



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



**REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, PEACE AND SECURITY
IN WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL, HELD ON 6 AND 7 APRIL 2022, IN DAKAR, SENEGAL**

CALL TO ACTION

We, the representatives of countries in West Africa and the Sahel and participants in the Regional Conference on Climate Change, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel, organized jointly by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Ireland, the Republic of Ghana and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in collaboration with ECOWAS' Member States and the United Nations System, in Dakar, Senegal, from 6 to 7 of April 2022;

Having examined the adverse implications of climate change on the maintenance of peace and security in the region, including the impact of rising temperatures, the increasing frequency and intensity of droughts and floods, desertification, biodiversity loss, and sea level rise on populations who rely mainly on rain-fed agriculture and livestock for subsistence;

And considering the risks associated with growing competition over diminishing water and land, including conflicts between farmers and herders, in a context of volatile insecurity, marked by migration and forced displacement, recruitment into armed groups, demographic pressure, lack of economic opportunities, and limited resource governance.

Inclusive, evidence-based analysis and policymaking

1. **CALL** on the United Nations system, including UNOWAS in coordination with UN Country Teams, the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) and ECOWAS to continue working with regional and national partners supporting governments in the region to conduct climate security risk assessments and to implement risk management strategies addressing the adverse effects of climate change, energy poverty, environmental degradation and natural hazards on peace and security, to build capacity, to document good practices, and to promote integrated approaches that foster synergies between climate action and sustaining peace, such as agro-silvo pastoral systems.

2. **CALL** governments of the region to take effective measures to embed human mobility, conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction and management into National Determined Contributions, National Climate Change Adaptation Plans and other relevant policies, plans and frameworks to strengthen resilience, ensuring the inclusion and meaningful participation of women, adolescents, youth, migrants, civil society organizations, local policy-makers, vulnerable groups whose voices and participation are essential for effective national policy development, with due consideration to local contexts.

3. **CALL** on regional and sub-regional organizations, Governments of West Africa and the Sahel, the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector to ensure that analysis and policymaking targeting climate-related security risks build on evidence, including on community knowledge and cultures, perceptions, practices, and involve communities themselves at all levels.

Integrated partnerships and collaboration

4. **CALL** regional and sub-regional organizations, Governments of West Africa and the Sahel, the United Nations system, multilateral development banks and climate finance institutions, civil society and the private sector to help strengthen collaboration and broaden partnerships at all levels; harmonize policies, financial mechanisms, instruments, strategies and action plans; and effectively combine political and technical expertise with a view to reducing vulnerabilities and inequalities and enhancing the resilience of States and communities, especially those most affected by climate-related security risks.

5. **CALL** that regional and sub-regional organizations, Governments of West Africa and the Sahel, the United Nations system, multilateral development banks and climate finance institutions, civil society and the private sector ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, youth, migrants, and vulnerable groups in all efforts to address climate-related security risks and leverage their capacity to act as agents of positive change and sources of innovative solutions using approaches that enhance resilience and social cohesion.

6. **CALL** on the United Nations system, including the UN Security Council, to promote integrated approaches to address climate-related security risks in West Africa and the Sahel, including by strengthening the Regional United Nations Working Group on Climate Change, Security, Environment and Development in West Africa (UN-CCSED), the UN Regional Network on Migration, the Resilience and Energy Working Group of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and by supporting the activities of the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) in the sub-region.

Climate finance for sustaining peace

7. **CALL** development partners to scale up climate finance in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 2015 Paris Agreement to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation, as reiterated at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow.

8. **CALL** on multilateral development banks, development agencies and climate finance institutions to improve access to climate finance to communities at the frontlines of climate change, including those living in conflict-affected or fragile contexts, to strengthen the design, implementation and monitoring of risk management mechanisms, and to ensure they are both conflict - and gender sensitive..

9. **CALL** on Governments of West Africa and the Sahel to ensure a fair and balanced distribution of climate finance especially to scale-up Nature-Based Solutions, including women- and youth-led initiatives and programs, taking into account human mobility considerations, and to harness the co-benefits of climate action and peacebuilding, including through strategies that prioritize

women's economic empowerment, income-generating activities for youth; and the socio-economic integration of migrants and groups experiencing vulnerability and marginalization.

Monitoring of the implementation of the Call to Action

10. **CALL** on the Secretariat of the UN Working Group on Climate Change, Security, Environment and Development in West Africa and the Sahel (UN-CCSED) to lead the monitoring and implementation of this Call to Action in collaboration with the United Nations system, including the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM), and together with ECOWAS and other partners, including during COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022

Done in Dakar on 7 April 2022