



STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL
PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Permanent Mission of Sweden
to the United Nations, New York

The Future of Peacebuilding: Climate-related Security Risks and Peacebuilding Efforts in Mali

Tuesday, 4 May 2021, 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. EDT

Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Mali and the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the
United Nations in New York

Part of the 2021 Virtual Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

Background

Climate-related security risks are transforming the security landscape in which multilateral peacebuilding efforts take place. Indeed, by December 2020, 80 percent of UN multilateral peace operations personnel are deployed in countries ranked as most exposed to climate change.¹ While the human security risks of today are increasingly becoming the hard security challenges of tomorrow, the solutions are not solely or even primarily military. As such, there is an urgent need to identify what additional measures, authorities, or partnerships are required to plan for and address climate-related security risks in mission contexts. However, other than focusing on ‘greening the blue helmets’ (i.e. reducing mission footprints on the environment), international efforts to build and maintain peace have not yet taken into account the broader climate-related security risks. This is concerning, as the double burden these societies experience from climate change and violent conflict potentially prolongs the peacebuilding process and increases the human costs of war.²

Following a similar assessment in Somalia in 2019, this study offers yet another glimpse into the future of peacebuilding in the context of climate change by providing an in-depth assessment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). To help future peacebuilding efforts become more climate sensitive, the study aims to produce practical knowledge on: (a) how climate change in Mali is challenging the successful implementation of MINUSMA’s mandate; and (b) how MINUSMA has taken the challenges stemming from climate change into account in its ongoing operations.

Producing this insight is critical. Little attention has been paid to the link between climate-related security risks and their effects on peacebuilding missions, yet the ‘playground’ of peace operations, such as the one in Mali, is shifting due to climate change. In fact, UN Security Council Resolution 2423, which renewed MINUSMA’s mandate for one year in 2018, was the first time the adverse effects of climate change on the stability of Mali were recognized as part of the mission by the UN Security Council. The negative impacts of climate change were further recognized in UN Security Council resolutions 2480 and 2531, which renewed MINUSMA’s mandate in 2019 and 2020, respectively. The findings of this study provide insights into the impact climate change has had on MINUSMA’s work, and guidance on how MINUSMA and other policy actors can respond to these risks.

¹ Krampe, F., ‘Why United Nations peace operations cannot ignore climate change’ SIPRI Topical Backgrounder (22 February 2021) <<https://www.sipri.org/commentary/topical-backgrounder/2021/why-united-nations-peace-operations-cannot-ignore-climate-change>>.

² Adger, Neil, Jon Barnett, and Geoff Dabelko. “Climate and War: A Call for More Research.” *Nature* 498, no. 7453 (June 12, 2013): 171–171. <https://doi.org/10.1038/498171b>; Eklöv, K. and Krampe, F., Climate-related security risks and peacebuilding in Somalia, SIPRI Policy Paper no. 53 (SIPRI: Stockholm, 2019), <<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2019/sipri-policy-papers/climate-related-security-risks-and-peacebuilding-somalia>>.



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To better prepare for and adequately respond to what are increasingly complex contexts, **the Permanent Mission of Mali and the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations, in co-operation with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, are co-organizing a roundtable discussion that provides a chance to discuss the challenges of peacebuilding in Mali in a climate changing world. At the event, SIPRI will present exclusive insights into its new study *Climate-related Security Risks and Peacebuilding in Mali*, followed by a discussion on challenges and suggestions on how to make peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts in the Mali more climate-sensitive. Participants are invited to discuss the challenges and opportunities in responding to climate-related security risks through UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The discussion will be a unique element of the 2021 Virtual Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development as Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York will be invited to discuss the report and its recommendations.

Discussion questions:

- How are climate-related security risks affecting peace efforts in Mali?
- How can consideration for climate-related security risks be integrated into MINUSMA’s policies, analysis, activities and reporting? What other good practices of integrating climate-related security risks in assessments, analysis, planning, budgeting, coordination, activities, programming and performance assessment in the UN system are there?
- Does MINUSMA’s current mandate provide the necessary space to adequately respond to climate-related security risks? What other operational steps are needed?
- In what ways can climate-security challenges provide an opportunity to improve the way we connect the dots between member states, donors, partners, HQs, MINUSMA and the Malian government and population?

Agenda

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11:30 – 11:50	<p>Introductory remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Mr Robert Rydberg, Deputy Foreign Minister of Sweden - Mali Government Representative (tbc) - H.E. Ms. Joanne Adamson, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, MINUSMA
11:50 – 12:00	<p>Key insights from the report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Dan Smith, Director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
12:00 – 12:40	<p>Reactions and discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chaired by H.E Ms. Anna Karin Eneström, Sweden’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations
12:40 – 12:45	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Mr. Issa Konfourou, Mali’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations