

**Report: The Hague Roundtable on Climate and Security –  
4th meeting at the Embassy of Canada to the Netherlands  
on 25 October 2016**



**Countries represented**

- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Canada
- Chile
- France
- Germany
- India
- Japan
- Kenya
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- Saudi Arabia
- Spain
- Sudan
- United States

**Organisations represented**

- The Asser Institute
- Clingendael Institute
- Diplomat Magazine
- Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change
- Independent risk consultancy
- Institute for Environmental Security
- The Red Cross Climate Centre
- UNESCO-IHE

**Canada** 



The fourth meeting of The Hague Roundtable on Climate and Security was held at the Embassy of Canada to the Netherlands on 25 October 2016. Canadian Embassy Chargé d'affaires, Ms Gallit Dobner, welcomed representatives of 15 countries and 8 organisations who discussed cooperation on water resources, the role of the military in humanitarian missions, and global platforms of climate and security interaction – including the Planetary Security Conference and COP 22. The meeting was moderated by Matt Luna and Wouter Veening of the Institute for Environmental Security (IES).

The Roundtable meeting series is a local platform with global outreach for embassy representatives and involved organisations to identify opportunities for positive global cooperation on climate and security issues. An initiative of the Institute for Environmental Security, the Roundtables also serve as an ongoing dialogue and a contact point to increase engagement in global initiatives such as the Planetary Security Conference in The Hague and COPs.

### **Highlights from the 4<sup>th</sup> Hague Roundtable on Climate and Security**

#### **Presentation by Wouter Veening and discussion of the 2016 publication from the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC) “Climate Change and Security in South Asia: Cooperating for Peace”**

GMACCC authors Lt. General Tariq Waseem Ghazi (Ret.) of Pakistan, Maj. General A.N.M. Muniruzzaman (Ret.) of Bangladesh, and Air Marshall A.K. Singh (Ret.) of India highlight risks and opportunities related to climate impacts. In a video for the Roundtable, General Muniruzzaman introduced the report and invited further interaction on the topic.

- The report calls for better data collection and sharing to inform policies to prevent climate risks leading to conflict, humanitarian crises and the spread of extremism by groups that exploit opportunities in times of crises and instability. In South Asia, climate change will result in more frequent and more intense **natural disasters**, spurring **water and food shortages**, **mass displacement and migration** and **competition over land and natural resources**.
- Download the South Asia report and other GMACCC publications at: <http://gmaccc.org/>

#### **The Planetary Security Conference at the Peace Palace in The Hague on 5-6 December 2016:**

- Launched in 2015, the Planetary Security Initiative (PSI) was created by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to engage representatives at all levels of governance, academia, civil society, and the private sector to work together on timely responses to climate-related risks to planetary security. An international consortium of research institutes and think tanks is now organising the two-day *Planetary Security Conference: Peace and Cooperation in Times of Climate Change and Global Environmental Challenges*, to bring together expert input on policy solutions in this field.
- More than 300 participants will strategise in working groups on the following topics:
  - The EU and the Arctic, Horn of Africa, MENA, and South Asia regions
  - Water and Food Security and Resilience
  - Governance and policy
  - Foresight and Economics
  - Defense and Intelligence

The goal of the Planetary Security Initiative (PSI) is to strengthen the knowledge-policy interface by consolidating the community of practice on planetary security. The operating consortium of think tanks working on this topic includes the following institutions:

- Clingendael Institute – The Hague
- adelphi – Berlin
- Center for Climate and Security – Washington, DC
- Hague Centre for Strategic Studies – The Hague
- Institute for Environmental Security - The Hague
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute – Stockholm



**Website:** <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/plansecur>

**Selected comments from Ms Dobner of the Canadian Embassy regarding the Paris Agreement ratification and carbon pricing:**

- Canada advocates for early entry into force, and ambitious accountability and transparency requirements to strengthen the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement.
- Canada is committed to creating a cleaner, more innovative economy that reduces emissions and protects the environment, while creating well-paying jobs.
- The Government of Canada proposed its pan-Canadian approach to pricing carbon pollution. Under the new plan, all Canadian jurisdictions will have carbon pricing in place by 2018. To facilitate this, the government will set a benchmark for pricing carbon pollution – set at a level that will help Canada meet its greenhouse gas emission targets, while providing greater certainty and predictability to Canadian businesses.
- The federal government will continue to work closely with provinces and territories – as well as with Indigenous peoples – to finalize climate plan and meet/exceed climate change targets.
- The North American Leaders’ Summit 2016 delivered a continental goal to achieve 50 per cent clean energy power generation by 2025; and a goal to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector 40 to 45 per cent by 2025.
- There will be greater trilateral collaboration on encouraging the greening of government initiatives and on the purchase of more efficient products, cleaner power, and clean vehicles.
- Canada will work closely with partner countries to mobilise climate finance and investment to support developing countries on implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions, promote sustainable low-carbon growth, build clean energy systems, and increase climate resilience, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries.
- Canada made announcements in Paris totalling \$275 million:
  - \$150M towards the G7 goal of 10 gigawatt of installed renewable energy capacity in Africa by 2020;
  - \$60M towards the G7 objective on Climate Risk Insurance, including \$10M to the World Meteorological Organization to support better early warning systems;
  - \$30M to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), to address urgent and immediate adaptation needs of the poorest and most vulnerable countries; and
  - \$35M for initiatives to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), including \$10M to the Climate and Clean Air Coalition.
- Moving towards a low-carbon economy will require growing the supply of financing as well as enhancing enabling environments and climate policies and in recipient countries to attract climate-friendly investments.

