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NETWORKING FOR CLIMATE POLICY AND FINANCE FOR PEACE:

Capacity gap assessment from the
Climate, Peace and Security Experts Academy

MARCH 2026





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List of abbreviations and acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CCCPA	Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPS	Climate, Peace and Security
CSM	Climate Security Mechanism
CRSP	Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace Initiative
EU	European Union
FCAC	Fragile and conflict-affected context
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFI	International Financial Institution
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
LT-LEDS	Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security
WPS	Women, Peace and Security





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1

Summary of key findings

This capacity gap assessment is a pioneering effort to better understand the evolving field of climate, peace and security practice. Conducted under the Climate, Peace and Security Experts Academy (the Academy), a joint initiative of the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCCPA), under the COP27 Presidency Initiative 'Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace' (CRSP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the assessment is the first direct survey on key challenges and needs identified by policymakers and experts from regions facing the dual burden of climate change vulnerability, and conflict and fragility.

The survey report presents a unique data set of responses by national policymakers, negotiators, and experts, including youth leaders who work on climate and peace, and had no prior exposure to, climate, peace and security training before. This ensured that results not only reflect the state of global policy discussions, but also first-hand observations of realities on the ground. The insights go beyond national and local level capacity-building and address some of the critical gaps in policy, programming and financing.

Drawing from data systematically collected between 2022-2024 across the seven iterations of the Academy, the assessment identifies shared challenges, even as geographical priorities exist. In some areas, there are also notable generational priorities and gender differences, pointing to the need for tailored and inclusive approaches. The findings further reveal a significant disconnect between experts working on climate and environment, and those focused on peace and security at national and local levels. Addressing this gap could be one of the most tangible ways to deliver more integrated and impactful results. Finally, there is a recognition that integrated policy and access to finance is often constrained by weak technical and institutional capacities, especially in fragile and conflict-affected contexts (FCACs). This underscores the role of capacity development as a cornerstone for unlocking finance, and addressing systemic gaps to advance climate, peace and security policy and programming.

Key findings:

1. **Climate, peace and security is identified as high or very high priority (74 percent). Yet, critical gaps persist between recognition and implementation.** Peace and security considerations remain largely absent from national climate policies and financing frameworks. From the survey, 70 percent of the policymakers and experts emphasized the need to integrate security risks into climate frameworks and broader development agendas. Key barriers reflect limited understanding of climate, peace and security interlinkages, and weak institutional capacities, leading to insufficient political prioritization.
2. **Collaboration across fields remains limited, with one-third of policymakers and experts reporting that they know and/or collaborate with colleagues from other sectors.** This siloed approach is recognized as one of the key barriers, with 70 percent calling for greater networking capacities. Bridging the coordination gap at local and national levels is critical to strengthening effective policy integration and programme delivery.
3. **Policy coordination remains a challenge. Climate experts tend to focus more on climate-specific processes like Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) (59 percent), while peace and governance experts engage with development policies (60 percent).** These contrasting priorities highlight a siloed approach that hinders integrated solutions. Building a shared understanding, and aligning climate plans with governance and peacebuilding strategies requires stronger collaboration and joint mechanisms for integrated policy development.
4. **Resource scarcity and competition (39 percent), together with climate-related displacement and forced migration (19 percent), appear as top challenges across all surveyed regions, followed by weak governance capacity, sustainable livelihoods and access to finance (16 percent).** But differences in priorities emerge when data is broken down by region.
5. **Youth showed an acutely greater concern for governance deficits than other groups, with 53 percent prioritizing weak governance and limited institutional capacity as a key challenge, compared to only 16 percent across other groups.** This likely stems from their marginalization in decision-making platforms, where climate and peace policies are shaped, which not only heightens their insecurity

but also creates a disconnect between policy priorities and lived realities. The inability of governance structures to respond to interconnected crises, combined with exclusionary nature of decision-making platforms, adds an additional layer of insecurity for youth and marginalized groups.

6. **More policymakers identify capacities as the most critical gap (81 percent) compared to financing (70 percent).** While recent efforts have focused on increasing financial flows, weak institutional and technical capacities continue to hinder effective policies and programming for climate, peace and security, particularly in FCACs. This underscores the importance of capacity development for unlocking finance, and delivering integrated policies and programming.
7. **Access to finance remains uneven. While only 17 percent reported having limited or no access to climate finance, FCACs make up nearly 60 percent of these cases.** Only 25 percent of the policymakers and experts reported accessing resources from International Financial Institutions (IFIs) or development banks, and less than one third of those are from FCACs. Further, co-financing and private sector engagement are recognized as critical, yet FCACs face challenges in tapping into these opportunities. There is a recognition that access to financing opportunities is often constrained by weak institutional and technical capacities, challenges that are particularly acute in FCACs, where institutions are least equipped to respond.
8. **Women's leadership plays a critical role in accelerating integrated approaches by fostering cross-sector collaboration and ensuring strategies reflect local realities.** During the survey, women policymakers and experts demonstrated greater engagement in collaboration (27 percent compared to 19 percent for men) and highlighted unique issues, such as violent extremism and violence against women, that were seldom addressed, and were mentioned exclusively by women policymakers, with no male experts highlighting either issue. These findings underscore the importance of strengthening women's participation and leadership, and leveraging their collaborative approach for holistic strategies and cross-sector coordination.



2

Background



Climate policy and finance are increasingly recognized as critical for sustaining peace. There has been an increase in interest in the contribution of climate policy and finance to sustaining peace, which has captured the interest of key stakeholders, including the COP27, COP28 and COP29 Presidencies, the UN Security Council, the World Bank, the Aswan Forum, the Stockholm Forum and Stockholm+50. UNDP's work, including with the CSM, 'Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: Making Climate Finance Work for Conflict-Affected and Fragile Contexts' and 'Re-envisioning Climate Change Adaptation Policy to Sustain Peace - A typology & Analysis of the NAPs' has endeavored to offer new insights on these issues. However, for a long time, there was no dedicated capacity development on this.

