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Standing Committee on
Peace and International Security

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Expert hearing *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*

*Wednesday, 16 October 2019 (11 a.m.–1 p.m.)
Amphitheatre (ground floor), Building B, Sava Centre*

Concept note

Background

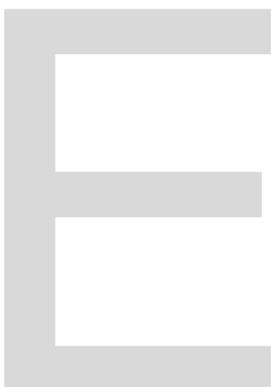
In recent decades a series of drivers of human conflict have been identified. They include drought, desertification, floods, storms, land degradation, failing water supplies, pollution, and deforestation. Climate change and climate-related disasters are expected to exacerbate these drivers further leading to a growing strain on ecosystems, food and water insecurity, as well as population displacement. As a result, the risks of political instability and violent conflicts increase and, in turn, translate directly into national, regional and global security threats, potentially setting back development by decades.

Two-thirds of the world's population live in countries that are at high risk of instability as a consequence of climate change. Many of the countries predicted to be worst affected by climate change are also affected, or threatened, by violent conflicts. The very poor are hit the hardest.

Climate change as a global challenge is still generally viewed through the lens of development and the environment. The security – or prevention and sustaining peace – angle should be emphasized and become an integral part of the broader climate change narrative. In fact, tackling the challenges of climate-related risks requires a holistic approach to State and human security that will include both shorter-term political, humanitarian, and security responses, and longer-term economic development and governance solutions. Organizations, businesses, public officials and state agencies must develop the right institutional context, as well as greater awareness, preparedness, and resilience to deal with climate-related risks.

The session will focus on the following questions:

- What are the challenges and risks to peace and security as a consequence of climate change and climate change-related disasters?
- How to improve knowledge to identify gaps in international law and national legislations to address climate change adaptation and climate-related security challenges and generate policy through dialogue?
- What actions can parliaments take to effectively develop relevant tools and approaches, and advance the institutional context to deal with climate-related security issues?



#IPU141

Expected outcome

The hearing will offer the Committee an opportunity to exchange views with key actors in this area in order to elicit their understanding of the inter-linkages between climate change and peace and security but also disaster risk reduction, humanitarian assistance and development. The aim is to provide the Committee with a basis for reflection on the climate – security nexus to identify a set of practical next steps, measures and commitments to ensure parliaments contribute to the climate – security debate.

It will also be an opportunity to highlight country examples and good practices on responses to climate – security challenges. The hearing, together with individual contributions from Member Parliaments, will provide the co-Rapporteurs with initial information about how IPU Members deal with such issues. This information will serve as the basis for the co-Rapporteurs' explanatory memorandum and draft resolution.

Format

The session will be an interactive discussion between parliamentarians and experts. After introductory remarks by the panellists, the floor will be open for an exchange of views, and for questions and answers.