

## REPORT

### The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security

14<sup>th</sup> meeting, co-organized and hosted by the **Embassy of Canada** to the Netherlands  
in partnership with **NATO** Headquarters Brussels

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security was held on the afternoon of 12 September 2023 at the Museum Sophiahof in The Hague, NL. The Roundtable included around 60 participants from more than 40 organizations and countries that explored ideas and shared potential solutions. The focus was driven towards “hot spot” areas prone to climate fragility – with interactive discussions around impact-risk case studies also **linked to water resources and food**



**security in Iraq.** Breakout groups brainstormed on key topics to further develop ideas and target questions on how to best move forward with building new cooperation around resilience, inclusion, and peace in areas of risk.

This Roundtable meeting also discussed the launch of the NATO Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence (CCASCOE) hosted in Montreal, Canada, and how it can bring stakeholders together to address challenges, as well as NATO’s future climate and security strategy.

Takeaways from Roundtable panelists are found in this report:

- **Adam Barbolet**, Senior Trade Commissioner (Chargé d’Affaires) Embassy of Canada to the NL
- **Jordan Koop**, NATO Policy Officer, Climate Change & Energy Security
- **Dr. Mahdi Ahmad** and **Dr. Amar Ibrahim**, Thirst Project / Bahr Aluloom Foundation Iraq
- **Laura Birkman**, Senior Strategic Analyst, Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)
- **Dr. Jamie Shea**, Professor/Senior Fellow, Friends of Europe - Senior Counsel Fanack

#### Results from breakout group discussions:

- Water scarcity – challenges and opportunities
- Gender and climate nexus
- Humanitarian assistance & emergency response in context of climate security
- NATO Climate-Security Centre of Excellence areas of focus

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## Organizations and governments represented

Bahr Aluloom Foundation in Iraq (BAF)	Independent Security & Defense - Diplomacy	Embassy of Algeria
CS Nexus Consulting	International Military Council on Climate and Security (IMCCS) – Atlantic Council	Embassy of Australia
Clingendael Institute	International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)	Embassy of Canada
Diplomat Magazine	K-SN Ecological Services B.V.	Embassy of Colombia
European Junior Water Programme (EJWP)	NATO Headquarters Brussels	Embassy of El Salvador
Fanack / Fanack Water	Netherlands Ministry of Defense	Embassy of France
Friends of Europe / University of Exeter	NL Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Embassy of Guatemala
Global Affairs Canada	Queen Mary University	Embassy of Iraq
Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC)	Radboud University	Embassy of Italy
Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)	Red Cross Climate Centre	Embassy of Mexico
Hague University of Applied Sciences	Thirst Project Iraq	Embassy of New Zealand
IHE Delft Institute for Water Education	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	Embassy of Slovenia
International Development Law Organization (IDLO)	Université Laval	Embassy of Spain
	University of Glasgow	Embassy of Thailand
	VONA	Embassy of the United Kingdom
		Embassy of the United States
		Embassy of Zimbabwe



## Agenda of the meeting

### Introduction and warm-up

- Matt Luna, Organizer, Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security
- Adam Barbolet, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Canada to the Netherlands

### Video presentation from Iraq

Shared challenge how climate change and security impact both Iraq and the NATO Mission – and what is needed to respond: Climate Envoy for Iraq, **H.E. Fareed Mustafa Kamil Yasseen**, with **Ambassador Robert Dresen**, Senior NATO Civilian Representative in Iraq for Strategic Communication and Representation

[View the video at this link](#)

### NATO's climate change and security strategy

Mission in Iraq; Climate Change & Security Centre of Excellence Montreal; Vilnius Summit 2023, **Jordan Koop**, Policy Officer, Climate Change and Energy Security, Emerging Security Challenges Division, NATO Headquarters in Brussels

### Iraq climate risks and water scarcity

Impacts & needs for cooperation + solutions: **Dr. Mahdi Ahmad**, Managing Director, Iraq's Thirst Project; **Amar Ibrahim**, Head of Public Relations & Engagement, Bahr Aluloom Foundation (BAF), Iraq

### Turning vicious cycles of climate change and conflict into opportunities for collaboration and peace

An integrated, informed and inclusive approach, **Laura Birkman**, Senior Strategic Analyst & Head of the Climate and Security Program at The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)

### Breakout groups:

- Water scarcity – challenges and opportunities
- Gender and climate nexus
- Humanitarian assistance & emergency response in context of climate security
- NATO Climate-Security Centre of Excellence areas of focus

### Presentation of input from breakout groups, open/panel discussion

Strategy on implementation including other global areas of risk, with participation of **Dr. Jamie Shea**, Professor and Senior Fellow responsible for security and defense programs at Friends of Europe, former NATO Spokesperson

### Way forward and closing remarks

**Chloé Baudry**, First Secretary, Embassy of Canada to the Netherlands



[See an article recap of the 14<sup>th</sup> Roundtable in \*Diplomat Magazine\*](#)

## **Links to Roundtable presentations (PDF)**

NATO's Climate Change and Security Strategy: Jordan Koop

<https://hageroundtable.files.wordpress.com/2023/11/jordan-koop.pdf>

Iraq Climate risks and water scarcity - the need for regional cooperation: Dr. Mahdi Ahmad & Dr. Amar Ibrahim

<https://hageroundtable.files.wordpress.com/2023/11/dr-mahdi-ahmad-dr-amar-ibrahim.pdf>

Turning vicious cycles of climate change and conflict into opportunities for collaboration and peace: Laura Birkman

<https://hageroundtable.files.wordpress.com/2023/11/laura-birkman-hcss.pdf>



## Short bios for Roundtable panelists and discussion leaders

- **DR. MAHDI AHMAD – Iraq**

- Managing Director of Iraq's Thirst initiative
- Leads the scientific and development team at Alalamain Institute of Postgraduate Studies
- Studied Physics and Political Sciences, and currently completing his PhD in Public Policies
- Interests include Peace & Conflict Studies, Energy Resources Policies, Planning and Strategic Studies
- Promotes awareness of Iraq's Thirst project at international conferences
- Engaged in various activities with local NGOs and State institutions on Climate Change, Water Scarcity, Irrigation and Renewable Energy