To address this critical gap, the Climate, Peace and Security Experts Academy was launched as a joint initiative of CCCPA, as the secretariat of the COP27 Presidency Initiative 'Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace', and UNDP, aiming to build the capacities of policymakers and practitioners on developing and implementing integrated solutions for climate, peace and security, and informing future multidisciplinary practice on climate policy and finance for peace.

From 2022 to 2024, the Academy has delivered seven training programmes for decision- and policymakers, climate negotiators, peace practitioners, experts and youth leaders from FCACs, working on climate and peacebuilding, and the financing of both. The Academy focuses on national and local-level actors who hold pivotal roles at the intersection of climate, peace and security, and who have the authority to shape national policy spaces but have not had prior training in this area. This targeted approach is designed to maximize impact by bridging the critical gap between global frameworks and national implementation, ensuring that those with influence are equipped to drive integrated solutions.

Each Academy combined core content on climate policy and financing for peace with thematic modules addressing specific needs. These include dedicated sessions for women and youth policymakers, a session focused on mitigation and regional iterations for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Central Asia. This tailored approach allows the curricula to address unique needs and challenges across diverse groups and contexts.

Furthermore, CCCPA's dedicated capacity-building programme, CRSP, has trained over 150 government officials across Africa. Building on the strong partnership between CCCPA and UNDP, the 'Climate Policy and Finance for Peace - Capacity Building Network' was soft launched at COP29. This network brings together alumni from both CCCPA's CRSP programme and the Academy, creating one of the largest capacity-building networks focused on climate policy and finance for peace.

2.1 Alumni profile

The Academy has engaged 245 policymakers, negotiators and experts from 86 countries, including those navigating FCACs. Many of the policymakers and experts, including youth leaders, had no prior exposures to or training in climate, peace and security issues, underscoring the Academy’s role in filling a critical knowledge gap.

Most of the policymakers and experts work in climate-related fields (47 percent), focusing on mitigation, adaptation, climate policy and finance. Around 25 percent specialize in conflict prevention, peacebuilding or peace and security, while 35 percent work in related fields such as sustainable development, governance issues, and gender and youth.

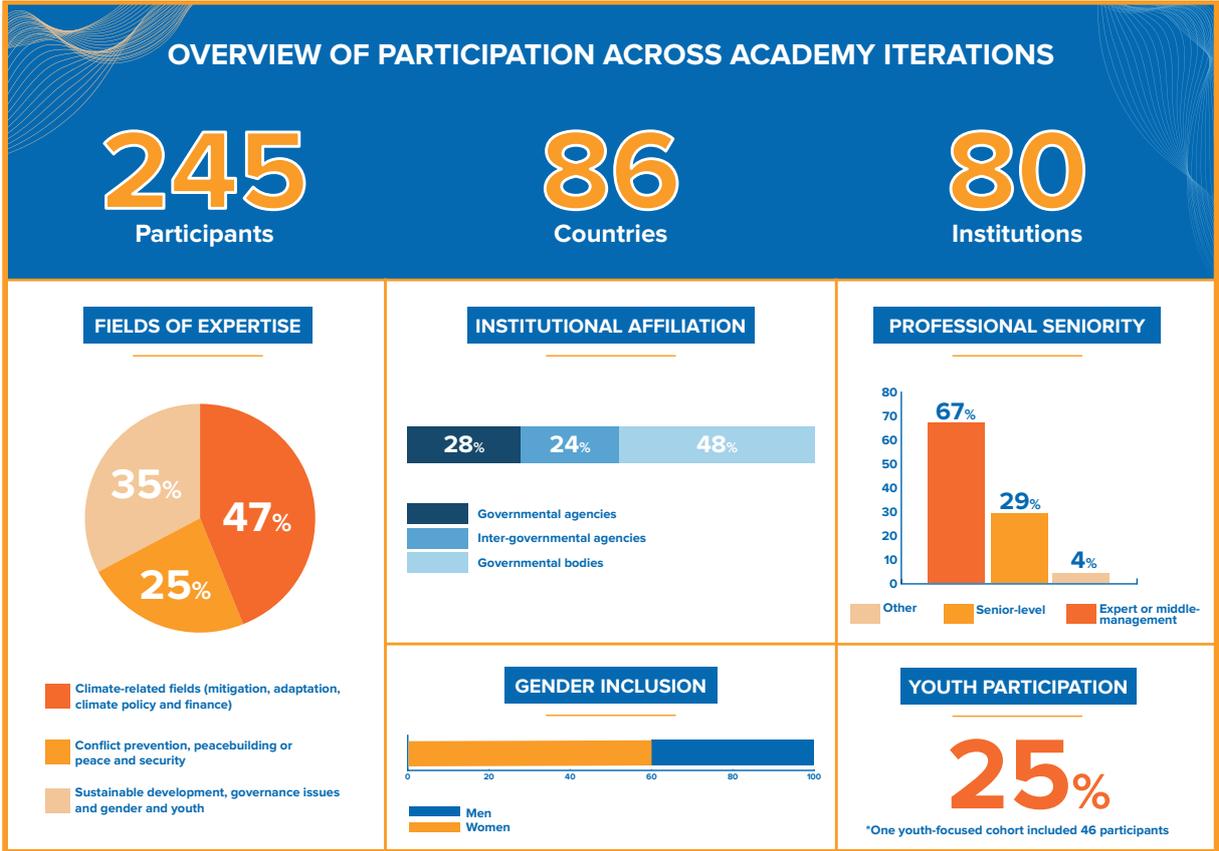


Figure 1: Breakdown of climate and peace policymakers and other experts

The policymakers and experts represent 80 institutions, with majority coming from governmental bodies (52 percent), including national governmental agencies (28 percent) and inter-governmental agencies (24 percent). Their roles span key ministries such as Environment, Climate Change, Water, Natural Resources as well as Planning, Peacebuilding and Foreign Affairs.

The alumni reflect a wide range of professional backgrounds and experience. A majority hold expert or middle-management positions (67 percent), while 29 percent are senior-level professionals, demonstrating the Academy’s ability to engage high-level actors.