**Excerpts from presentation on Transboundary Water Cooperation presentation by Zaki Shubber, Lecturer in Law and Water Diplomacy at UNESCO-IHE**

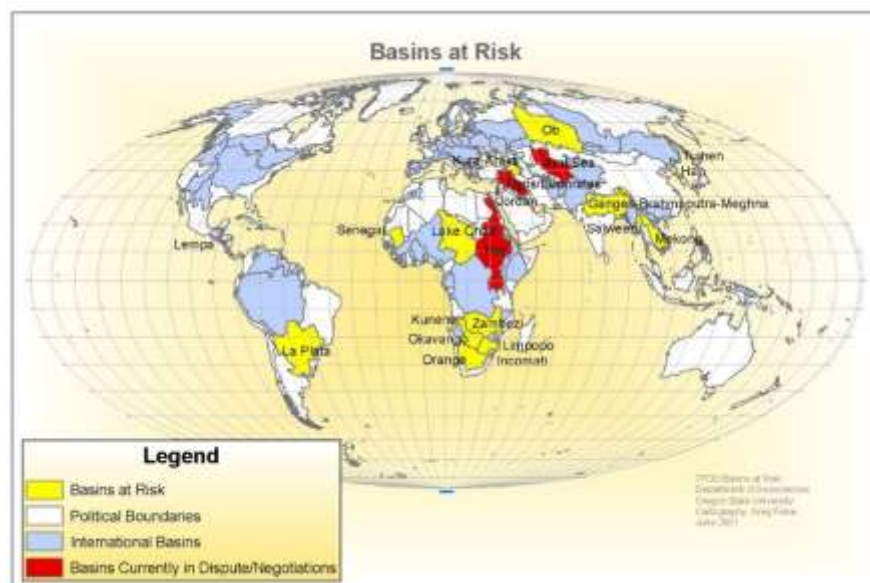
Why transboundary water cooperation?

- There is increasing demand/competition that impacts water-food-energy nexus.
- Water crises are cited as top of 5 global risks for the next 10 years - World Economic Forum *Global Risks Report* 2016, and the number 1 (of 10) global risks in terms of impact, and number 8 in terms of likelihood – *Global Risks Report* 2015
- Climate change impacts
- SDG 6.5.2 'By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate' Monitoring agencies: UNESCO and UNECE
- At a transboundary level, water crosses boundaries and creates challenges to cooperate
- Water use influences the flow regime and has an impact downstream both in terms of quality and of quantity. Look upstream to assess availability and downstream to assess the effects of an activity.