- **ADAM BARBOLET – Canada**

- Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Canada to the NL at time of Roundtable
- Played key roles in land claims and self-governance negotiations, including the establishment of the Nunavut Territory in the Canadian Arctic
- Was a peacebuilding specialist for a London-based think tank, where he led efforts to improve responses to civil wars
- Held Global Affairs Canada positions such as Deputy Director of Fragile States Policy, and Deputy Director for Iran and Iraq, leading responses to the Arab Springs, and creation of Canada's diplomatic presences in Baghdad and Erbil.
- Recently fostered commercial relations in countries including Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Ukraine, and the Netherlands
- Holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science, with Indigenous resource management, and a Master's in Public Administration in environmental policy



- **LAURA BIRKMAN – the Netherlands**

- Senior Strategic Analyst and Head of the Climate and Security Program at The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)
- Leads projects focusing on the security implications of climate change, and is a lead partner in the Water, Peace and Security initiative, and a member of the International Military Council on Climate and Security
- Previously worked for an international research and consulting firm with focus on topics in disaster risk reduction & crisis management
- Started career with the Dutch government with emphasis on food security, biodiversity, and trade policy. Was a key negotiator at the UN CBD and the FAO. Also served as Agricultural Attaché at the Dutch Embassy in Moscow.
- Holds an MPA from Harvard University and an Executive MA in International Relations & Management from the University of Amsterdam.



- **BLAIR BRIMMELL - Canada**

- Appointed Interim Director for the proposed NATO Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence (CCASCOE) in Montreal in 2021, in addition to role as section lead for climate and security policy in the Defense and Security Relations Division of Global Affairs Canada
- As Interim Director for CCASCOE, she has been responsible for the development of the Centre of Excellence initiative, working with Canadian & international stakeholders toward launch in Fall 2023
- Joined the Joint Delegation of Canada to NATO in Sept. 2023 as Second Secretary, to advance climate change and security and other priority files for the Government of Canada
- Has worked on various files as a policy officer at Global Affairs Canada, including NATO policy, South Asian relations and Southeast Asian relations



**Dr. AMAR IBRAHIM - Iraq**

- Leads the Public Relations and Engagement team of the Bahr Aluloom Foundation (BAF), working to drive the strategic goals of with international stakeholders
- Pharmacist by training, graduate of University of London School of Pharmacy
- Head of PR and Engagement at BAF, working closely with local and international communities in Iraq to build greater awareness on the integral role of community capacity building
- Lived and worked in London, Paris, Brussels, and the Middle East. Has seen first-hand how continuous development in a diverse, inclusive environment leads not only to greater NGO productivity and engagement, but also the professional and personal growth of its teams



• **JORDAN KOOP – Canada**

- Climate Change and Security Policy Officer and Analyst NATO's Emerging Security Challenges Division in Brussels
- Subject Expert focusing on climate change & security, adaptation, geospatial intelligence, gender and risk analysis
- Supports the Environment and Development Resource Center in affiliation with the Brussels Dialogue on Climate Security
- Member of the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC) & the Women in International Security at NATO
- Delegate for UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at COP26 & COP27
- BA in Political Science and Media, Information & Technoculture from University of Western Ontario, and MA in Diplomacy & Global Governance from Brussels School of Governance





- **DR. JAMIE SHEA – United Kingdom**

- Professor and Senior Fellow responsible for security and defense programs at Friends of Europe
- Senior Advisor with the European Policy Centre
- Senior Counsel to the Founder and CEO of Fanack / *The Chronicle of the Middle East and North Africa* and Fanack Water
- A former Professor of Strategy and Security at the University of Exeter, he served as a member of the International Staff of NATO in posts including Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges; Director of Policy Planning in the Private Office of the Secretary General; Deputy Assistant Secretary General for External Relations, Public Diplomacy Division; Director of Information and Press and Spokesman.



- **ZAKI SHUBBER – United Kingdom**

- Lawyer & doctoral researcher at Queen Mary University of London on uncertainty around shared freshwater resources in international law
- She has an interest in the international legal management of the Tigris and Euphrates.
- Graduated from the University of Geneva; holds an MA of law from the University of London in public international law, an additional MA of law from the University of Dundee in water governance and conflict resolution, and is a graduate of the Leadership in International Security program of the Geneva Centre for Security and Policy
- Worked as a lecturer in law and water diplomacy at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands
- Practiced corporate, finance and aviation law in Geneva and London



## Background:

Climate change is one of the greatest threats of our time, impacting all of our people and our global security. For decades, militaries and other security actors have been dealing with environmental security issues that can lead to humanitarian disasters, regional tensions and violence. Militaries provide disaster relief support; focus on environmental risks to military activities and security in general, including environmental factors that affect energy supplies; and are looking for ways to improve energy efficiency in the military through innovative technologies. During the 2023 Summit in Vilnius, NATO released three major reports on NATO climate change strategy, including strategic environments, best practices, and guidelines on adaptation.

Conditions in Iraq provide a useful case study on the multidimensional impact of climate change on security. Iraq has suffered periods of extreme heat in recent years with temperatures over 50°C lasting for several days. One senior Iraqi military official was quoted as saying that climate change could cause more deaths than Covid-19 and that the threat could be more significant than ISIS. The United Nations has listed Iraq as the world's fifth most vulnerable country to climate change, and the risks are compounded by pre-existing vulnerabilities caused by war, political and economic instability, and an oil-driven development and growth model. The volatile state of security has led to a lack of national investment in adaptation and development measures, resulting in reduced societal resilience to external shocks, including climate change. ([www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int))

The announcement and upcoming establishment of a NATO Centre of Excellence on Climate and Security (CCASCOE) served as a backdrop to this Roundtable discussion. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada announced the proposal to establish and host the CCASCOE, and work with Allies as the Centre's framework nation. The CCASCOE is intended to provide a central location to pool knowledge and develop effective preparedness and responses to the security impacts of climate change. NATO COEs train and educate personnel from Allied and Partner countries on specialized topics of relevance to NATO.



## Remarks from Adam Barbolet, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of Canada to the Netherlands

On behalf of Canada’s Embassy to the Netherlands, welcome everyone! Thanks for a great turnout. Let me start by saying: we all know that climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time. Extreme weather events and climate pattern changes are occurring more frequently, increasing risks and threats to human life and security around the world.