Gender and youth inclusion have been central to the Academy’s approach. Efforts were made to ensure representation of women, recognizing that gender perspectives remain under-addressed in climate, peace and security. The participation of women grew steadily across iterations, cumulatively accounting for 60 percent of all participants, including one iteration dedicated entirely to women. Youth experts make up 25 percent of participants, with one youth focused cohort brought together 46 young professionals and policymakers working on youth, peace and security-related issues.

2.2 Objective and methodology of the assessment

The capacity gap assessment aimed to identify the key challenges and needs of policymakers, negotiators, experts and youth leaders working on climate, peace and security in FCACs. Its findings provide evidence-based insights to guide future national and local capacity-building efforts and strengthen integration of climate, peace and security considerations into climate policies and financing.

The assessment draws on unique survey responses from 171 Academy participants across the seven iterations (70 percent of all participants), including 104 women as well as 46 young professionals and policymakers working on youth-related issues. They represent 83 countries and regions, with strong representation from the Global South including Africa (35 percent), the Arab States (19 percent), and Asia and the Pacific (14 percent). The survey includes perspectives of UN colleagues that account for 51 percent of responses.

A core set of five questions was included in every survey, with two additional questions added after the second iteration and two tailored questions for the youth iteration¹. Surveys combined a mix of multiple- and single-choice as well as open-ended questions (see Annex 1, Survey questions).

One limitation is, in some instances, the partial inconsistency or, in others, the incompleteness of survey responses. However, the goal was not methodological perfection, but to extrapolate relevant insights and identify key entry points from the data, highlighting practical takeaways for future climate policy and finance for peace initiatives.

The participants also contributed case studies that are featured in the publication [‘From crisis to resilience: Climate solutions for positive peacebuilding’](#), a compendium showcasing practical, country-led experiences and insights into addressing climate, peace and security challenges. The publication highlights how climate action can be designed and implemented in conflict-sensitive ways to promote peace and stability in FCACs².

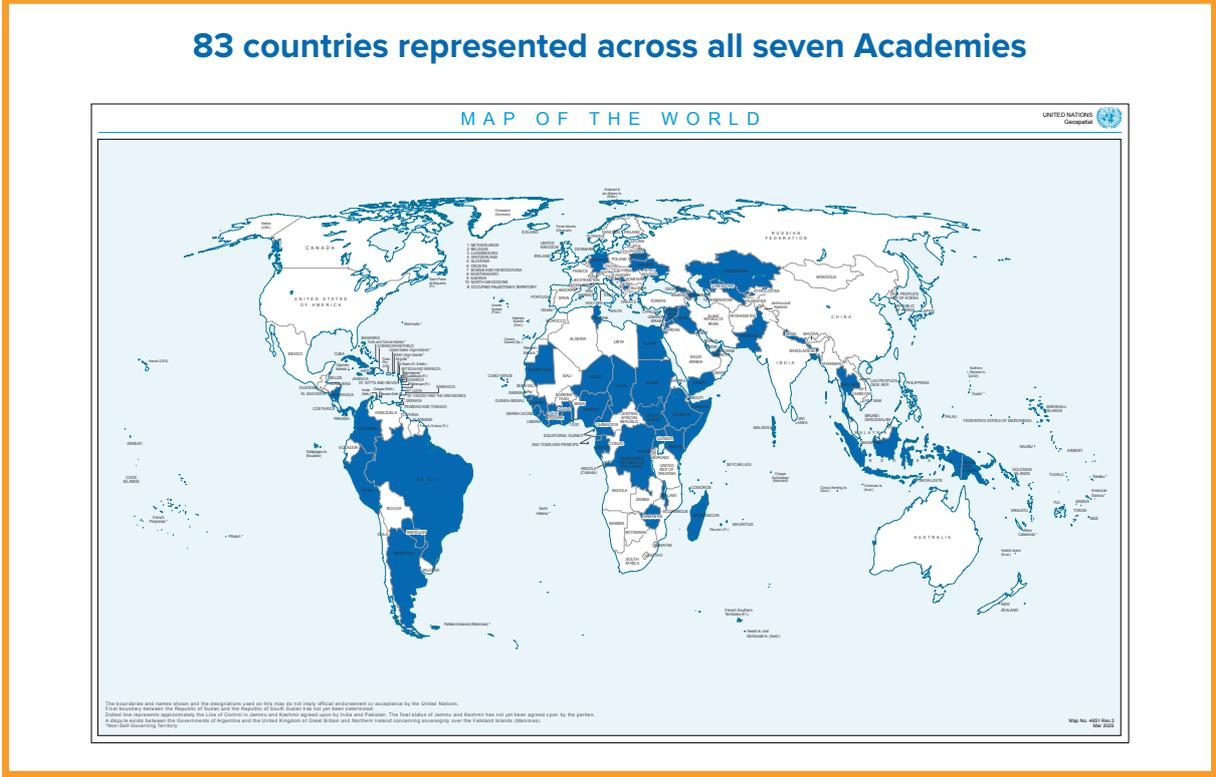


Figure 2: Countries and territories represented across the seven Academies. Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

¹ Youth iteration questions: 1) Do you primarily consider yourself: a) Young professional or b) Youth advocate (i.e. in a role working with youth and/or directly supporting youth empowerment)?; and 2) How do young people come into this intersection of climate, peace and security?

² UNDP (2025), From crisis to resilience: Climate solutions for positive peacebuilding. A compendium of case studies on addressing climate, peace and security.



3

Global trends on climate, peace and security challenges

The policymakers and experts recognize the complexity of the interlinkages between climate change, and peace and security, with growing awareness of how these pressures intersect with social inequalities that have whole-of-society implications. Many emphasize how climate, peace and security impacts interact with existing vulnerabilities and fuel tensions, especially among the most marginalized (37 percent). These impacts do not remain isolated but deepen inequality and weaken resilience, hindering people's ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change. For example, climate change-related stressors can create conditions conducive to negative coping mechanisms. Loss of livelihoods, when combined with poor economic prospects, can push individuals to join violent extremist groups or engage in criminal activities. Environmental pressures that intensify competition can contribute to civil unrest, ethnic tensions and even radicalization where populations are already vulnerable.



The impacts of climate change, and crime and violence, pose a huge threat to the world's most vulnerable populations, creating a vicious cycle where insecurity undermines the ability to respond to environmental challenges, and environmental degradation fuels further instability.



