

## **An Introduction to the FBTP Conference Topics**

### **From Bali to Poznan: New Issue, New challenges** **Conference on Climate Change, Security and Sustainable Development**

**European Parliament, 18 December 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

*“We have an opportunity to forge and follow a new agenda for national and world security. First and foremost, our security is threatened by the global environmental crisis, which could render all our other progress meaningless, unless we deal with it successfully. ...*

*As a world community, we must prove that we are wise enough to control what we have been smart enough to create. We must understand that the old conception of global security – with its focus almost solely on armies, ideologies, and geopolitics – has to be enlarged.”*

- Al Gore, *The Assault on Reason*, 2007

### **From Bali to Copenhagen through Poznan**

According to [press reports](#), the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali was a success with world leaders adopting the “Bali Action Plan” for negotiating a new global warming pact by 2009. Decisions also included the adoption of a rainforest protection plan, the launch of the Kyoto Protocol’s Adaptation Fund and the scaling up of the transfer of clean energy technologies from industrialised nations to the developing world

Many are of the opinion that little real progress will be made by the international community in seriously addressing the threats of climate change until after the 2008 US elections. Therefore, there will be high expectations for the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) at the UNCCC in Copenhagen in 2009 at which time the successor to the Kyoto Protocol should be decided and become operational in 2012.

What then can we expect to be done in the meantime in the lead up to COP14 to be held in December 2008 in Poznan?

The Institute for Environmental Security, in association with e-Parliament, GLOBE-EU and GLOBE-Europe, convened the conference “From Bali to Poznan” to examine new issues and new challenges which will need to be addressed in the coming 12 months. This conference – the first such gathering to assess the results of the Bali negotiations - will be held at that European Parliament in Brussels on 18 December 2007.

Among the issues to be discussed at the Brussels conference will be what is being done about the impact of climate change on developing countries, what new technologies are coming on line to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, and to what extent are the security implications of climate change being taken into account?

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<sup>1</sup> Organised by the **Institute for Environmental Security** in association with **Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment** (GLOBE-EU and GLOBE-Europe) and **e-Parliament** with the kind support of the **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

## **Impact on developing countries**

Before the Bali conference much concern was expressed regarding when and how OECD donor countries and the EU will fulfil their promises to provide assistance to developing countries to help them with the costs of preparing to mitigate - and adapt to - the effects of climate change. The effects - increasing frequency and intensity of violent storms, floods, draughts, forest fires, water shortages, food crop damage, etc. - are already being felt in developing countries around the world and in developed countries too.

According to the [UN Human Development Report 2007/2008: Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world](#) published in November, of the billions of dollars pledged under the original Framework Convention on Climate Change only \$ 26 million has actually been forthcoming – “a derisory response” according to the report.

But according to Peter Gelling in an International Herald Tribune article of 12 December - [Bali climate talks find focus in fund for poor nations](#) - “With UN climate talks here so far largely deadlocked, an agreement this week to breathe new life into a fund to help poor countries cope with a warming climate is set to be the big breakthrough of the conference. The issue of adapting to climate change, despite the conference's primary goal of preventing further climate change, has gained new prominence at the Bali talks. Protecting the neediest countries from the effects of a warming world has now become a central theme of the gathering.”

According to the UNFCCC, “Of special note was a decision which heralds the launch of the Kyoto Protocol’s [Adaptation Fund](#), set up to finance concrete adaptation projects in developing country Parties to the [Kyoto Protocol](#). Parties agreed on the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) as the secretariat and the World Bank as trustee of the Fund, which will become operational with the start of the Protocol’s first commitment period in 2008.”

The world will be watching to see how the fund is implemented in the coming year. Considerable attention will also be paid to the rainforest protection plan.

## **Impact of new technologies**

The coming year will also be important with regard to the issue of the transfer of technology and the development of new energy technologies.

## **Impact on security and foreign policy**

Climate change is also having an impact on security - helping to create or broaden conflict, at least in some specific countries and regions. The case of the Sudan and the spill over of the tensions into Chad is an often cited example. Other potential threats often cited include the consequences of mass migrations of people fleeing from rising seas or encroaching deserts.

While the threats to security due to climate change may be in the minds of international negotiators this issue does not seem to be addressed directly. To what extent might we expect the security implications to become more explicit in the climate negotiations and how is the impact of climate change being taken into account in foreign policy, for example, as an element in predicting and preventing conflicts?