We know these changes are contributing to political tensions at all levels of governance - at the local, national and international levels - feeding into conflicts, and calling militaries to engage, whether it is through disaster assistance, and greening of military operations. Together, we must all work to better understand and address the link between climate change and security. This will require deeper thinking, ongoing adaptation, and the sharing of best practices.



There are few countries in the world that know more about the threats of climate change to their security than our host country the **Netherlands**. The Dutch have fought against sea levels and the existential threat that water poses on their security, (successfully so far!) for centuries.

**Canada** also knows firsthand about the impacts of a changing climate on our security and our need to adapt to the increased frequency and severity of natural disasters. The extreme wildfires in Canada this summer have burned over 15 million hectares of land and threatened the lives and livelihoods of thousands of people across Canada. Sadly, we realize these risks and threats are only increasing.

We also know that women, girls, Indigenous populations, those living in poverty, and other vulnerable or marginalized populations are especially at risk from the impacts of climate change. At the same time, they are important actors and often leaders in their communities on the frontlines of response to climate change challenges. True to our Feminist Foreign Policy, Canada places a lot of importance on the empowerment and inclusion of women and girls, in all their diversity, in decision-making processes on security issues, in all our advocacy and programs.

### **Canada, NATO and CCASCOE**

Canada is leading the establishment of the NATO Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence (CCASCOE), which will be based in Montreal, Canada. The CCASCOE is currently on track for its initial operational launch in October 2023, when we will begin welcoming international staff from eleven of our NATO Allies.

At the NATO Summit in Vilnius this year, we were pleased to join these 11 Allies, Sponsoring Nations of the CCASCOE, by signing its Operational MOU. It is great to see that we have representatives here today from these fellow Sponsoring Nations e.g. France, UK, Italy. We are thankful for their support and engagement and look forward to working together.

The COE is expected to become fully operational by the end of 2024. The goal for the Sponsoring Nations of the CCASCOE is that it serves as a unique platform for both military actors and civilians to develop, enhance, and share knowledge on climate change and security impacts.

As the host country and Framework Nation, Canada looks forward to contributing its specific perspectives and best practices on climate and security issues to the work of the CCASCOE, to enhance the security of Canada, NATO allies and partners, and the global community.

## **Case study Iraq**

Turning to the substance of some of our panelists' presentations, we see Iraq as a useful example to broaden our perspective and to draw practical lessons learned to inform our collective approach going forward, not just by NATO, but as the broader international community.

Among the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change, Iraq's water resources are declining due to rising temperatures, diminishing rainfall, and intensifying droughts.

Canada is pleased to be supporting some impactful work to address these increasingly critical challenges in Iraq, including by strengthening adaptation efforts and enhancing the climate resilience of vulnerable farmers and the inhabitants of Iraq's historical Marshlands.

Canada is also supporting the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to implement the Transboundary Water Management Initiative, which is strengthening Iraq's water management knowledge and capacity to negotiate with its neighbors around the Tigris and Euphrates water basins. The UNDP is working in partnership with key organizations on the ground, including the Geneva Water Hub and the Bahr Aluloom Foundation. We have the pleasure of having representatives from Bahr Aluloom Foundation here today, who have travelled all the way from Iraq.

I am pleased to see great participation by our friends from the diplomatic community, together we have much to learn from the top-notch group of experts and practitioners gathered here today. Special thanks to our panelists and thought leaders for what is sure to be a stimulating discussion!

Thanks also to our colleagues from the Dutch government ministries (MFA, MOD) represented today. The reason we can host such an event in The Hague is thanks to the expertise and leadership of the Netherlands on several of the issues to be explored today. And a special shout out to our organizer Matt Luna, the founder of the Hague Roundtable on Climate and Security, for all his excellent work in convening this group.

## **Remarks by Jordan Koop, Policy Officer, Climate Change and Energy Security, NATO Headquarters in Brussels**

This Roundtable provided a forum for an excellent multilateral discussion on global solutions and opportunities for cooperation on climate change and security. During the morning session, NATO presented a briefing on its High-Level Policy for responding to the challenges the Alliance faces due to climate change.

NATO has deemed climate change as a threat-multiplier that will impact allied security both in the Euro-Atlantic area and beyond. In the past year alone, climate impacts have become more and more pronounced, leading to an increase in extreme weather events, heat, wildfires, flooding and drought. These impacts threaten the operational effectiveness of our militaries, damage our assets and installations, and completely alter the operating environment. At the same time, the world is shifting towards decarbonization, and NATO cannot be left behind.

As discussed in the briefing, to tackle these challenges, in June 2021 NATO Heads of State and Government decided that NATO should aim to become the leading international organization when it comes to understanding and adapting to the impact of climate change on security. To achieve this high level of ambition, NATO endorsed the Climate Change and Security Action Plan, the framework for taking this work forward. The Action Plan is comprised of four pillars: awareness,

adaptation, mitigation and outreach. Each of the deliverables at the 2023 Vilnius Summit were connected to one of the pillars.



Under awareness, at the Vilnius Summit, NATO released the second edition of the Climate Change and Security Impact Assessment Report. This report looked at the risks of climate change to NATO's key areas with a focus on three case studies; NATO Mission Iraq, Naval Air Station Sigonella and Naval Station Norfolk. NATO also released the Climate Change and Risk Management Framework prototype, a tool that seeks to visualize these risks and eventually be used to inform decision makers.

Under adaptation, NATO re-committed itself to mainstreaming climate change into all aspects of the alliance including capability development, procurement, standards and innovation, training and resilience and civil preparedness. For mitigation, NATO released its mapping and analytical methodology to achieve an emissions reduction for the NATO enterprise of 45% by 2030, and Net Zero by 2050. NATO also released the Compendium of Best Practice, an online handbook showcasing NATO allies' developments and capabilities in green defense technology.

The fourth pillar is outreach, at the NATO 2023 Vilnius Summit, the Alliance hosted the annual Secretary General's High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change and Security in the Public Forum. NATO also hosted a Roundtable on climate change and security at the headquarters and attended COP27 with plans to attend COP28.

