

UN Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogue

Environment, Peace and Security: The environment as an entry point to implementing SDG 16

24 January 2019

Key messages

This document summarizes in ten points, a set of policy messages of relevance to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. It is the result of a Nexus dialogue organized in collaboration with and hosted by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy that brought together UN agencies and representatives of governments, civil society and academia on January 24, 2019. Stakeholders are encouraged to consider using the points below in policy debates, communication and promoting integrated approaches within their organization and with their constituencies.

1. Environment has a profound impact on peace and security of our societies. The role of climate change, the degradation of the environment, the weak governance of natural resources and organized crime related to wildlife and natural resources as key drivers of conflict are now more apparent than ever before.
2. Operations related to peacekeeping and security also in turn impact the environment in a significant way. The operations and interventions may have direct impact through land modifications, use of natural resources and production of pollution and waste or indirectly through their footprint by using transport, air-conditioning and procurement.
3. Environment, peace and security needs to be addressed as a nexus issue, in a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach. This will be key to breaking silos and dealing with this issue in an integrated matter.
4. The nexus approach needs to be considered and integrated at local, regional, national, transboundary and international contexts, each may need a different approach and require tailored responses. Strong institutions and governance systems are needed in all contexts that are fit for purpose and can ensure an integrated and effective approach.
5. Leadership is key in advancing policy on environment, peace and security. This leadership may come from political leaders, grass-root leaders and youth.
6. Young people have significant stake in the health of our planet and its security. They must be recognized as important actors in consultations and policy processes. They also need to be educated, prepared and empowered to fully play their role as actors of change.
7. Communication tools are needed that can convey the urgency of the nexus issue in a simple manner for people with various backgrounds and social responsibilities.
8. Sustainable Development Goals have allowed for an opportunity to high-light the important interlinkages of environment, peace and security. There is need to bring more attention to the environmental dimensions of SDG 16 to ensure the achievement of the Global Goals. The United Nations should use its convening power to bring key actors together especially at national level, supporting member states with policy integration and implementation.
9. Innovative, lasting and effective approaches to partnerships by promoting odd and unlikely partners to collaborate on this nexus. It may be beneficial to define the collaboration with a narrow entry point to allow ease of access to right actors and then build on successful partnerships.

10. There are a variety of success stories and lessons learned on the issue which could promote this integration approach around the world. Platforms to share experiences, best practices and lessons.