Policymaker, Nairobi, 2024



The assessment identifies a set of priorities that reflect the most pressing challenges. Resource scarcity and competition emerged as the most significant challenge across all regions, followed by displacement and migration. Beyond these immediate pressures, a cluster of challenges ranked as the third most urgent globally, namely, weak governance and limited capacity, lack of integrated policies and access to finance, and livelihood insecurity.

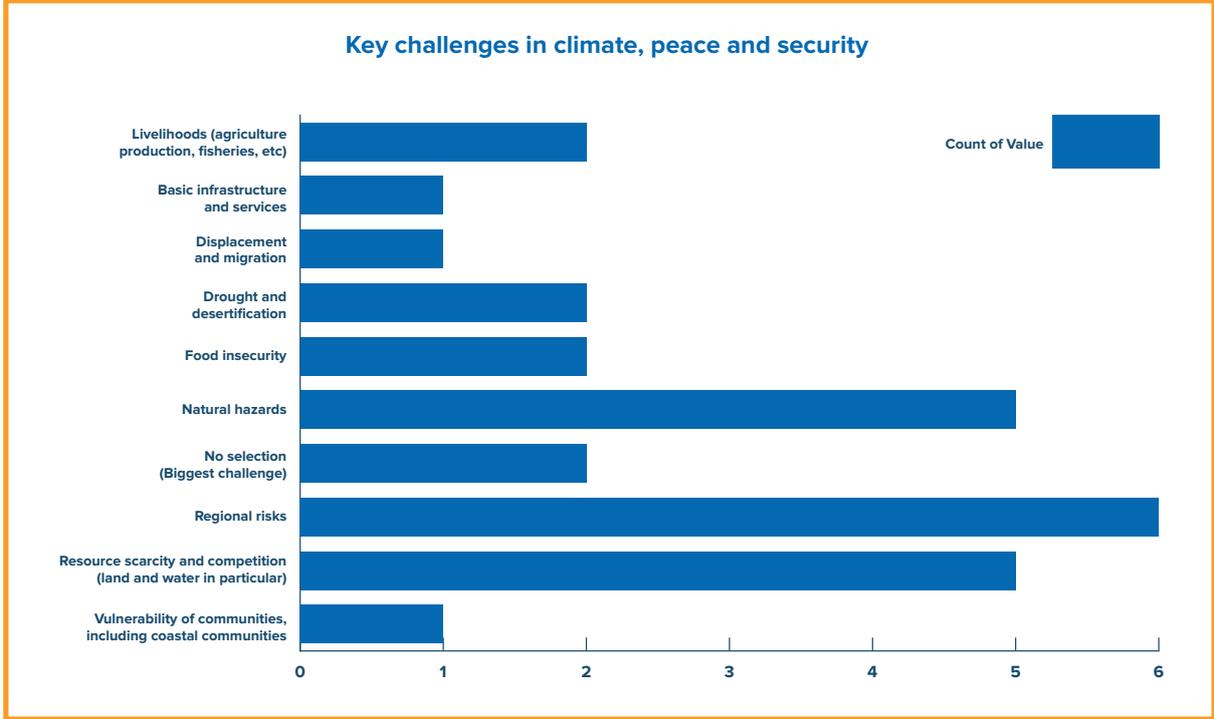


Figure 3: Key challenges in climate, peace and security

Resource scarcity and competition is the most pressing challenge across all regions, cited by 39 percent of the policymakers and experts. It is described as a direct result of environmental degradation and climate-related disasters, such as droughts and deforestation, compounded by over-reliance on climate-sensitive sectors, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, and poor governance.

“
The key drivers of conflict, insecurity and poor progress on social development are primarily attributed to a range of ecological and climatic factors that include over-reliance on climate-vulnerable productive sectors, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, environmental degradation, and poor governance of water and natural resources at all levels.”

Policymaker, Panama, 2023

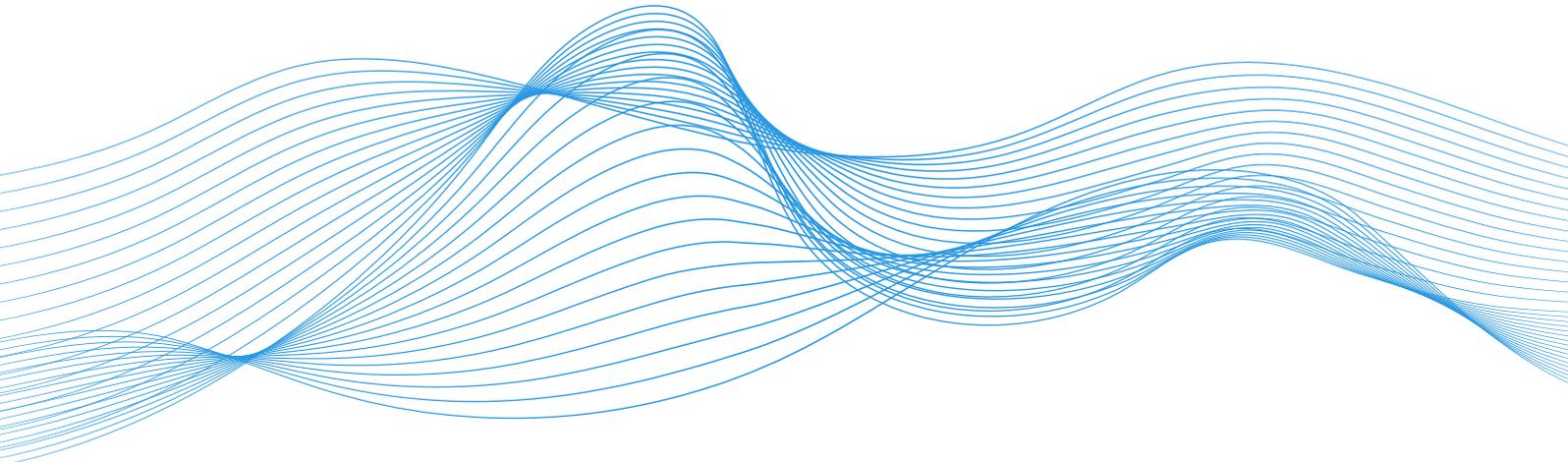
Displacement and migration rank second, cited by 19 percent of the policymakers and experts. Both sudden-onset climate disasters such as floods and droughts, and slow-onset changes like rising temperatures and melting glaciers, are forcing people to move, often uprooting vulnerable communities. The policymakers and experts emphasized the scale of this issue is unprecedented, highlighting that “*Climate displacement can no longer be seen as merely a humanitarian issue but must be understood as a broader development, peace, and security challenge.*” Rural-to-urban movements, increasingly described as being driven by climate change, can place pressure on resources, infrastructure and social services, increasing the likelihood of localized tensions. In some regions, this dynamic is associated with political polarization, as migration becomes a point of political debate.

