

Media Advisory Event Summary:

Impacts of Climate Change on Human Security: What can be done?

Oct. 21, 2020 at 12 to 1 pm EDT

On October 21, 2020, leading experts representing intelligence, security and military organizations from around the world will take part in an online media advisory event designed to discuss the impact of climate change on human security. Dubbed the “[greatest threat to global security](#)”, climate change is increasingly recognized as a “threat multiplier” that left unchecked has the potential to destabilize civil societies around the world. This media event, sponsored by the [NATO Association of Canada](#), in partnership with [Climate Solutions Advancement Network \(ClimateSAN\)](#), a project of [Think Renewables Group \(TRG\)](#), will highlight both imminent and long-term security risks of climate change, as well as explore strategies and technologies to mitigate those risks.

Climate experts agree on the urgent need for immediate and substantial action in order to combat climate change. What is frequently missed in the conversation, however, is the way climate change intersects with political, social and economic factors. Military institutions are becoming increasingly alarmed. According to a [recent report](#) by the International Military Council on Climate and Security, 86% of climate security and military experts surveyed perceive climate change effects on conflict within nations presents a significant or higher risk to global security in the next two decades.

Complicating matters is the ideological and decision-making gridlock between progressive and conservative leaders. Fortunately, conservative voters and their leaders are often receptive to the views of military experts and many of these experts are now expressing alarm about security-related impacts of climate change. Therefore, as [Prof. Michael Klare](#) suggests, these experts can play a role in “[bridging the gap between believers and doubters](#)” on climate change.

Once conservative leaders recognize the need for substantial action on climate change, they will likely be more inclined to work with progressive leaders to take the necessary steps to take this action. The response to Covid-19 has shown that when conservatives and progressives agree on what needs to be done, substantial action can occur quickly.

Complicating matters is the ideological and decision-making gridlock between progressive and conservative leaders. In an attempt to bridge this gap, *Impacts on Climate Change Human Security: What Can Be Done?*, will bring together a panel of prominent experts to discuss how military and intelligence leaders are increasingly focusing on the issue. In addition, this panel

will highlight some solutions that are ready to be implemented on a global scale in order to mitigate climate change, as well as introduce a major new climate finance initiative.

Given below is a list of proposed presenters and topics that would be introduced at this event:

- a) [James Grabert](#), Director, Mitigation, [United Nations Climate Change Secretariat](#), Bonn, Germany will speak about the urgent need for action on climate change.
- b) [Honorable Sherri Goodman](#), Secretary General of the [International Military Council on Climate and Security \(IMCCS\)](#) will present highlights of [The World Climate and Security Report 2020](#) report.
- c) Hon. [John Conger](#), Director, [Centre for Climate and Security \(CCS\)](#) and part of the [National Security, Military and Intelligence Panel \(NSMIP\) on Climate Change](#), who will provide some key findings from the [Security Threat Assessment of Global Climate Change](#) report.
- d) [Michael Collins](#), Executive Director at the [Institute for Economics and Peace \(IEP\)](#) will present highlights of their recently launched "[Ecological Threat Register \(ETR\)](#)".
- e) [Robert Baines](#), President and CEO of the [NATO Association of Canada](#) will outline how international cooperation has increased security and why much more of it will be needed in the future due to rapidly growing impacts of climate change.
- f) [Paul Stevers](#), President and CEO, [Think Renewables Group](#) and Co-founder, [Climate Solutions Advancement Network \(ClimateSAN\)](#) will introduce a range of technologies that can be implemented on a global scale such as planting trees via drones.
- g) [Steve Waygood](#) from Aviva Investors who is part of the [Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance](#) will introduce the recently launched [International Platform for Climate Finance](#), which is intended to mobilize the \$1 trillion of new investment capital that will be required every year for the next 15 years to put the world on the path for a net-zero transition.

To view a short (2 min.) explainer video about this media advisory event, see: [ClimateSAN/mae](#).

ClimateSAN is also planning to host a related full online conference next year. The [NATO Association of Canada](#) and the [Modern War Institute \(MWI\) at West Point](#) have indicated they would co-sponsor this conference. ClimateSAN is planning to invite other organizations to co-sponsor it as well.