

IES / GMACCC Seminar
“Climate & Security Change Envoys –
New Developments in Climate Change and Security”
European Parliament, 6 November 2012

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- **NATO Lisbon declaration (Nov 2010)**
 - Security Environment (p13, para 15): *“Key environmental and resource constraints, including health risks, climate change, water scarcity and increasing energy needs will further shape the future security environment in areas of concern to NATO and have the potential to significantly affect NATO planning and operations.”*
 - Reconfirmed at Chicago Summit (May 2012), with one important addition: “NATO should work “towards significantly improving the energy efficiency of our military forces”,

- **Though having a limited mandate, NATO can offer a platform for consultations:**
 - At HQ 5000, of which 1200 International Staff, 380 International Military Staff, agencies and representatives of Allied and partner nations.
 - The most powerful NATO body is the North Atlantic Council (NAC) that is comprised of one Ambassador from each of the 28 Allied nations.
 - Further, NATO Committees and Working Groups, of which perhaps the most important is the Military Committee (MC), are meeting regularly.
 - This NATO structure allows for continuous consultation and information sharing.

- But defining NATO’s role and mandate on energy, environment and climate change is a somewhat painful process:
 - If you are an energy producer or you are expecting benefits from the increasing global temperature you are in a much more comfortable situation than if you are an energy consumer or climate change “looser”.

- The only environmentally linked topics that are not controversial among Allies at NATO are
 - Environmental Protection in the military
 - Energy efficiency/effectiveness in the military (Smart Energy)
 - All Allies want NATO staff to help them in developing standards and become interoperable - in short, to advance “smart defence”.

- **Some concrete ideas how to raise the topic Climate & Security Change at NATO.**
 - Briefings by experts
 - Examples:
 - Jason Blackstock, Oxford University, “Disruptive Issues on the Horizon: Climate Geopolitics through 2020”
 - Tao Wang, Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, Beijing, “Energy security and Climate Change: Emerging Chinese Views”

- Scenario creation exercises bringing experts and military together
 - 17 September: Scenario Creation Workshop with environmental and energy issues driving the process
- Round tables and conferences bringing experts, diplomats and military together
- Examples:
 - A conference on energy efficiency, Nov 2011, that brought over 200 experts from the academia, the military and industry together.
 - 5 November 2012 on Energy Security
 - Quote by the Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, Ambassador Gábor Iklódy: “As an Alliance that seeks safeguard the security of almost 900 million citizens, NATO cannot stand idly by. At a minimum, it must monitor these developments. But where it *can* do more, it *should* do more.”
- Countries in the lead to organise events, inviting diplomats from other friendly countries for consultations. This could be done by
 - inviting their own national experts to give briefings
 - offering country/region-specific scenario creation exercises
 - offering briefings at high level, for example to the NAC and the MC.
- Important: Avoid politicisation of the issue.
- In all this the International Staff staff can be helpful when it comes to organising events and consultations in order to bring knowledge to a broader audience, so that they can take informed decisions on how to respond to the ongoing changes.
- Charles Darwin taught us that the species that survives is not the strongest, but the one most responsive to change. The challenge for NATO - for its Allies as well as for its International Staff - is to understand the magnitude of international change and come up with sensible strategies of adaptation.