DRAFT Outline of
Proposed Online Conference:
Impacts of Climate Change on Human Security: What can be done?
An Online Event About Climate Change, Human Security, and Promising Climate Solutions

Climate Solutions Advancement Network (ClimateSAN), which is a project of Think Renewables Group (TRG), is planning to host an online conference that outlines the impacts of climate change on human security, the need for large scale action to mitigate these impacts, and highlight some strategies and technologies that can facilitate this action on a large scale. 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.

Although the main target audience for this event would be for the media and general public living in North America, we also welcome the participation of other interested individuals and organization in other parts of the world in this online event.

If a well-known security related institution became the primary host of these events, we expect the impact of these events would be increased substantially. Therefore, we at ClimateSAN are interested to work with this type of institution that may be intersted to take on this role.

Given below is a summary outline of this event:

A. Background

> Many climate experts have recently stated that there is an urgent need for substantial action on climate change. For example, the head of International Energy Agency (IEA), Fatih Birol warned last June about the urgent need for action in the next 6 months to prevent a post-lockdown surge in emissions. In order to implement this action on a global scale, the decision-making gridlock between progressive and conservative leaders needs to be overcome.
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> 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.
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> 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 conservative and progressive leaders agree on what needs to be done, substantial action can occur quickly.
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> Recently, many security experts have publicly indicated their concern about the impact of climate change on security. For example, a report commissioned by General Mark Milley, who is President Trump's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, indicated that the

U.S. military mission could be severely threatened in just the next 20 years time due to several factors including severe weather events, mass migration, diminishing global freshwater supplies, changing disease vectors, Arctic competition, stress on the U.S. power grid and nuclear reactors, as well as sea-level rise. To view more articles about similar topics, see: Climate Change & Global Security.

Major problems are developing in many areas of the world. For example, climate change is causing unpredictable weather patterns that are causing food insecurity for millions of Africans. This food insecurity appears to be causing a rapid growth of violence and forced migration. To view more information about this issue, see: Growth of Violence and Forced Migration Relating to Climate Change. This webpage includes a link to this 40-second video showing the rapid growth of violence in the Sahel and West Africa: Spreading violence in the Sahel.

According to a 2015 study carried out by the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University, the estimated number of refugees due to climate change could reach a billion by 2050.   With the recent rapid increase in climate change that appears to be occurring now, as demonstrated by Hurricane Dorian's devastating power, their estimates would likely be substantially higher if this study were completed today.

Fortunately, several very promising "break-though" solutions are emerging to help reduce carbon emissions.   For example, in early November 2019, it was announced that a team of scientists, led by a professor at the University of Waterloo, created an efficient 'artificial leaf' that turns carbon dioxide into fuel. This is one of several new "artificial leaf" technologies being developed by different organizations around the world.

For a larger list of promising climate solutions, see: Selected Climate Solutions with Large Scale-up Potential by ClimateSAN. Many of these solutions need to be scaled-up rapidly to make a measurable impact on climate change.

In order to assist in this scale-up, ClimateSAN is working with faculty from Ryerson University and York University on a plan to help accelerate development and scale-up of a range of Climate Solutions by facilitating increased investment in these solutions. This project is partly funded by MITACS, which is an organization that helps facilitate collaboration between the private sector and universities across Canada, and is a component of ClimateSAN's larger plan entitled "Opportunity to Increase Funding for Development and Scale-Up of Climate Solutions".

ClimateSAN welcomes the support of individuals and organizations to accelerate this process. To maximize its impact, ClimateSAN plans to collaborate with other initiatives around the world that are working to scale-up the best Climate Solutions.

B. Online Conference Outline

To view proposed online conference agenda, see:

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

C. Proposed Event Schedule & Co-hosts

1) Proposed Event Schedule

Morning: 10:00 am EDT with four 30 minute sessions
Lunch: 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm (selected videos about climate and security could be played during this time for members of the audience that may find them interesting)
Afternoon: 1:30 pm to 4 pm with five 30 minute sessions.