Renewable energy transition and its associated security risks featured in only 11 percent of open-ended responses, suggesting limited awareness of the implications of energy transition for peace and stability. Those who raised this issue stress that the transition is a necessity for both national and human security, specifically noting that heavy reliance on water resources for energy production poses additional risks, especially in the context of increasing water scarcity. “*The risk is energy poverty and lack of sustainable clean energy for 90 percent of people, which will turn into a catastrophe in the context of the failure of the energy transition...*”



The greatest challenge lies between socio-economic conflicts, weak governance, and poor institutional capacities to plan, implement and monitor climate action, widespread impunity and corruption, social conflicts over natural resources as well as high inequalities and poor human development... there is little knowledge about climate, peace and security approaches, and even less a vision of how it affect us. ”

Policymaker, Panama, 2023



3.1 Regional realities and generational perspectives

While resource scarcity and competition emerge as a top concern across all regions, regional priorities vary. In the Arab States, resource scarcity is the dominant challenge, cited by 55 percent of the policymakers and experts, far ahead of displacement and migration at 21 percent. Similarly, Africa ranks resource scarcity and competition first at 41 percent, though displacement and migration followed relatively closely at 27 percent.

Europe presents a more balanced picture between these challenges, with resource scarcity and competition at 35 percent, lack of capacities, policies and access to finance at 31 percent, and displacement and migration at 26 percent.

Asia and the Pacific prioritize weak governance and limited capacity at 30 percent, followed by lack of implementation and coordination at 22 percent. The policymakers and experts from the region emphasized the urgent need for climate change education and training for government officials in risk management and mitigation.



The biggest challenge I see... is the urgent need for climate change education and awareness, training of government officers on climate change, risks management and mitigation skills, and supporting affected communities, as well as those most likely to be affected, to be prepared to combat climate change impacts on peace and security.

Policymaker, Istanbul, 2023

Central Asia presents a distinct set of priorities. Regional risks are cited by 60 percent of the policymakers and experts, and disasters rank as the second major concern at 50 percent, a challenge unique to the region. *“A long series of disasters has severely weakened people’s ability to manage and recover ... as a result, previously existing tensions and instability have been exacerbated.”*

Latin America and the Caribbean is the only region to prioritize the challenge of sustainable livelihoods, with 33 percent of the policymakers and experts emphasizing these issues. They also uniquely highlighted challenges of corruption and impunity, as well as the environmental and human rights challenges posed by the exploitation of critical mineral resources like lithium.



I think that the greatest challenge in my province is exploiting existing natural resources such as lithium mines while respecting the environment and the human rights of the people who live in these territories.