These and other questions form the background to the FBTP conference on 18 December. The following is a brief overview of the conference sessions and the interrelated topics to be discussed.

## **FBTP Conference Topics**

### ***Reviewing Bali: Reflections on the UNFCCC – COP 13***

Just before Bali, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its most far reaching report: ["Climate Change 2007" - the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report \(AR4\)](#). Referring to the report, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon said that "We cannot afford to leave Bali without such a breakthrough," The potential consequences of quickening climate change are "so severe and so sweeping that only urgent global action will do," he said. He called the problem "the defining challenge of our age."

The latest news from the Bali conference, 3-14 December, is available on the UNFCCC website at: [http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop\\_13/items/4049.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_13/items/4049.php)

In our meeting we will hear assessments of the results of the conference from several distinguished observers – an MEP, an MP, an EU official, an NGO representative and others.

### ***Escaping from Fossil Fuels: The Case for Solar Power***

Any meaningful discussion on the issues and challenges of climate change, security and sustainable development has to look at ways to deal with related energy issues.

Key challenges include how to deal with increasing energy demands of developing countries while recognising their right to development. [Contraction and Convergence](#) (C&C) is a proposed global framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change. The strategy consists of reducing overall emissions of greenhouse gases to a safe level, 'Contraction', where the global emissions are reduced because every country brings emissions *per capita* to a level which is equal for all countries, 'Convergence'.

The other big challenge is the need to reduce the world's dependence on carbon based energy. New and renewable energy sources have never received so much attention as they do now. One of the single most promising technologies to be highlighted in our discussions is [Concentrated Solar Power](#).

### ***The Security Implications of Climate Change***

Two recent studies in the United States which have received global attention are:

[National Security and the Threat of Climate Change](#) <sup>2</sup> states that global climate change presents a serious national security threat which could impact Americans at home, impact United States military operations and heighten global tensions.

[The Age of Consequences: The Foreign Policy and National Security Implications of Global Climate Change](#) imagines three future worlds that fall within the range of scientific plausibility. <sup>3</sup>

A third recent report, published in London, [A Climate of Conflict: The Links Between Climate Change, Peace and War](#), <sup>4</sup> looks at the social and human consequences that are likely to ensue – particularly the risks of conflict and instability.

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<sup>2</sup> General Gordon R. Sullivan, USA (Ret.), et. al., CNA, April 2007

<sup>3</sup> Kurt M. Campbell, et.al., CNAS, November 2007

<sup>4</sup> Dan Smith, Janani Vivekananda, International Alert, November 2007

Speakers from the US and the EU will be asked to comment on this type of research and indicate the possible impact on policy and practice on both sides of the Atlantic.

### ***Implications for Foreign Policy: Environment, Security and Sustainable Development***

The Brussels conference will also include a session devoted to recent international policy and programme developments including at the UN and OSCE and in the EU.

#### **EU Policy**

At the EU Summit in June 2007 the European Commission was called upon to present to the EU Council by next spring a report on the impact of climate change on international security.

Paragraph 41 of the [Presidency Conclusions](#) stated that: "It is becoming increasingly evident that climate change will have a considerable impact on international security issues. The European Council invites the High Representative and the European Commission to work closely together on this important issue and to present a joint report to the European Council in Spring 2008."<sup>5</sup>

What approach are the EU institutions taking in developing this report and what suggestions could conference participants offer?

#### **UN Debate on Climate Change and Security**

There have also been important developments at the UN level. On 17 April 2007 the United Nations Security Council held its first-ever [debate on the impact of climate change on security](#). The meeting, called by the United Kingdom, aimed to examine the relationship between energy, security and climate, and featured interventions from more than 50 delegations, representing imperilled island nations and industrialized greenhouse gas emitters alike.

While some speakers praised the initiative, some delegates, seeing climate change as a socio-economic development issue, raised doubts over whether the Security Council was the proper forum to discuss this.

In September the UN released the report, [The Future in our Hands: Addressing the Leadership Challenge of Climate Change - Secretary-General's High-Level Event on Climate Change](#). The report stated that Climate change is already having significant impacts in certain regions — particularly in developing countries — and on most ecosystems and can affect developing countries' ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The reports also show that the problem can be addressed and solutions are affordable. Economic assessments indicate that the cost of inaction will exceed the cost of taking early action, probably by several orders of magnitude.

An important side-event to the September UN event took place at the initiative of the Indonesian President. A joint [Statement of Tropical Rainforest Countries Leaders](#) was adopted in which these countries expressed a strong plea for positive incentives and early action to conserve their forests to be honoured at the Conference of the Parties of the Climate Change Convention in December in Bali.