**Frameworks for transboundary water cooperation**

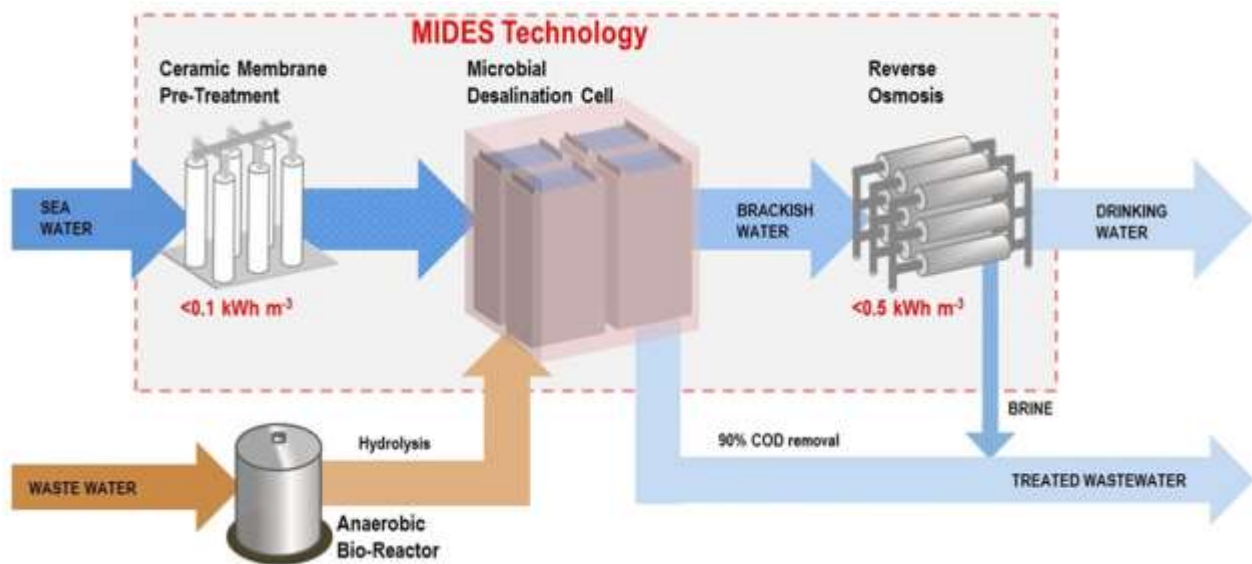
Multilevel

1. *Universal*
  - 1997 Convention on the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses
  - 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
  - 2008 Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers
2. *Regional*
  - 2000 European Water Framework Directive
  - 2003 SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses
3. *Basin*
  - 1976 Convention for the Protection of the Rhine
4. *Bilateral*
  - 1960 Indus Treaty



## The Microbial Desalination (MIDES) project, presented by Matt Luna, IES/UNESCO-IHE

The MIDES project aims to develop a sustainable low-energy process of producing drinking water, using Microbial Desalination Cells (MDC) as a pretreatment for current energy-intensive reverse osmosis desalination systems. The EU Horizon 2020 project from 2016-2020 plans to build the world's largest demonstrator of this technology in Chile, Spain and Tunisia.



Key messages of the MIDES project include:

- Availability of fresh water is a growing concern around the world.
- Desalination is a key solution to providing fresh water.
- Reverse osmosis (RO) desalination requires extensive energy.
- Fresh water produced with lower power is more sustainable.
- MIDES can lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – supporting climate change mitigation.
- MIDES can provide fresh water to drought areas –supporting climate change adaptation.

For more information on the MIDES project, visit <http://midesh2020.eu/>

Or follow on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mides2020>

## Excerpts from Embassy of Morocco Counsellor, Ms. Majdouline Salahdine, on climate change and COP22 Marrakech

- Around the world, at different levels, there are indications of greater awareness regarding the threat of climate change. For instance, on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016, in Montreal, an International Civil Aviation Organization Agreement was reached to curb CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the international aviation sector. Also, a historic climate deal was reached on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016, in Kigali, Rwanda: 197 countries agreed to amend the Montreal Protocol to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFC).

- The political momentum of Paris must be maintained to move from commitments achievements – through action achieved at COP 22, based on 5 pillars:
  1. To maintain the climate action mobilization by encouraging more countries to be parties to the Paris Agreement ;
  2. To encourage Parties to announce their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and potentially an upward re-evaluation of their ambitions ;
  3. To strengthen the mobilization of non-State actors and local governments;
  4. To arrange a concrete roadmap to mobilize \$ 100 billion by 2020 ;
  5. To contribute to the adoption of the procedures and mechanisms, including an Action Plan for the pre-2020 period, to operationalize the Paris Agreement. Priorities focus on :
    - ✓ The transfer of technologies, *(to facilitate access to socially and ecologically rational technologies)* ;
    - ✓ The reinforcement of capacities, *(to address deficiencies noted in several Southern countries and meet their current and future needs)* ;
    - ✓ Transparency, to record and publish undertaken measures, to place the States in front of their responsibilities;
    - ✓ An appointment clause to evaluate every five years the progress achieved by States Parties, *(which is due for its first assessment in 2023)*.

Additional points about the commitment of Morocco addressing the climate change and its effects:

- Since the world became aware in Rio in 1992 of the urgent need to address the climate change, Morocco has introduced a series of reforms to promote green economy : The National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Environment Upgrade Strategy & National Initiative for Human Development, the Green Morocco Plan, the Green Investment Plan, the ban on GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms), the new Constitution in 2011 enshrined sustainable development as a right for all citizens; the construction of new dams will bring the number from 139 in 2015 to 170 large works by 2030, the creation of the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (MASEN).
- The megaproject solar plan “NOOR” which first phase “Noor I” was launched in February 2016, in Ouarzazate, that aims to be one of the biggest solar project in the world.
- Morocco seeks to meet 52% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2030, particularly solar and wind sources. Regarding its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, Morocco has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 32% by 2030.
- Another priority for Morocco: AFRICA “to make sure that the voice of a united, strong and determined Africa is heard and heeded”.

**Join the Roundtable!**

The next Roundtable is planned for the first quarter of 2017. Please feel free to send questions and topic suggestions to Matt Luna, Roundtable creator and organizer. We look forward to building momentum in The Hague as a key city for global discussion on climate and security.

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