Policymaker, New York, 2024

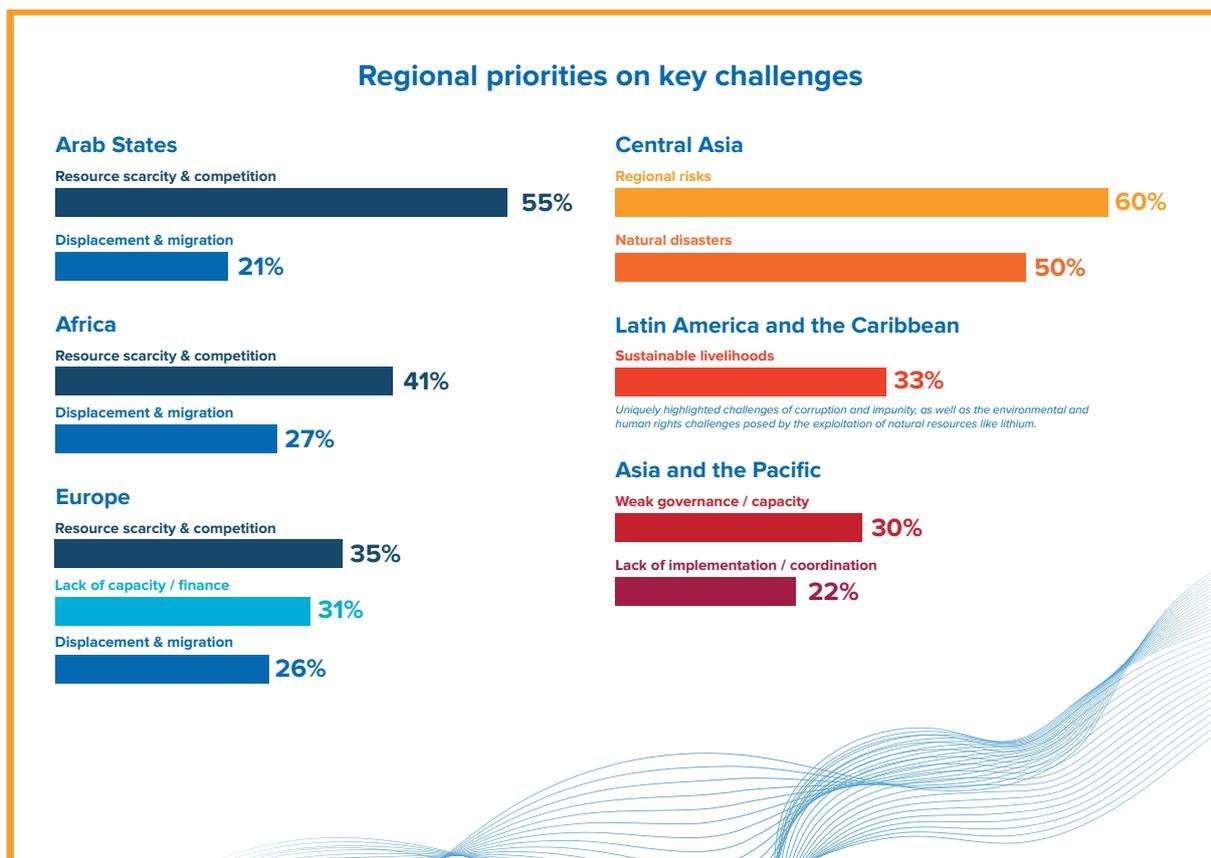


Figure 4: Regional priorities on key challenges

Gender and age perspectives add nuance. Both men and women agree on resource scarcity and competition and displacement and migration as top concerns, but male experts placed a greater emphasis on the vulnerability of communities (17 percent compared to 4 percent women), and uniquely highlighted a lack of awareness and youth engagement as challenges. Female policymakers, on the other hand, were the ones to highlight extremism and violence against women, although very few made these links overall.



As climate change drives conflict... there are increased vulnerabilities to all forms of violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, human trafficking, child marriage, and other forms of violence.

Policymaker, Cairo, 2023

Youth at the intersection: marginalization and governance gaps undermine climate and peace action

The youth cohort brought forth a distinct perspective, highlighting weak governance and limited capacity as their most pressing concern, identified by 53 percent of the participants, compared to only 16 percent across other iterations. This contrast underscores how governance deficit resonates more acutely with young people. Marginalization from decision-making spaces, where climate and peace policies are shaped, not only heightens insecurity for youth groups but also creates disconnect between policy priorities and lived realities. Inadequate government actions and failure to address growing climate-related threats to peace and security deepen mistrust and could potentially lead to “*people’s resistance to state security and institutions.*” Some youth leaders also emphasized the link between economic crises and climate-induced disasters, a connection that other cohorts didn’t raise to the same extent.

Community engagement stood out as the most significant area of impact, mentioned by over half of the youth cohort (55 percent). Young people play a key role in leading grassroots initiatives, leveraging their demographic size and tech-savvy skills to build resilience and mobilize peers. As one youth leader put it, youth “*often mobilize communities, raise awareness about climate issues, and push for policies... helping to mitigate conflicts arising from resource scarcity.*” When given accessible platforms and meaningful opportunities, youth can link local action to global impact.

At the same time, youth also recognize their dual vulnerability. Nearly half (48 percent), emphasized their exposure to climate-related security risks that impact livelihoods, education and health, limiting opportunities for personal and professional growth. Yet, for young people, vulnerability is not only a limitation, but it can also drive resilience. Many see themselves equipped to respond, bringing sustainability and innovation as key strengths. About 24 percent of the cohort identified these qualities as their core assets.

A large majority of the youth cohort (72 percent) stressed the need for capacity-building, noting that resilience depends on investing in youth’s potential. They called for targeted efforts to build technical and leadership skills, along with meaningful participation in decision-making processes.



The biggest challenge in terms of climate, peace and security is, above all, the vulnerability of young people who are unable to take matters into their own hands to reduce these climatic inequalities because they lack capacity-building in climate governance. By empowering youth to participate in climate initiatives and peacebuilding efforts, we can harness their energy and creativity to drive meaningful change. ”

Young policymaker, Nairobi, 2024



4

Aligning finance and policies for peace-positive climate action

4.1 Unequal access and co-financing gaps in fragile contexts

Most of the policymakers and experts report some access to funding, but disparities exist between regions and sectors. While only 17 percent reported limited or no access to funding, more than half of these cases are in FCACs. This aligns with global data showing that FCACs receive disproportionately low climate finance.³

Access also varies by sector. Climate sector generally fares better, while 85 percent of those with no access come from peacebuilding field. However, peace practitioners tap into a wider range of funding sources, such as development partners, IFIs, Development Banks and the UN (PBF). In contrast, climate experts rely more on vertical climate funds⁴. Notably, humanitarian funding sources were not mentioned by the policymakers and experts.

Only 25 percent report accessing resources from IFIs or Development Banks. Less than one-third of these are from FCACs, indicating difficulties these countries face in tapping into these financing opportunities.

Overall, vertical climate funds dominate at 47 percent, followed by IFIs and Development Banks at 25 percent, development partners and the European Union (EU) at 23 percent, and UN PBF and other funds at 17 percent. These patterns are consistent across regions and cohorts, including the youth cohort, who reported only slightly higher rates of limited or no access.