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<sup>5</sup> See page 11 of the : PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS, BRUSSELS EUROPEAN COUNCIL, 21/22 JUNE 2007 at: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/94932.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/94932.pdf)

## **ENVSEC**

The [Environment and Security \(ENVSEC\) Initiative](#) of UNDP, UNEP, OSCE, NATO and other partners focuses on *Transforming Risks into Cooperation*. This project seeks to facilitate a process whereby key public decision-makers in South Eastern and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus are able to motivate action to advance and protect peace and the environment at the same time.

Participants will be interested in learning the latest news from ENVSEC and its partner organisations.

### **OSCE Declaration and Decision**

Environment and security featured prominently on the agenda of the 15th [OSCE](#) ministerial council held in Madrid on 29 and 30 November. Discussions on the subject have eventually resulted in a [decision on water management](#) and the [Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security](#), the first major intergovernmental policy statement of environment and security.

The Madrid Declaration calls for intensified cooperation in the area of environment and security in the OSCE region. It acknowledges that environmental factors such as soil degradation and climate change can be a potential additional contributor to conflict and signals that environmental cooperation could be a useful tool in diminishing tensions and preventing conflicts.

The declaration also refers to the OSCE Action Plan on the Threats and Opportunities in the Area of Environment and Security, which was noted but not formally adopted. The Spanish Chairmanship nevertheless called the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security truly pioneering: “since the OSCE becomes the first International Organization to recognize at Ministerial level the link between both concepts”.

Also, according to the Spanish presidency the [Decision on the Follow-Up to the Fifteenth Economic and Environmental Forum on Water Management](#) marked the first time that this sensitive and strategic topic finds consensus in the OSCE.

### **Natural Resources and Conflict**

On 25 June 2007, the Belgian Presidency of the [UN Security Council initiated a debate on natural resources and conflict](#). In the statement read out by Council President and Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht following an open debate, the 15-member body called for greater cooperation and stepped-up measures to ensure that resources are used wisely and not exploited. The exploitation of natural resources from diamonds to timber can trigger or fuel conflicts but their effective management can also contribute to post-conflict recovery, according to the statement.

### **EU Programmes**

The EU is aiming to be more proactive in its conflict prevention work and has established the EU Peacebuilding Partnership within the framework of the EU Instrument for Stability (IfS).

These Partnership was highlighted recently in the EU conference “[From Early Warning to Early Action](#); Developing the EU’s Response to Crisis and longer-term Threat” in Brussels, 12-13 November 2007.

The Partnership aims at mobilizing and consolidating civilian expertise for peace-building; and addresses, in particular, non-state actors, international organizations and EU Member States

### **Combating Illegal Trade in Natural Resources**

Related to the issue of natural resources and conflict, the [Institute for Environmental Security](#) is planning a project on [Combating Illegal Trade in Natural Resources](#): Technical assistance to importing countries to strengthen their mechanisms to deter and prevent the importation of the illicitly exported natural resources from fragile states. This activity is part of the IES programme on [Environmental Security for Poverty Alleviation](#) (ESPA).

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### **A Global Discussion**

Thousands assembled in Bali for the recent climate change conference and many also took part in the many side events which, like the conference itself, were possible to see live on the internet.

Press attention to climate change, and to the negotiations has never been higher. Recently, Al Gore and the IPCC were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize – he for his clarion call for action on climate change, the other because it is a superb example of 1000s of scientists from around the world working together to analyze the problem and warn us of the worst catastrophe in the history of human civilisation.

Our conference in Brussels is just one of countless public discussions happening from capitals to small towns across the globe, as people come together to try to better understand what climate change will mean, how to slow it down and how to minimize its impact, not only on the environment, but also on our economies and societies, on our security and on the prospects for sustainable development for all.

Where our informal discussions could perhaps play a particularly helpful role is in our effort to help stimulate further dialogue in Europe between parliamentarians, officials, enterprises and civil society and between these Europeans and their counterparts in the US and in the international and regional environment, development and security organisations, such as those represented in our conference.

The Brussels conference will foster an integrated approach not only in the context of the links between climate change, security and sustainable development but also in the need to promote public debate across the fields of science, diplomacy, law, finance and education.

A complete set of background papers for the conference is available on-line at:  
<http://www.envirosecurity.org/activities/diplomacy/gfsp/climate/>

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