



**MINISTÈRE
DES ARMÉES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

**JOINT STATEMENT
ON CLIMATE CHANGE
AND THE ARMED FORCES**

PARIS PEACE FORUM



Paris, October 6 2021

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) experts, global warming could reach +1,5°C by 2030. By 2050, and without immediate action, the increase will continue beyond this threshold and the 2°C limit will most likely be reached before the end of the 21st century. In parallel, the COVID-19 pandemic has been the catalyst for significant political, economic, social and energy shocks. The effects of climate change will amplify such phenomena, threaten the environment and, therefore, human activities. The destruction of natural resources, extreme climate events like cyclones, flooding or rising waters and wildfires, might lead to the displacement of whole populations and will amplify existing threats. Indeed, climate change aggravates pre-existing instability and is now widely considered as a threat multiplier that creates new tensions, rifts and conflicts. Rivalries for access to natural resources are intensifying in some regions, while large production and transit areas are the scene of recurring geopolitical and demographic tensions. The implementation of energy transition policies creates opportunities, but also new dependencies, both in raw materials and industrial know-how.

In this context, the armed forces need to adapt to the changing environment (increasing power struggles around resource issues, new conditions of intervention, new types of missions). We must work together and strengthen our cooperation to play our part in combatting climate change as well as preparing our forces for the impacts of climate change and the energy transition. In parallel, biodiversity conservation is also important and should be considered within the Defense domain.

The armed forces dependence on fossil fuels is still very high. In order to adapt to the increasing frequency of extreme weather events and climate change more broadly, our respective strategy and guidance documents need to integrate the Climate and Defense nexus across the Defense mission set, including operations, training, infrastructure and equipment. Simultaneously, we need to find ways to mitigate our impact on the environment, keeping in mind that environmental concerns should be an added value to missions/operations and not an obstacle. To achieve that, we need to consider how our forces can leverage developing low-carbon energy efficient military technologies, materials and equipment is while maintaining a high level of interoperability, and preserving the operational effectiveness and readiness of the forces. We believe, also, that promoting a culture of energy transition, prioritizing energy efficiency and exploring ways to preserving and protecting the environment through innovation and digital technologies, including through the exchange of good practices, is key.

Adaptation and resilience are the two key words that lead our decisions and actions.

To this end, as Defense Ministers, we intend to promote the exchange of information, analysis, experience and good practices, both at the political and military level, in order to enhance our understandings of the security implications of climate change and opportunities to leverage the energy transition for our forces. Although COP-26 further strengthened international climate ambitions, it is also necessary for defense institutions to step up their engagement. In this respect, we will promote action to bring forward this issue in all relevant fora of cooperation and dialogue in the field of defense and security, at the regional and global level, with a paramount focus on not hampering military key capabilities. Suggested joint lines of effort may be found in the attached roadmap.

Energy transition must be an operational asset in the field of defense as well as a privileged axis of cooperation between the States. The need for better international coordination to effectively respond to these new challenges is becoming increasingly obvious.

The next Paris Peace Forum in 2022 will be an opportunity to review the progress of our collective efforts in this area.

Roadmap

STRATEGIC ANTICIPATION MEASURES

1

- consider the impacts of climate change and energy transition in national defense policies;
- promote high-level climate and security dialogues;
- support Southern countries on developing national strategies addressing climate change;
- encourage international partnerships in the field of strategic research:
 - organize conferences, seminars or workshops – at the international level - on climate change and its implications for defense and security, the challenges of energy transition for defense and issues relating to biodiversity and the access to resources;
 - promote the creation of a climate and energy network of experts across think-tanks, universities and research institutes related to climate and energy.
- encourage the defense industries to promote the research and development of climate neutral military equipments, preferably of dual use;
- cooperate in assessing the geopolitical and security impacts of climate change, including by establishing the foundations for enhanced North-South cooperation in this area;
- work to align policies and practices across the diplomacy, development, and defense sectors when tackling climate related security risks, in particular with a view to enabling a holistic response to challenges in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

ADAPTATION MEASURES

2

- prepare for scenarios where the armed forces could be deployed to manage the consequences of extreme climate events induced by climate change;
- strengthen the resilience of the armed forces by adapting key infrastructures (in particular communication, transport, water and energy management), equipment and military methods of action to climate risks;
- implement energy transition policies and adapt our energy consumption patterns while guaranteeing freedom of military action and continuous military effectiveness;
- ensure the continued resilience and sustainability of supply chains vital to defense and security as well as access to the technologies necessary for the energy transition;
- Work with partner countries affected by climate change to enhance national climate resilience through military-to-military collaboration on disaster risk reduction.

REDUCTION MEASURES

3

- promote energy transition in the defense sector and develop standards to make materials and equipment interoperable;
- work to defossilize carbon use in military infrastructure (energy autonomy of camps, energy efficiency, increased use of renewable energies);
- look into ways to reduce dependence on fossil fuels by developing the use of alternative energies for mobility (synthetic fuels in the air, land and maritime sectors, mobility powered by electricity);
- support eco-design policies for less polluting and more resource-efficient weapons systems;
- consider developing solutions to increase carbon capture on military training facilities;
- consider the use of Defense owned real estate for construction of renewable energy installations.

RAISING AWARENESS AND PROMOTING COOPERATION ON THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Multinational cooperation forums:

4

- consider establishing a North-South dialogue forum and network on «energy-climate-defense actions»;
- within this forum, develop cooperation with the Energy International Agency and the International Renewable Energy Agency;
- exchange of best practices on energy sustainability and efficiency and development of discussion axes on the themes of energy transition within the armed forces, as well as energy and climate resilience with the armed forces of partner countries and within the scope of international organisations (e.g. NATO, United Nations Peacekeeping; EU Common Security and Defense Policy missions and operations);
- propose to address the links between climate change, environment, security and defense as important themes to COP 27 in 2022 (organization of side events, for instance), to the Munich Security Conference (February 2022), or any other relevant international conferences and fora;
- When applicable (member states), and in the interests of complementarity, support NATO (Energy Security Center of Excellence, for example), and EU (External External Action Service; European Defense Agency) initiatives and coordination on promoting adaptability to climate change, sustainable energy and resilience in the Defense sector.