

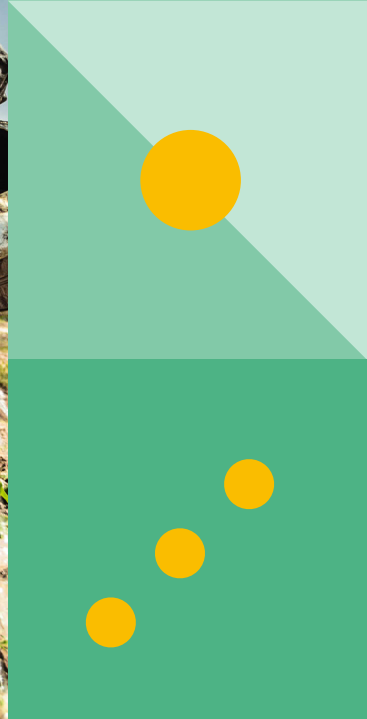


Sahel Climate, Peace and Security Forum

Climate Policy and Financing for
Maintaining Peace and Security

From **9** to **11**
november 2023

Bamako, Mali



BACKGROUND

The Sahel region, home to about 350 million inhabitants, faces immense challenges. Despite its substantial resources, notably in mining, energy, and human sectors, 80% of its population lives on less than \$2 per day, and most of the countries in this region rank among the least developed in the world. Additionally, it has a high birth rate, with a significant youth demographic, as 64.5% of its population is under 25 years of age.

Climatically, the Sahel has experienced severe disruptions with extreme precipitation variations, alternating between droughts and floods since the 1970s. These fluctuations, combined with other factors, have led to a drastic reduction in agricultural and pastoral productivity, essential to support the rapid population growth. The Sahel is also a major tension zone, marked by conflicts, political crises, violent extremism, and clashes over resource control, exacerbated by the climate crisis and other socio-economic factors.



The convergence of crises related to climate change, social, economic, and political instability heightens risks concerning food security, resource management, and conflict proliferation. The «climate, peace, and security» concept underscores the interconnectedness of these challenges and advocates a multi-dimensional approach. This strategic vision encompasses various interventions, from adapting to climate change to peace consolidation, highlighting potential threats to regional stability. It provides a holistic perspective for promoting sustainable development and peace in vulnerable contexts.

Indeed, the impacts of climate change are increasingly felt by vulnerable communities across the world, particularly in the Sahel, exacerbating food insecurity, tensions over resources, and political and economic instability. Recognizing the need for an integrated approach to address these challenges, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Political and

Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) in 2018. The Department of Peace Operations (DPO) joined the mechanism at the end of 2021. This mechanism aims to comprehensively address issues related to climate, peace, and security.

The UNDP has supported various initiatives and programs to strengthen resilience, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding. It is with this in mind that the UNDP is organizing, in collaboration with its partners, a regional forum on climate security in Bamako, Mali from November 9 to 11, 2023, to further stimulate reflection and cooperation in this direction.

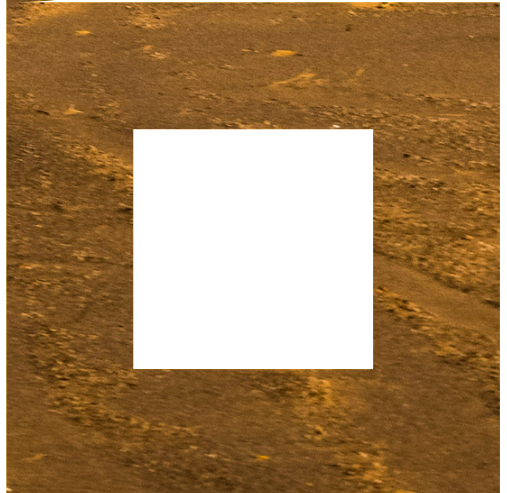
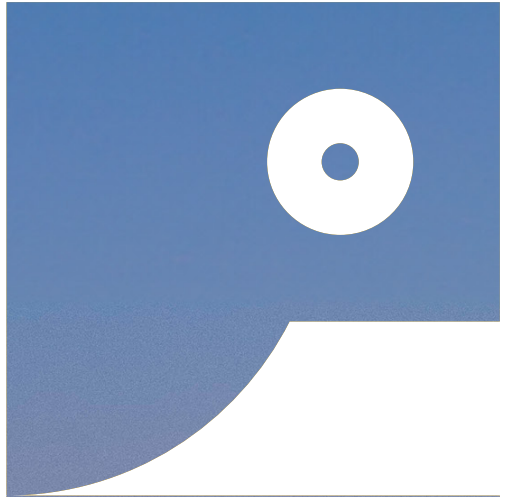


GOALS

The Climate Security Forum in the Sahel will provide an opportunity to address the quality of the response provided so far in this region while encouraging the development and implementation of innovative solutions that jointly tackle issues of conflict prevention and management, sustainable management of natural resources, adaptation to climate change, and peace consolidation.

The main goal of the forum is to raise awareness among Sahel countries and their partners about climate security and to mobilize national and sub-regional actions around this issue in order to better harmonize and organize joint efforts in response to the identified challenges in a critical context. This goal aims to ensure that adequate financial resources are allocated and targeted towards climate-related initiatives that promote peace and stability in fragile countries or regions. It seeks to strengthen the integration of climate considerations into policy frameworks, enhance coordination between climate and peacebuilding actors, and promote sustainable financing mechanisms for climate resilience and peace consolidation initiatives.

By fostering synergies between climate policies, financing, and peace consolidation efforts, this objective aims to address the root causes of conflicts, promote social cohesion, and strengthen resilience to climate-related challenges. Ultimately, it strives to contribute to sustainable development, peace, and security in vulnerable contexts affected by climate change.



More specifically, the objectives are as follows:



Highlight the scope of the link between climate, peace, and security, the factors that exacerbate these risks, and the implications for the development and stability of the region through documented analyses and relevant data.



Facilitate exchanges on solutions and approaches implemented either jointly or individually by organizations and states on the ground.



Examine opportunities for coordination and strategic mobilization of local, regional, and donor actors in response to climate risks.



Enhance climate policies and financing mechanisms to support effective climate action and peace consolidation efforts in close collaboration with the African Union Commission and regional and national entities.



Propose a sustainable framework for consultation and action on the link between climate, peace, and security to assist countries, territorial communities, and communities in developing policy and programmatic solutions.

The logo consists of three stacked squares. The top square is yellow with a white square in the top-left corner. The middle square is green with a white square in the top-left corner. The bottom square is yellow with a white square in the top-left corner.

**Sahel Climate,
Peace and
Security
Forum**



United Nations Development Programme
Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa
Point E, Complexe Citamil, Immeuble E
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