Each of the four pillars is an essential part of ensuring that the alliance is fit for the future to deal with the existential threat of climate change. Though we acknowledge that we cannot do it alone. NATO needs to continue to build its network of stakeholders, experts and other key players to strengthen global collaboration and support multilateral solutions to this challenge. The roundtable played an important part in this, and we look forward to keeping the conversation going.

### **Summary of presentation by Dr. Mahdi Ahmad and Dr. Amar Ibrahim of the Bahr Aluloom Foundation (BAF) in Iraq**

Dr. Mahdi Ahmad and Dr. Amar Ibrahim of the Bahr Aluloom Foundation (BAF) in Iraq, a civil society organization, presented the climate risks and water scarcity issues in Iraq. They are closely related to BAF's initiative, Iraq's Thirst, to discuss and address the water and climate challenges Iraq is facing.

The first part of the presentation emphasized the widespread impact of water scarcity and climate change in the country. Examples included the marshes in the south of Iraq, which have been repeatedly experiencing prolonged droughts. Each episode threatens not just livelihoods but also the ecological ecosystems of these ancient wetlands. Threats to the same are affecting other parts of Iraq as explained during the presentation. Overall, climate-risks to peace and security are leading to competition over a limited resource, mass displacement and insecurity and polarization.

BAF's Iraq's Thirst initiative has developed a multi-strategy implementation intervention to respond to water scarcity and the climate change crisis built around three pillars: higher education, capacity building and regional cooperation. The first



integrates those issues into the curriculum of post-graduate studies and research agendas. Policy makers, negotiators, journalists, NGOs and the private sector are some of those trained about these issues with raising awareness on Iraq's perspective on the green economy another aspect of capacity building. Finally, the forthcoming establishment of a regional "Water, environment and renewable energy governance center" is a key component for regional collaboration on environmental governance. Supporting regional governmental cooperation efforts and advising on mitigation and adaptation strategies focusing on independent data, joint monitoring and research collaboration are some of the activities the Centre will carry out.

Going forward the initiative has five priorities. The first is the focus on regional cooperation with neighboring riparian countries. The second addresses water pollution and saline tide as part of internal water resources management. The third, relating to the same topic, emphasizes internal regional coordination between the central and regional governorates. The education sector is the fourth priority with a focus on mainstreaming climate change into curricula. The final one is reviving the marshlands through a carbon market mechanism and CCU in oil fields to decrease water reliance.

### **Summary of presentation by Laura Birkman, Senior Strategic Analyst at The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)**

Laura Birkman from the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies presented a comprehensive climate security risk assessment framework to understand and address climate-related conflict risk. The framework consists of four steps: 1. Analyze 2. Anticipate 3. Assess and 4. Activate.

In the first step "Analyze," Laura outlined seven high-level climate-conflict pathways that illustrate how a climate-induced event may lead to conflict or instability. In Step 2 "Anticipate," Laura addressed how climate- or water- related conflict risks can be predicted for better preventive action and causally modelled to get a better grip on the root causes that can support smarter interventions. In Step 3, "Assess," the local context of a hotspot area is more deeply investigated, with the aim to identify the specific factors contributing to tensions and the actors involved. Using the case study of Iraq, Laura showed how the problem of resource scarcity intersects with pre-existing socio-political conditions and a weak institutional environment fragilized by years of war. In the final Step 4, "Activate," Laura referred to the established approach of the Water, Peace, and Security partnership that uses a combination of water and security expertise and peacebuilding knowledge to raise awareness and understanding about water-related conflict risks, mobilize stakeholders, support capacity development, and facilitate dialogues in countries and regions of resource competition prone to tension and conflict.



In their combination, the four steps provide a hands-on guide to support policy and decision makers in their mission to address climate security in fragile contexts. In closing, Laura provided five key considerations for climate security action:

1. Social, economic and political stability is essential for climate change adaptation. Solutions require constant monitoring and need to take into account ongoing and emerging security risks and dynamics.

2. Early warning systems are key instruments to manage, mitigate and monitor climate- and water-related security dynamics in fragile regions as well as integrate local knowledge to understand underlying root causes and dynamics.
3. The (unintended) consequences of adaptation can worsen tensions with, between, and within local communities. Vulnerable groups get hit the hardest. Approaches should therefore be gender- and conflict-sensitive.
4. Integrating dialogue into the planning and implementation stages of climate adaptation projects is important for addressing community concerns and establishing more resilient local partnerships. The international community can do more to scale successful dialogue facilitation approaches.
5. Regional and local security actors have a role to play to mitigate adaptation-related security risks. Their capabilities are essential to prepare for and respond to conflict escalation and related emergencies.

### **Summary of input by Jamie Shea, Professor of Strategy and Security, former NATO Spokesperson**

Climate change is both a scientific and public policy debate as well as a daily reality. As it accelerates and we reach new tipping points and forks in the road, there is an urgent need to understand what is happening to us and where current trends, if not reversed, are taking us.

Science can help us to identify the policy options that we still have to make our planet inhabitable and sustainable in the 21st century and the timeframes that we still have to make decisions that can produce meaningful effects. Because climate change in the past decade has accelerated faster than what was previously assumed, the policy options still available are less effective and more costly. They are also more urgent, and if we delay action still further, then that effectiveness versus cost ratio becomes even more painful for politicians as well as the general public. We see this already in Western democracies.

As leaders introduce measures that are not theoretical or aimed at future generations but really do now impact on voters' daily lives- such as bans on certain types of cars in inner city areas, low emissions zones, higher taxes and charges and expensive and inflationary home heating conversions to pumps or solar panels – popular resistance to climate change measures increases. Populist parties find a new rallying call and governments, as recently in the UK, go back on their commitments in an attempt to sustain their electoral support. Fossil fuel projects go forward and bans on diesel car sales are delayed. So how to sustain meaningful green policies and actions on decarbonization without paying the political price?



At the same time, the increasing frequency of extreme weather events makes it imperative for governments to go beyond crisis management to respond to the occasional flooding, heatwave or violent storm to building resilience to cope with the new normal. This past summer has been the hottest in the last 100,000 years, the past seven the hottest in a row ever recorded. Low water levels in the Panama Canal have interfered with world trade, the lowest water levels in the Amazon in over a hundred years have impacted on the eco-system of the Amazon Rainforest to regulate carbon emissions, wildfires across the globe have forced the evacuation of whole towns and spread smoke clouds thousands of miles into neighboring states.

