepen the cooperation on climate change.

## ➤ Cooperation with regional organisations

- The 6th AU-EU Summit organised in February 2022 highlighted the common vision on actions to preserve the climate, environment and biodiversity. The need for cooperation on climate related matters was also highlighted in the discussion on peace, security and governance. Furthermore, the topic of climate change and security is one of the priority areas for implementing the MoU between the AU and EU. Informal staff-to-staff exchange has been initiated and the EU is exploring possibilities for further cooperation.
- Following the high-level EU-OSCE meeting of October 2021 and the bi-annual dialogues with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, climate and environment have been included as regular items in exchanges with OSCE. The EU is currently exploring options for future cooperation with OSCE around transboundary environment issues in fragile areas.
- Furthermore, the EEAS co-chaired together with LAS the first EU-LAS Working Group on Climate Change and Security in June 2021. Cooperation with LAS will continue through the established Working Group.
- Cooperation with other regional actors, such as ASEAN, is also being considered.

## ➤ Cooperation with partner countries

Security and Defence dialogues with key partners such as the US and Canada are now covering climate and defence issues. The topic was raised during the recent EU-CA security and defence dialogue in Ottawa (December 2021) and a first exchange between the Commission, EEAS and the US Department of Defence took place on 19 January. In October 2021, the United States Department of the Defense published its Climate Adaptation Plan as well as Risk Analysis.

## 4. Conclusions

This progress report provides a comprehensive overview of the work that is ongoing at EU-level to address the effects of climate change in the area of security and defence. The role of the Member States is critical to achieve the overall objective of adapting to climate change and contributing to its mitigation.

Collaboration between the EU and its Member States is crucial in the context of the wider climate and security nexus, highlighted by both the Roadmap and the Concept. The Roadmap also invited Member States to take forward certain activities and the EEAS, Commission services and the EDA would welcome feedback from Member States on their respective endeavors in this respect in order to map out potential areas of cooperation and identify best practices. This could be aligned with regard to tasks set out in the Strategic Compass to develop national strategies to prepare the armed forces for climate change.

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The Council is invited to take note of this report and provide its guidance for the further implementation.

