

POSITION PAPER

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COMMITTEE: United Nations Environment Assembly

COUNTRY: Germany

AGENDA: Addressing Climate-Fragility Risks

As climate change converges with other global pressures, including population growth, uncontrolled urbanisation, increased demand for resources, environmental degradation, uneven economic development and inequality, it leaves communities poorer and less resilient. Climate change brings particular risks for fragile contexts where coping capacities tend to be low.

At a side-event on the Climate for Peace Initiative organised by the German Foreign Office and adelphi, Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock stressed that discussions around loss and damage are important, but should not push aside mitigation of climate-related risks. The fourth Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC) 2022 highlighted the importance of multilateral cooperation, inclusivity and locally-informed action to weather the risks resulting from interacting climate and conflict pressures.

"A New Climate for Peace," the five-year EU-UNEP Climate Change and Security project (2017-2022) report by G7 countries, including Germany, aimed to strengthen the capacity of countries and international partners to identify environment and climate-related security risks at global, national and community levels, and to programme suitable risk reduction and response measures. The Federal Environment Ministry has been promoting climate action projects across Germany for more than ten years through the National Climate Initiative (NKI).

Germany's Climate Action Programme 2030 and the Climate Action Act (*Klimaschutzgesetz*) should ensure that to achieve the climate targets by 2030. Germany is gradually to phase out the use of coal to generate electricity by 2038. Parallel to this, the federal government is supporting the affected regions, helping them with structural change. The legislative package that underlies this change came into effect on 14 August 2020.

Gaining a granular understanding of how climate change affects security dynamics at a local level, and working with local actors including indigenous and local peoples, women and youth, is the key to unlock the optimal pathways to peace and climate change mitigation for each and every context. Germany believes that the best way to diminish the threats posed by climate-fragility risks is to mitigate climate change. Integrating policies and programs in three key sector — climate change adaptation, development and humanitarian aid, and peace-building, is necessary to help strengthen resilience to climate-fragility risks and realise the significant co-benefits of integration.