A few weeks later, unprecedented flooding added to the misery of populations and businesses such as tourism already impacted by the fires and heatwaves. Moreover, the extreme weather events do not end with the hot summers but extend well into the autumn too. We used to be able to survive a “freak year” of natural disasters and extreme weather events with the consoling thought that they would not return before a decade or a century. Yet now barely have we started the

cleanup or recovery process before the fires and floods hit us again making already fragile communities and infrastructure even more vulnerable. Governments and local authorities as well as the international bodies involved in humanitarian response need to move from reaction to prevention, preparedness and resilience. How can roads, railways, ports, airports and critical infrastructure be hardened against extreme conditions and events? How can barriers be built against flooding and wildfires be anticipated and contained or at least their likely trajectory be mapped using all our best technologies, including space satellite tracking? How can we strengthen our response services such as firefighters and public health teams? Or change our business models such as more tourism infrastructure in cooler climates during the summer months or sites like the Acropolis in Athens opening early in the morning and again after sunset? This adaptation will have massive resource implications, especially on sectors most heavily impacted such as agriculture or tourism or transport, and national governments will not only need to step up their own domestic resilience and adaptation efforts but also determine what kind of help they need at the international level and from their immediate neighbors as well as organizations like NATO and the EU.

Each of these lines of effort - acting on the science and making the right policy choices and sticking to them in the face of public backlashes on the one hand and protecting our populations and economies against permanent climate disruption on the other-is a monumental challenge in its own right. But managing them together, as we now have to do and coming up with the best solutions is putting our political leaders under even more strain. They need as never before good advice, the best expertise, the ability to learn quickly from the experience of others, the best foresight analysis and anticipation and the best grasp of the most cost-effective solutions to not simply squander valuable and finite resources. Climate has to serve security and security serve climate adaptation goals in a virtuous and not vicious circle.

Where can this knowledge and good ideas for solutions come from? First and foremost, by bringing the analyzers and the implementers together, the scientific and expert community with the diplomats negotiating at the UN COP meetings and striving for new international agreements and commitments. This is where The Hague Roundtable on Climate and Security comes in. It is a well-known and tried and tested platform which acts as a climate and security fusion center bringing around the same table all those representatives of government and civil society who need most urgently to talk to each other. We must not only lament collectively on what is going wrong, but instead to chart a constructive and achievable way forward. This Roundtable meeting was a good example of this approach. We put a number of key questions to the participants:

- What is the current state of play with climate change and are the current policies (such as decarbonization by mid-century and other CO2 emissions reduction goals) up to the challenge?
- Which objectives does the upcoming COP 28 in Dubai need to meet to be considered a success?
- How is our stewardship of vital resources such as water and food allowing us to cope adequately with the stresses produced by climate change?
- What lessons do we need to draw from the recent uninterrupted sequence of natural disasters in terms of our overall resilience?
- What should be the balance between prevention or preparation and crisis response in dealing with natural disasters? Have we got the resource allocation right?

And finally:

- Are the partnerships between governments and private sector or with civil society or the international partnerships between governments functioning efficiently? What needs to change?

These are big questions with no easy answers. Yet difficult questions still have answers, and solutions exist even if they are rarely 100 percent. The worst thing we can do in the face of accelerating and universal climate change is to give up in



despair or defeatism. The solutions may be painful at times and politically sensitive; but they are infinitely better for the future of humanity than no solutions at all. The merit of The Hague Roundtable is to indicate a wise and constructive ways forward for expert and policy makers alike, as the individual reports of the discussions in the pages that follow will certainly indicate.

## **Report summaries from Breakout Groups**

Roundtable participants were invited to choose a breakout group discussion based on their expertise and interest within the scope of the Roundtable meeting. Takeaways from the discussions were presented by breakout group leaders in the plenary session. The following are interpretations of the challenges and discussion outcomes provided by the breakout group leaders in identifying paths forward in cooperation and challenges to be addressed.

### **Breakout group 1: Water scarcity - challenges and opportunities**

**Led by Zaki S. Shubber**

#### Session outline and format

The session was structured as a brainstorming exercise with an introduction to the topic, a central question with sub-elements posed to the 14 participants who were split into three small groups and a short debrief with each group sharing their recommendations to be brought to the plenary.



Prior to the discussion in small groups the participants were briefly reminded that water scarcity is where water demand exceeds available water supply because the resource is physically absent or cannot be distributed because of inadequate infrastructure. This means, among other things, that choices have to be made about who gets the water available. The connection between water scarcity and climate change was emphasized through a quote from UN-Water “Extreme weather events are making water more scarce, more unpredictable, more polluted or all three. These impacts throughout the water cycle threaten sustainable development, biodiversity, and people’s access to water and sanitation.”

The participants were also told that dealing with water scarcity requires a multi-sectoral approach beyond the typical areas of water management, cooperation, financing and so forth. Also, other connections to water, which is in everything without always being visible, need to be considered so that in addition to supply issues demand management is also taken into account, asking who is using the water, how and for what purpose? This might unlock news ways of addressing scarcity immediately, in the medium-term and in the long term.

## Session question

The participants were asked to identify up to three practical measures to address water scarcity by their sector or an organization known to them with either an immediate effect; a medium-term effect; or a long-term effect.

## Session recommendations

From the discussion around the 4 following themes (without a particular sector or organization identified):

### 1. Knowledge:

There should be continued emphasis on knowledge and expertise sharing and exchange on issues related to water scarcity from the perspective of both supply and demand with efficient use a priority.

### 2. Technology:

Technology should play an important role particularly to augment and manage water supply. Examples shared included wastewater treatment, desalination, water capture in innovative ways, geoengineering, water purification and enhanced agricultural technology.

### 3. Regional cooperation

Better cooperation between countries regarding transboundary waters and water as a common issue should continue to be encouraged and supported.

### 4. Advocacy

Awareness around water scarcity issues should be raised generally and specifically to key decision-makers. There should also be a diversification in the use of different types of water for different purposes (e.g., grey water for non-domestic uses). Mindsets should also be shifted from a paradigm of abundance to one of scarcity.

## Additional questions from the debrief plenary

After the presentation of the recommendations during the plenary, Jamie Shea asked two additional questions:

- Is there enough water for everyone on the planet or are we running out of water?

