

Call for Action 2015

The Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC) is a global network of serving and retired military officers, and associated institutions, committed to highlighting the security implications of a changing climate and advocating action, including by the military, to minimise the risks.

In 2009 at COP 15 in Copenhagen GMACCC presented its first Call for Action. GMACCC has met regularly over the past six years and believes that the climate and security debate has matured in such a way that it is now appropriate for GMACCC to issue a second Call for Action:

Recognising the maturing of the debate on climate change such that it is no longer a question of debating the existence of climate change and man's role in it, but has moved to practical actions to be taken to minimise the present and emerging impacts on human security;

Noting that the discourse on climate change and security has become more widely studied, understood and accepted;

Welcoming the growth in organisations, institutions and government reports addressing climate change and security. Initiatives such as the Planetary Security Conferences by the Government of the Netherlands provide a regular point of contact for stakeholders in the field over the next five years;

Witnessing that climate change induced conditions diversely impact social cohesion, human well-being and state stability;

Concerned that the economic consequences of climate change could disrupt progress in financing a transition to a carbon-free economy, and therefore regrets continuation of government fossil fuel subsidies;

Experiencing that the impacts of more frequent and extreme weather events are overstressing the capacity of states for effective humanitarian intervention missions, resulting in mass human suffering,

Identifying that fundamental changes to the global geo-strategic map will have as yet unknown future consequences;

Believing that satellite earth observation systems and the sharing of data have a growing contribution to make in implementation of agreements made by member states, and monitoring of changing environmental conditions; and

Condemning acts of violence against civilians in recent months and loss of life in mass migrations;

Therefore GMACCC calls for:

1. A successful outcome at COP 21 Paris, with binding and measurable follow up by Member States;
2. Reductions in fossil fuel subsidies to contribute to the funding of a carbon-free economy;
3. Establishment of a UN work programme that integrates Conventions relevant to climate change and establishes a role of the military within the wider security community in planning for and responding to climate-related impacts to human security;
4. Further study on the relationship between climate change, mass migration and terrorism, as well as effective identification of states at risk from climate induced fragility and conflict;
5. Construction of frameworks and mechanisms, based on scientific expertise and satellite technology, for predictable impacts and consequences of climate change. Disseminate identifiable concerns globally in understandable formats.

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