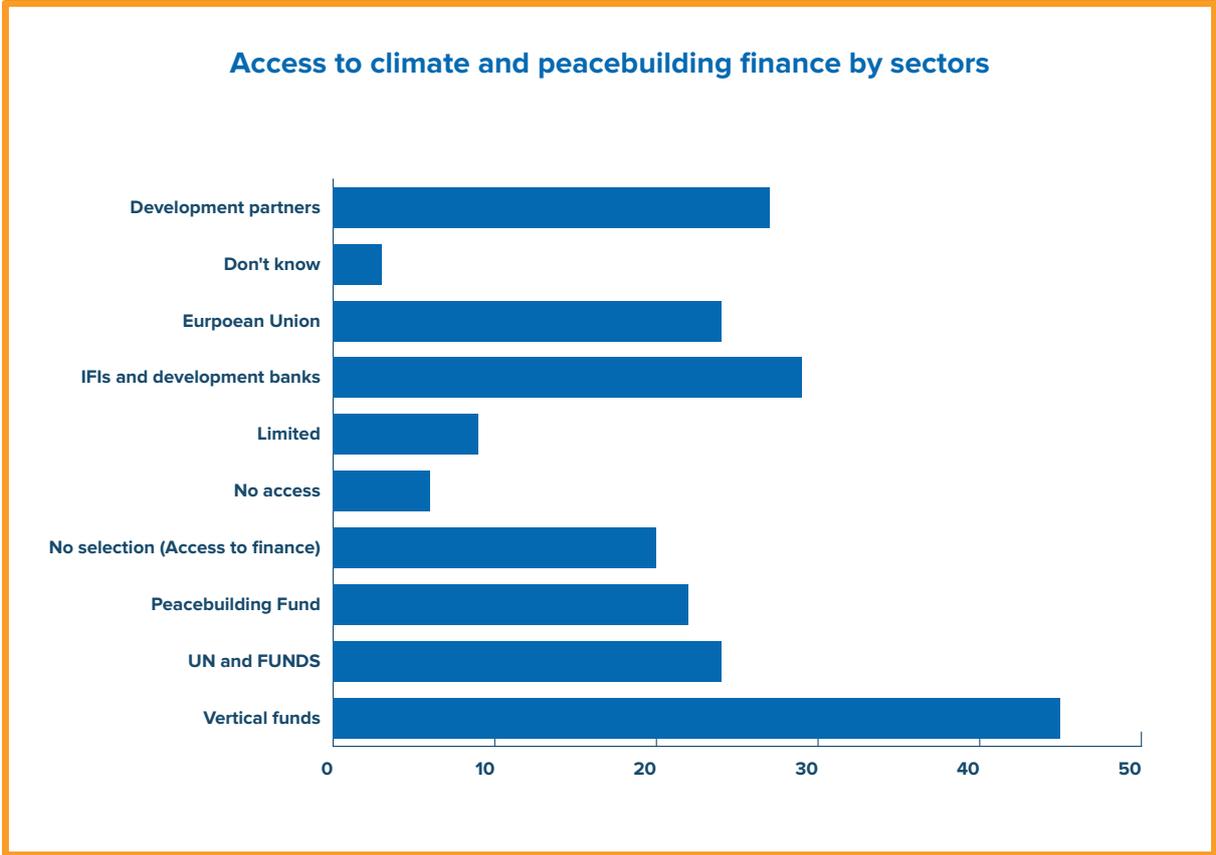


Figure 5: Access to climate and peacebuilding finance by sectors

³ A UNDP study of climate vertical funds across 146 countries revealed that only one country in the top 15 percent recipients was ranked as extremely fragile. Similarly, between 2014 and 2021, only two FCAC, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Haiti, ranked in the overall top 20 recipients of financing from global climate change assistance. UNDP (2021), *Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace*.

⁴ Vertical funds are here referred to as those financing mechanisms dedicated to climate action, namely Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Global Environmental Facility and Climate Investment Funds.

Co-financing and private sector engagement are widely recognized as critical, yet an implementation gap exists. Emerging practices shared by the policymakers and experts demonstrate efforts to broaden the financing landscape. Some countries are beginning to establish national mechanisms and dedicated funds for climate, peace and security initiatives. These steps are supported by structural reforms such as inter-ministerial coordination, and dedicated creation of climate finance divisions to integrate climate commitments into national budgets that support co-financing options.

Responses also highlight strategies to attract private investments. One innovation mentioned is a ‘Green Fund levy’ of 0.3 percent on companies’ gross income to fund climate projects.



A Green Fund levy of 0.3% of a company’s gross income which is then deposited into the Green Fund. This fund is then used for projects by public sector, private sector and NGOs to carry out projects and initiatives surrounding the issue of climate.

Policymaker, Nairobi, 2024

Limited institutional and technical capacity in project design, resource mobilization and fund governance were the most cited challenges to accessing finance. Many governments have limited expertise to develop bankable projects, and meet reporting and fiduciary requirements. Across many contexts, this has led to reliance on the UN support for accessing funds, creating a cycle of dependence. The policymakers and experts stress that while the UN support helps governments to navigate complex funding processes, strong national capacity and systems are essential.

The policymakers and experts also pointed to inadequate evidence to justify funding for climate, peace and security initiatives. This is compounded by the absence of reliable financial data on private sector contributions that would support co-financing proposals.



Regarding the climate finance, the country has limited access due to the lack expertise and availability. The difficulties are also related to mobilizing co-financing and the limited participation of private sector.

Policymaker, Cairo, 2024

Current funding mechanisms need to better cater to rapidly changing and fragile contexts. The policymakers and experts noted that rigorous accreditation process and short-term funding cycles limit timely and flexible responses. They emphasized that sustained, long-term investments are essential for climate and peace outcomes.

National challenges add to this. Political instability and security risks deter investments and often create bottlenecks in FCACs, where state institutions are weak or have limited legitimacy. Fragmentation of the climate portfolio within ministries further complicates coordination and the development of integrated financing proposals.



Insights from ‘Climate Programming for Sustaining Peace’: weak understanding of climate and security considerations continues to undermine effective responses

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, many provinces face severe deforestation, driven by slash-and-burn agriculture, uncontrolled logging, artisanal mining, and energy needs. These pressures are compounded by rapid population growth and intercommunal conflicts over land and resources, fueling disputes, and undermining peace and social cohesion.

Despite these realities, national policymakers and experts highlight several gaps. There is limited recognition of climate and security interlinkages at the national policy level. They also note that collaboration between climate and peace actors remains weak. Both challenges stem from insufficient understanding of their interconnections. As a result, climate issues are often treated as environmental concerns, while security actors focus on violence, leaving responses siloed and reactive.

Source: ‘Climate programming for sustaining peace’ a multidisciplinary capacity-building training by CCCPA, 2024.

4.2 Siloed policy approaches despite interlinked risks

Over 50 percent of the policymakers and experts are engaged in development strategies and climate frameworks, such as NAPs and NDCs. Reflecting this trend, an initial analysis shows a growing recognition of the links between climate-related peace and security risks within the third round of NDCs. An increasing number of NDCs position climate, peace and security as a central organizing principle, signaling a gradual effort to integrate peace and security perspectives into climate policy⁵.

In comparison, about a third engage in peace-related policy processes. Around 35 percent of the policymakers and experts are involved in National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) or Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas, while 26 percent engage in broader peace and security processes. Engagement with Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) is even lower, with only 25 percent involved, reflecting that mitigation and energy transition are not seen as high priorities.