2) Some Possible Co-hosts of Event
This event could hosted and promoted in association with institutions that have an interest in climate and security issues, such as:

a) The Centre for Climate and Security
b) Modern War Institute at West Point
b) NATO Association of Canada
c) Canadian Forces College in Toronto

D. Increasing viewer engagement through improved graphics and animated videos:

1) Engaging the Online Audience

Since it is very easy for people attending an online conference to quickly leave this event if they lose interest, it is important that that this event be engaging as possible. Therefore, each speaker will be invited to enhance their presentations with graphics and animations appropriate for the intended audience. In addition, each speaker would be invited to create a short 2 minute or so "explainer" video that helps visually explain a key component of their presentation. See item #3 below for more information about explainer videos.

Since an online conference does not incur the cost of paying speakers to travel to a physical location for a conference, the revenue generated from sponsors of this event could help pay for the cost of creating a short explainer videos for each of the speakers who are invited to speak at this event. In addition, costs of creating these videos could be minimized by funding a small team to provide the following assistance to each of the speakers seeking to create an explainer video:

a) Outline the steps in creating an explainer video.
b) Work closely with each speaker to create a storyboard and video script.
c) If needed, retain a "professional voice" to record the script for the video.
d) If needed, retain a graphic designer to create the required images for use in the video.

      e) An experienced explainer video creator would use the above information to create an explainer video.

To help maintain the attention and interest of an online viewer, the presentations could be made relatively short and be complemented with an interactive question and answer (Q & A) session. For example, given below is a proposed 30 minute session relating for one speaker:

      a) Moderator introduces the speaker while both the moderator and speaker are viewed on video (about 2 minutes).
      b) Short (about 2 min) explainer video is played that introduces the core ideas presented by this speaker.
      c) Speaker speaks for about 6 minutes.
      d) Q & A session for about 15 or so minutes.

2) Online Conference Features

An online conference is much easier and quicker to organize and host than a typical physical conference. For example, in an online conference, speakers can pre-record their respective presentations and send them to us. During a typical online summit, the event host introduces these videos and streams them to the online audience. In addition, the event host introduces the live speakers who opt to not send the organizers a pre-recorded video. All the videos during this summit can be watched live or later online.

During the online conference, questions from the audience will be received through an online chat window. The speakers and host respond to the questions as they have time to do so. To reduce time needed to organize and host this event, professional online conference software can be utilized such as Pheedloop or Hey Summit can be utilized.

TRG is currently using Pheedloop to develop an online conference and trade show for the Hydrogen Business Council. To view the website for it, see: HBC Hydrogen, Sustainability and Finance Conference 2020.

3) Creating Explainer Videos

An explainer video can be created inexpensively through an online platform such as VideoScribe. One explainer video that has been created with this platform can be seen at this link: Accelerating Climate Solutions (ACS) Program Explainer Video by ClimateSAN. To view more information creating this type of videos, see: Creating Explainer Videos.

In addition to creating an explainer video, some speakers may want to convert their Powerpoint presentation to narrated and animated video. Using a PowerPoint add-on by iSpring Solutions called iSpring Suite, it is now easier to do so. To view an example of this conversion and a step-by-step guide to do so, see: Converting Powerpoint Presentations to Narrated and Animated Videos.

As well, each speaker can create a webpage that contains his/her explainer video and links to more information. For example, see: Accelerating Climate Solutions (ACS) Program Explainer Video.

4) Some Notable Videos about Climate Change and Security

Given below are some notable videos about climate change and human security:
a) Bloomberg Video: How Climate Change Creates Global Security Risks, Sep 20, 2019
b) The Economist Video: Warriors and weather: Climate change and national security in America, Dec 9, 2015
c) MSNBC Video: Why Climate Change Is A National Security Issue by Velshi & Ruhle, Sep 16, 2019

E. Closing Comment

If this event can help significantly increase public awareness of the security implications of climate change, it may help overcome the gridlock between progressive and conservative leaders to enable large scale action on climate change. As indicated earlier, the response to Covid-19 has shown that when conservative and progressive leaders agree on what needs to be done, substantial action can occur quickly.