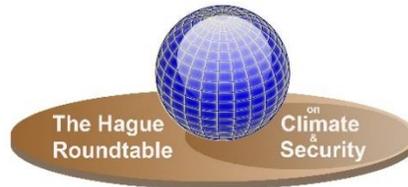




Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Concept note with agenda

**The 11th meeting of The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security
online with the Water Peace and Security partnership**

***Building a transatlantic coalition for climate action on
water and security challenges in countries of risk***

22 April 2021 at 15:00 Central European Time

[Click here to register for this event](#)

Website: hageroundtable.com; waterpeacesecurity.org

Twitter: @HagueRoundtable; @WaterPeaceSec

Description:

Thursday 22 April represents an important date for the environmental, climate, and security communities worldwide. This “Earth Day 2021” marks the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Paris Agreement for signatures, and an opportunity to challenge world leaders to act more on climate change for what it truly is: a pressing global security threat to everyone, particularly the most vulnerable people and places.

The Netherlands warmly welcomes the U.S. return to the Paris agreement, a pivotal step for joint climate leadership and increased global ambition. After the Climate Adaptation Summit organized by the Netherlands at the beginning of this year, the U.S. plans to convene world leaders around an online climate summit on 22-23 April, the UK is set to host the 26th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in November, and the EU is keen to be the first climate neutral region in the world – all signaling a transatlantic momentum to collaborate on achieving climate adaptation targets and translate ambitions into concrete actions. Increased cooperation is especially urgent in hotspot regions where water scarcity and climate impacts risk to destabilize communities or entire countries, as the work of the [Water, Peace and Security partnership](#) has been highlighting.

Many climate security issues play out through the water cycle. Water access and quality are further deteriorating in numerous hotspot areas, for instance as a result of large water intensive infrastructure and agriculture projects that fail to take into account the local, regional, and transboundary (water) security impacts. The panelists and participants of this meeting will assess the political momentum and opportunity of forming a transatlantic coalition focused on addressing the security dimension in the climate adaptation action agenda, specifically focusing on the impacts of water-intensive projects in hotspot regions of risk – with an examination of the potential geopolitical impacts and priorities of the new U.S. Administration and the EU.

This Roundtable panel will feature policy experts from NATO, the United States, Germany and the Netherlands. The aim is to initiate a debate, posing challenging questions to spur a productive discussion among participants:

- How can the U.S. and EU meaningfully support climate action without contributing to a further deterioration of the water situation in hotspot countries of risk? What are some of the security implications of inaction?
- What are the main priorities and opportunities for transatlantic cooperation that should not be missed, as well as what trends are relevant to working together?
- What role should countries take to promote concrete actions and the way forward? And how can the tangible first steps be identified and agreed upon?
- How can investments in hydropower plants, agribusiness ventures and other water-intensive projects be further climate- and security-proofed?
- How can countries better introduce and implement innovations, including nature-based solutions and cooperation networks, that can benefit common climate adaptation needs in the water and related sectors?

We will investigate potential areas of joint action to speed up resilience-building and risk-reduction from water impacts that may affect national and global security, and how we can make climate action more conflict-sensitive. The event will also highlight good practice mechanisms for climate adaptation, examining the role of water in these issues, and identifying areas of cooperation in conflict regions

Meeting: Opening at 15:00 – closing at 16:30 CEST; online via Zoom, with registration link above

Panelists & Program:

- 15:00 – Opening by Hague Roundtable Organizer, Matt Luna, and Laura Birkman Senior Strategic Analyst at HCSS
- 15:05 – Keynote remarks: **Carola van Rijnsoever**, Director, Inclusive Green Growth, NL Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 15:10 – Opening of panel sessions with Moderator **Henk Ovink**, NL Special Envoy for International Water Affairs
 - **Sharon Burke**, Senior Advisor, International Security Program, New America: *Perspectives and potential in the United States, also on Biden Administration Leaders Summit on Climate (22 – 23 April)*
 - **Benedetta Berti**, Head of Policy Planning, NATO Office of Secretary General: *Climate as a point of transatlantic cooperation on defense and security risks, including latest NATO initiatives*
 - **Hinrich Thielken**, Climate Envoy, German Federal Foreign Office: *German perspective on transatlantic cooperation on water, climate and peace*
 - **Tom Middendorp**, Chair, International Military Council on Climate and Security: *Inclusive cooperation on areas of risk from an international perspective – challenges & opportunities to security*
- 15:50 – Opening of interactive panel discussion, with Moderator Henk Ovink
- 16:25 – Key takeaways and close of meeting by Susanne Schmeier, WPS Project Leader

About the Water Peace and Security partnership: The Water, Peace and Security partnership is designing innovative tools and services that can identify and support stakeholders to address water-related security risks. These innovative tools and services are able to show short term water shortage changes and impacts, and link them to social, political, economic, and hydrological factors, while supporting actors to take informed and conflict-sensitive action. This leads to evidence-based and inclusive actions that allow risks to be addressed, and human insecurity prevented or mitigated.

About The Hague Roundtable: The Hague Roundtable is an independent initiative, created in 2015 with the aim of raising awareness and supporting international cooperation on climate risks to human communities, sustainable development, peace, and political stability. This forum aims at facilitating a global dialogue among representatives of governments, NGOs, education institutions, development organizations, military, private sector, and donor organizations. The initiative is based in The Hague, a city known for peace and justice that is also positioned as a hub for global issues.

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