The answer is that better management on both sides of the water balance, supply and demand, would be a first step. Nevertheless, this also requires a more in-depth conversation about other related areas such as for instance the food production chain and efficiencies within it.

- What can be done to bring water higher on the political agenda?

All, as individuals and representatives of their professional communities, should also call for water to be brought to a higher level on the political agenda than it currently is.

## **Breakout group 2: Gender and Climate Nexus**

**Led by Maureen Walschot, Climate Security Expert & Research Consultant, CS Nexus Consulting, Brussels**

### Background situation:

In many fragile and conflict-affected states, climate change endangers efforts to secure peace and security while deepening gender inequalities. These gendered disparities, coupled with discriminatory norms, put women at a disadvantage in situations of conflict or crisis, and can increase their vulnerability to climate impacts. The impacts of climate change on women can be further exacerbated at the intersection of gender with class, race, and ethnicity, thereby

impacting the lives of Indigenous and other marginalized women differently. The same structural factors and inequalities that can make women disproportionately vulnerable to climate change can also exclude them from processes, platforms, and discussions surrounding natural resource management and conflict mediation. Yet women are not solely victims of conflict or climate change threats. Where women can overcome structural barriers to their participation, they are uniquely positioned to contribute to sustainable natural resource management, climate-resilient communities, and enhanced peace and stability.

In Iraq, women and girls are disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change, due to pre-existing gender norms and persisting inequalities. If left unattended, climate change impacts will exacerbate poverty and insecurity, and may lead to social unrest and further instability. In the Hawizeh marshes, for example, women are adversely affected by water shortages and drought conditions, and they must search for other water sources in distant areas to provide for families and livestock. When livelihoods deteriorate, men migrate to cities in search of jobs leaving women to support their families and livestock, adding an extra burden of responsibility in times of distress. Women are differently impacted by the forced displacement and migration patterns resulting from climate change impacts. Thus, addressing livelihood deterioration should consider gender dynamics in Iraq.



#### Outcome from the discussion:

- 1) Analysis: what we still need to know  
There is a Gendered-data: need for reporting mechanisms, need to hear women's voices
- 2) What would be the solutions – and where to put the money – if we had more?
  - Gender-mainstreaming in education role of schools at the local level, community + work of teachers: game changers
  - Cooperation projects have gender components, climate changes initiatives need to include also a gender approach
  - Community-based work + level work allows for better gender approach, for both genders to recognize the other
- 3) Where the responses come from
  - Bottom up / top down: a lot of change already from the bottom up, even if patriarchal barriers, but if you look at the higher level, both aspects need a major cultural shift, state of mind – and a need for a sense of urgency, with the need to prioritize changes in the short and long terms.
  - Increasing the number of women in the higher sphere, but there is a problem of cultural shift: a need for representation and opportunities

Another problem: backlash of these environmental and gender awareness, with the rise of counter-movements

#### 4) Focus on gender-based violence

The issue revolves around implementation of systems of transitional justice which results in a huge shift concerning victims. There is a need to feel backed up by the system, with effective actions in place to monitor and address issues.

### **Breakout group 3: Humanitarian assistance and emergency response in the context of climate security**

**Co-led by Juliane Schillinger & Tesse de Boer, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre**

#### Summary

The impacts of climate change are felt by those who are most vulnerable, particularly in areas that already suffer from fragility and armed conflict. These areas are also prone to new tensions due to climate impacts, for instance related to



local competition over scarce resources or insecurity in the aftermath of climate-related disasters. Humanitarian actors are already active in many such areas, putting them on the frontlines of current and emerging climate security hotspots. Consequently, the humanitarian sector can bring important local perspectives into climate security discussions.

The case of Somalia provides a striking example of how climate impacts are already affecting people and livelihoods, reducing access to resources, with implications for social tensions and conflict. The past years have been characterized by a multi-year drought, localized flooding, the impacts of COVID,

the Russia-Ukraine war and ongoing insecurity. There are over 4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country as of 2023. Already one of the hottest countries in the world, the number of very hot days is expected to rise strongly while rainfall projections are uncertain. These projections, combined with trends of population growth, would result in a per capita water availability of half its current level by 2080. In light of the current multi-year drought, some humanitarian organizations are now asking difficult questions about the future of aid in such a high-risk context, about limitations to adaptation, and what role humanitarian aid should play in the decision to stay or leave. While this scenario does not mean to imply that such a limitation will be reached in Somalia specifically, it set the scene to explore such difficult questions and their connection to displacement and climate security, as well as the broader role of humanitarian actors in climate security. Given the valuable insights shared by speakers during this Roundtable with a focus on the Middle East, the breakout discussion centered around the question of whether such difficult questions might arise in the Middle East in the next years.

The discussion group on humanitarian assistance and emergency response during the Roundtable delved into these questions, with participants drawing from both their professional and personal experiences with climate-related disasters and migration, as well as the potential tensions that can arise locally from them. In the case of Afghanistan, dependency in humanitarian aid is considered mal-adaptive by some. In the Middle East region, upstream/downstream tensions and areas with a history of fractured/fragile governance were considered at high risk by participants. The multitude of pressures on local communities, including climate hazards, conflict and fragility, and potential displacement from and/or to highly vulnerable areas requires a comprehensive approach to both humanitarian assistance and climate security. Participants highlighted the need for long-term thinking and its linkages to strengthening the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus in climate security hotspots. Experience from Somalia shows the benefits of nature-inclusive

approaches with long-term planning to support adaptive capacity of communities. The local access and trust built by humanitarian actors can provide opportunities to engage communities in preventative action that could target both climate hazards and related conflict risks. At the same time, humanitarian mandates and commitment to the fundamental humanitarian principles<sup>1</sup> may limit the extent to which humanitarian actors can engage in conflict prevention initiatives.

The notion of climate adaptation and indeed humanitarian assistance as a conflict mitigation tool in the context of climate security was discussed as a potential way forward, whereby conflict sensitivity needs to be central to relevant programming. Furthermore, preventative investment in the capacity of humanitarian actors across the disaster management cycle, locally in areas previously affected by armed conflict/fragility, could be an important approach. Examples include early warning early action systems, capacity strengthening and vulnerability and capacity assessments.

