INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES:**

**NATO’s APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

November 17, 2021

**PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE**

**(EASTERN EUROPEAN TIME)**

**9:30 - 9:40 Setting the stage.** Mr. Yordan Bozhilov, President of Sofia Security Forum and Col. Orlin Nikolov, Director CMDR COE

**9:40 – 10.00 – Understanding and addressing climate change,** Minister of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria H.E. Georgi Panayotov

**10:00 - 10:30 – NATO’s Agenda on Climate Change and Security**, Mr. James Appathurai, Deputy Assistant Secretary General, NATO

Moderator: Col. Plamen Iliev, CMDR COE

**10:30 - 11:00 – Partner’s corner.** Outcomes of the three-day seminar hosted by South Korea's Ministry of Defense on the Implications of the Climate change on security. Captain Chanung Kim, environmental policy officer at the Environmental Coordination Division, Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea

**11.00 – 11.20 – How shall NATO and the allies address the emerging security challenges,** Jamie Shea,former NATO Assistant Secretary-General

**11.20 – 11.30 – Break**

**11:30 - 12:00 Climate change as a threat to sustainable development and security** Mr.Rory Keane, Head of the United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS)

**12:00 - 13:00 Climate change and security: A need for a comprehensive response.**

**Moderator:** Ms. Gergana Vaklinova, Section Head: Concept Development and Experimentation, CMDR COE

**Panelists:**

* Ms. Laura Birkman, Senior Strategic Analyst and Head of the Climate and Security Program at the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, the Netherlands
* Amb. Tatiana IOSIPER, Special Envoy for Energy and Climate Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania
* Amb. Atanas Mladenov, Ambassador-at-Large for Sustainable Development and Climate Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

**13:00 - 14.00 – Lunch break**

**14:00 – 14.30 – EUMS’ approach to the Climate Change and Security nexus.**

Lt. Gen. Giovanni Manione, Deputy Director General, European Union Military Staff (EUMS)

**14.30 - 15:30 – Military response to climate change.**

**Moderator:** Col. Plamen Iliev, CMDR COE

**Panelists:**

* BG (R.) Ben Barry OBE, Senior Fellow for Land Warfare, International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, UK
* Dr. Sandro Carniel, Head of Research, Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation, NATO Science and Technology Organization
* COL. Dariusz Dobron, PAF General Command, Warsaw

**15:30 - 15:40 -** Amb. Tomas Anker Christensen, Climate Ambassador of Denmark, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Video address)

**15:40 - 16:00 – Break**

**16:00 - 17:00 – Climate change implications on defense: the US' and Canada's approach.**

**Moderator:** Yordan Bozhilov, President of Sofia Security Forum

**Panelists:**

* Mr. Peter Hammerschmidt, Assistant Deputy Minister for Policy, Department of National Defence
* Ms. Sherri Goodman, Secretary General of the International Military Council on Climate & Security, Senior Strategist and Advisory Board Member, Center for Climate & Security, Board Chair, Council on Strategic Risks, Former Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Environmental Security), Senior Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International

**17.00 – 17.30 - Closing the conference**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The 2021 Brussels Summit Communiqué describes climate change as one of the defining current and future challenges to global peace and security. Recognising the impacts of climate change on a multiplicity of aspects to include environmental and human security, particularly societal resilience, and the planning and conduct of operations, NATO member countries have committed to reducing the negative impact of different activities on the environment.

 The 2021 Climate Change and Security Agenda applies a 360-degree approach to the subject-matter and encompasses measures to increase both NATO’s and Allies’ awareness of the impact of climate change on security, along with developing clear adaptation and mitigation measures, and enhanced outreach, while ensuring a credible deterrence and defence posture.

 Although NATO is not a first responder for every challenge related to climate change, the Alliance has a role to play in a comprehensive response. NATO decided to hold regular high-level climate and security dialogue to exchange views and coordinate further action.

In line with NATO’s approach to climate change, the Sofia Security Forum, the NATO CMDR COE and the NATO Public Diplomacy Division are organising a conference on Addressing global challenges: NATO′s approach to climate change. The event will take place on 17 November 2021 and will be conducted in a hybrid mode – in-person in Sofia, Bulgaria, via WebEx VTC platform and live-streamed on the CMDR COE YouTube channel.

The Conference will bring together civilian and military executives, climate and security experts, representatives from non-governmental organisations, think-tanks, the academia and the media for a forward-looking discussion on peace and security in a climate disturbed environment.