Other topics for further discussion and potential avenues for improved collaboration across sectors include:

- the need for flexible funding mechanisms that allow for cross-cutting and cross-sectoral initiatives within the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus
- the importance of capacity building for early warning and early action on climate hazards in potential climate security hotspots
- the need to involve communities in discussions across all levels going forward, to capture the diversity of local perspectives, needs and preferences on how to address climate security risks.

#### **Breakout group 4 NATO Climate-Security Centre of Excellence (CCASCOE)**

**Co-led by Blair Brimmell, Joint Delegation of Canada to NATO and Dr. Anessa Kimball, Université Laval**

Topical areas of focus suggestions for the CCASCOE:

- Geo-engineering
- Arctic
- Critical resources and minerals

Observations & recommendations

- In terms of staffing the CCASCOE – do not narrow your focus to simply one or two types of staff members, and do not limit the field to simply military members. Different people with various profiles, expertise and backgrounds can allow the COE to look at the problem in different ways.
- In terms of engagement with other entities, seek out partners with broad perspectives, given the breadth of the Climate Change and Security topic.
- Include communities affected by climate change insecurity in the work of the CCASCOE. Do this in such a way as to make them *feel* included & make their participation meaningful.



<sup>1</sup> [https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/topic/file\\_plus\\_list/4046-the\\_fundamental\\_principles\\_of\\_the\\_international\\_red\\_cross\\_and\\_red\\_crescent\\_movement.pdf](https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/topic/file_plus_list/4046-the_fundamental_principles_of_the_international_red_cross_and_red_crescent_movement.pdf)

- Avoid overlap with other institutions, but do collaborate in the right places: at NATO and elsewhere with groups and actors working on related topics in order to plug in CCASCOE expertise.
- Canada must maintain its financial and human resources commitments to the institution. As a host nation, it must be ready to commit political and diplomatic capital to ensure a strong establishment and maintain public awareness, while working collaboratively with the 11 other sponsoring nations.
- CCASCOE partners should consider the demographic diversity of those bringing the expertise to the Centre which includes thinking beyond those in military forces as subject matter experts to ensure the Centre is representative of Sponsoring Nation populations. Contributing nations might consider alternating national representatives between defence and foreign affairs ministries, as well as environment.
- Working to include Indigenous “Communities of Interest” and ensure gender as well as racial representativity at its events and activities will be key for ensuring strong engagement by those groups most affected by climate change.
- It will be important for CCASCOE to participate and integrate into key working groups at NATO to ensure it remains relevant and find a way to identify stakeholders across the alliance to support its work. Doctrine work will be particularly important to ensure NATO partners implement climate change actions nationally.

### **Featured commentary from Roundtable participants**

#### *Cooperation*

NATO’s CCASCOE is a new kid on the block, with a considerable number of others already playing (EU, IMCCS, HCSS, Clingendael, to name a few). The COE wants to focus on development of a risk assessment tool. Therefore, key for the COE will be to establish close working relationships with other organizations, in particular those already mentioned, as they have already such a tool in place. Some duplication is unavoidable (and perhaps even welcome), but the aim should be to converge towards a widely applicable and (internationally) used tool.

#### *From reactive to pro-active*

To tackle climate change effects, a number of steps are essential: creating a multi-disciplinary scientific data base with advanced analysis tools, embracing technological development, developing an information network and education of people, communities and governments, enabling grass roots development. The latter step is especially relevant, as often the effects of climate change are (nationally and internationally) politicized, making governments unable or unwilling to act effectively.

Ben Bekkering  
 VADM (ret)  
 Partner IMCCS; Board member Atlantische Commissie

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This was my first time at the Hague Roundtable on Climate and Security. I have appreciated very much all the presentations of the distinguished speakers as well as the lively discussion and brain storming during the breakout sessions. I report here my comment which came up to my mind after the conclusion of the Roundtable with the hope they may be of some utility.

An aspect which was only marginally touched during the Roundtable is the importance of modelling the climate change and its impact especially at regional level. My suggestion for the new CCASCOE is to get in contact with the Earth System Physics group at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste (supported by UNESCO, the International Nuclear Energy Agency and the Italian Government). This is an excellence group which uses dynamical and statistical modelling techniques to assess the socio-economic impacts of climate variability and change – for example on energy,

water supplies and human health – also by developing dedicated codes. Such collaboration would fit in the need of avoiding redundancies with the work of other international agencies discussed during the forum.

In some circumstances, water scarcity may require locally-produced energy to desalinate sea water, pump water from deep wells, and extract water from the atmosphere. Such energy production should be carbon-free in order not to worsen the climate change crisis. Photovoltaic and wind power, in combination with green hydrogen production to accumulate/distribute such energy, are viable options. Education on the use of such technologies, as well as dedicated funding, can be effective tools to increase the resilience to climate changes at local level. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), is very active in this field. The Italian Foreign Ministry is collaborating with this agency by the training program “I ACT – Italy & IRENA Action for Climate Toolkit” which aims to strengthen the intervention capacities of young leaders/activists on energy transition, climate change and sustainable development providing them a series of dedicated training modules. A realization of this initiative was recently performed at the Italian Embassy in Jakarta. This interesting experience may be presented to the next edition of The Hague Round Table for Climate and Security.

Dario Grasso  
Scientific Advisor  
Embassy of Italy, The Hague

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#### Navigating the Future: Integrating Expertise for Effective Climate Change Adaptation in Military Strategies

During the breakout session, the CCASCOE group responded largely unanimously to the comment that too little or even no correct expertise is being brought into position within the military domain. Resulting in individuals with a purely military background being decisive. But adaptation to climate change is precisely a theme that deserves another kind of captain to chart the right course. In any case, the current leaders will need to surround themselves with the right expertise in order to determine that course.

The vision I describe in the book [The Climate-Conflict-Displacement Nexus from a Human Security Perspective | Springer](#), and in particular the chapter [Securitization of Human-Induced Environmental Conflict: Implications for the Military \(in the Struggle for Life\)](#) can be helpful in this regard. The essence lies in focusing on (social)-ecological processes and the perception that these processes have their own timetable.

Diplomacy, Development and Defense also act on their own time scale. It is precisely by coordinating this that socio-ecological processes can be better managed. So 3D-ET instead of 3D.

Perhaps we can make this a pilot project for the next meeting. This can be done, for example, by organizing work sessions and setting up a working group. Each subgroup is then given a relevant case with the assignment to achieve a pragmatically feasible output using a 3D-ET approach. We can then combine the case, the process and the outcome into a publication. This publication can then be discussed during the next Roundtable meeting and serve as input for the follow-up.

Ir. G.W.F. (Fred) Kruidbos  
(biologist – ecologist)  
KRUIDBOS Ecological Research and Consultancy, part of  
K-SN Ecological Services B.V.

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It is very important that NATO is positioning itself on Climate and Security, especially when focussed on outreach to third countries. This is the cooperation that generates goodwill. Russia and China will never engage in dialogue or cooperation in this field. We have a great opportunity to show, for instance, the Gulf-region that countries of the Western world are at the end of the day their real partners.

NATO is normally seen as a military alliance, but it is in principle a political one, so it could and should cover many more other aspects. Canada does a good job setting up a center of expertise in Montreal. As Canada is not an EU-member, it is in a position to sort out the cooperation NATO – EU better and more credible than any other nations.

Climate change will make great parts of the NATO surroundings (Africa) inhabitable. The population will migrate up north. Stability is at risk, and this is a major NATO concern. The water problem in and around the MENA-region are good examples of the damage climate change is likely to cause elsewhere: the drying up of the Dead Sea, the Aral Sea, and indeed the Marshlands in Iraq. We badly need international agreements governing the building of dams and the fair distribution of water related to this.

More attention should be given by scientists to influencing the weather, cloud seeding and the like. This kind of research could also contribute against the warming up of the earth. Why so many western countries are spilling perfect drinking water to cleaning, flushing, irrigation etc? Two separate water points per household should be the future.

Frans Potuyt  
Fanack / Fanack Water  
Former Ambassador of the Netherlands to Kuwait

### **Closing commentary from Chloé Baudry, First Secretary, Embassy of Canada to the NL**

On behalf of all of us from the Canadian Embassy in The Hague, thanks to everyone for your insightful presentations and the active participation of all of our guests! The discussions have truly shed light on the multifaceted nature of climate security and many of its dimensions (military, social, economic). This has served to reaffirm that climate change is deeply interconnected with other challenges, that can only be tackled through multistakeholder international cooperation.



The Canadian Embassy is grateful for our expert panelists and thought leaders for stimulating such an interesting discussion. They have brought up a variety of unique views, from distinct country contexts, to inform our collaboration and work going forward. It was useful to zoom in on the Iraq example in particular which helped open avenues for deeper thinking on this issue.

Canada certainly hopes we can leverage the outcomes of today's discussion going forward, with our friend and allies, here in the Netherlands and beyond. We also hope the roundtable will serve to plant a seed in thinking and in organizations' work in the climate security sphere, and that there are some new ideas and knowledge you may apply in your everyday work. Thank you!



## **Publications**

### ***Overcoming the Fragility Barrier: Policy Solutions for Unlocking Climate Finance in Fragile States; Mercy Corps***

<https://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/Overcoming-the-Fragility-Barrier-Policy-Paper-10022023.pdf>

This report presents a comprehensive overview of the strategies that were explored during international roundtable discussions, including at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of The Hague Roundtable in March 2023.

### ***NATO Climate Change and Security Impact Assessment***

[https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2023/7/pdf/230711-climate-security-impact.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2023/7/pdf/230711-climate-security-impact.pdf)

This second edition of NATO's Impact Assessment, which includes advice by NATO's Military Authorities, focuses on analyzing the consequences of climate change for our security. The conclusions are sobering.

### ***NATO Climate Change and Security Action Plan; Compendium of Best Practices***

[https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2023/7/pdf/230710-climate-change-best-practices.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2023/7/pdf/230710-climate-change-best-practices.pdf)

This document contains examples of how individual Allies are putting measures into practice. They include government initiatives, public-private partnerships, military and dual-use technologies, national and international efforts reflecting the different types of interventions required to meet the challenges posed by climate change.

### ***The NATO Greenhouse Gases Emission Mapping and Analytical Methodology***

[https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2023/7/pdf/230710-NATO-GHG-Methodology.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2023/7/pdf/230710-NATO-GHG-Methodology.pdf)

The data collected and analyzed using this methodology serve as a basis for setting GHG reduction targets for the NATO Enterprise.

### ***The Hague Roundtable on Climate and Security holds its 14th edition; Diplomat Magazine***

<https://diplomatmagazine.eu/2023/09/24/the-hague-roundtable-on-climate-and-security-holds-its-14th-edition/>



A **SPECIAL THANKS** goes to Chloé Baudry and Zaki S. Shubber for their valuable insights and energy in co-organizing this meeting; the Embassy of Canada to the Netherlands for its support, including the work of Filip Krivanek; NATO for its contributions in climate and security issues; Roundtable panelists and discussion leaders for sharing their expertise and enthusiasm, with additional appreciation to Dr. Mahdi Ahmad and Dr. Amar Ibrahim for travelling to The Hague from Baghdad to provide their insights in this meeting. We are of course grateful to our Roundtable participants – both new and returning – for their specialized knowledge and efforts toward cooperation.

While the work of peaceful climate adaptation is becoming more urgent, it is also gaining momentum in cooperation across sectors and national boundaries. This attention also with natural resources and nature-based solutions should be supported with greater urgency in multinational forums, and in local platforms which can contribute valuable input to decisions and policy of leaders in governing structures. Watch for updates for our next Roundtable in 2024, on [@hagueroundtable](#) on Twitter (X); [on LinkedIn](#); and on the Roundtable [website](#). *Matt Luna, The Hague, November 2023*

### **About the Hague Roundtable**

The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security, founded in 2015, is an independent forum to promote international cooperation in adapting to climate risks to human well-being, sustainable development, and peace. Focus includes water resources, natural disasters, sea level rise, migration, potential conflict and stability of fragile states. Get in touch to find out more about engagement and support opportunities.

### **Contact**

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*Observations, recommendations and commentaries in Roundtable reporting are taken from discussions, and do not necessarily reflect the position of Hague Roundtable organizers and host organizations.*