Clear differences emerge across fields. As expected, climate policymakers engage more with climate-specific processes (59 percent) than with development policies (43 percent). In contrast, peace and governance experts prioritize development policies (60 percent) over climate ones (43 percent). Stabilization plans and peace processes are almost exclusively engaged by peace practitioners. Limited cross-sector engagement highlights a siloed approach and coordination gap between sectors that hampers integrated policy solutions.

⁵ UNDP Analysis (2025), publication upcoming

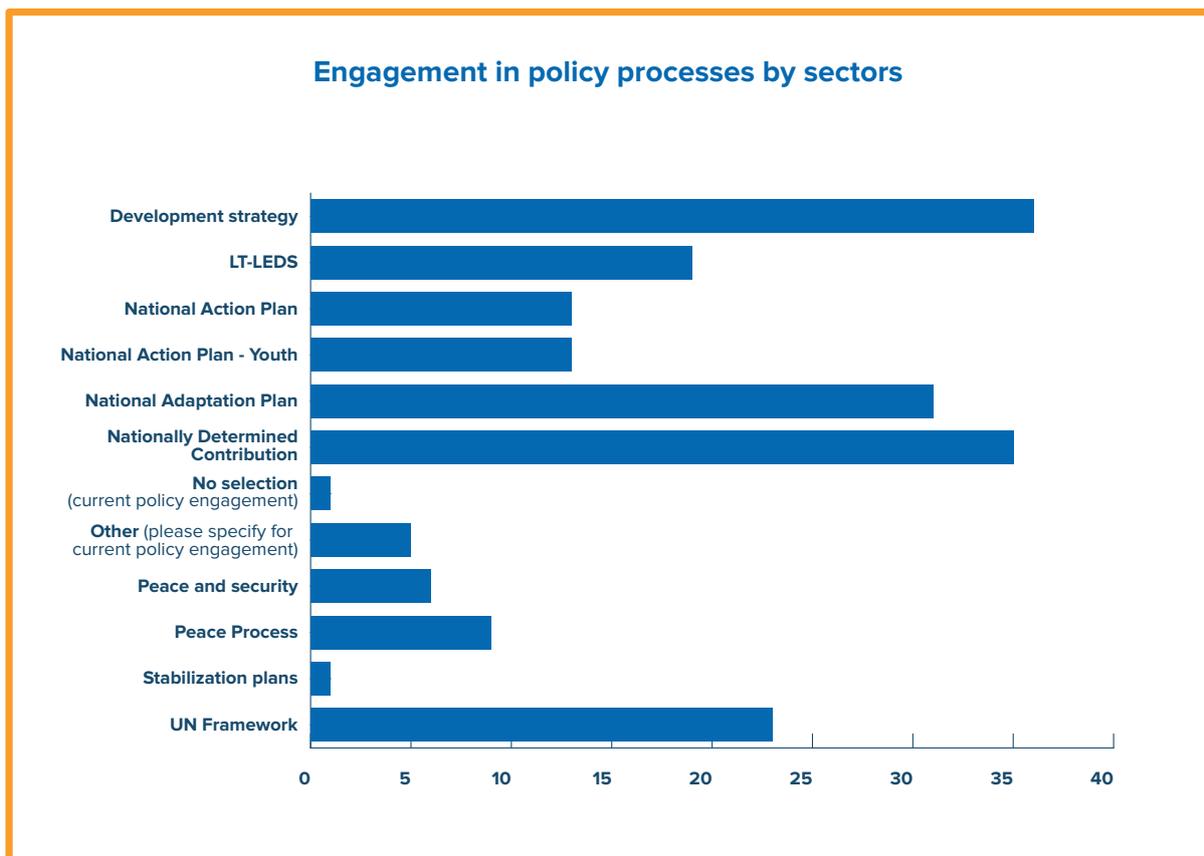


Figure 6: Engagement in policy processes by sectors

A significant majority of the policymakers and experts (70 percent) emphasize the need to integrate climate, peace and security into climate frameworks and broader development agendas. A key barrier across the regions is a limited understanding of climate, peace and security interlinkages and technical capacities. These translates into weak political prioritization and insufficient action.



The lack of clear understanding (conscious or sub-conscious) of the impacts of climate change on peace and security could be, in part, because there is a lack of data to support this nexus. The second issue is the notion that peace is bound to the absence of war or political turmoil.



Policymaker, New York, 2022

This is compounded by scarce data and evidence, which undermines effective priority-setting for policies. Without an evidence-based, shared vision of how climate, peace and security intersect at local and regional levels, opportunities for integrated climate adaptation, governance and peacebuilding policies and programming are missed.

Another concern is the risk of non-inclusive climate policies, that can unintentionally do harm when diverse needs and local realities are not taken into account. Without credible evidence and community input, policies often fail to reflect on-the-ground power dynamics. The youth cohort especially highlighted this and stressed that empowerment is key to ensuring participation of marginalized groups and making policy frameworks more holistic and inclusive.



While there is acknowledgment of climate-related security risks, the discourse has yet to evolve beyond causality. Integrated action is essential, necessitating strengthened institutional and policy frameworks, improved governance informed by better data, and enhanced capacities of stakeholders ”

Policy maker, New York, 2023



5

Building technical capacities and partnerships to deliver climate, peace and security

5.1 Coordination gaps stall integrated action

The findings reveal significant coordination gaps between climate and peace practitioners. Less than one-third (27 percent) of policymakers and experts across both fields regularly work together. A higher percentage (39 percent) reported knowing colleagues from the other field. This low level of collaboration persists despite recognition of the challenges posed by siloed approaches and calls for strengthening coordination between the sectors.

Gender differences also emerged. Men were more likely to report knowing colleagues from other fields (44 percent compared to 35 percent women), while women were more likely to report regular collaboration (27 percent compared to 19 percent men). While these differences may depend on several factors, the patterns suggest that enhancing women's leadership could foster more integrated and collaborative approaches. Investing in women's leadership is not only a matter of equity but could also bridge the gap between sectors, and advance integrated climate and peace agendas.

The policymakers and experts recognize the coordination gap, as reflected in the strong prioritization of networking by 60 percent of participants. The challenge is particularly evident in the policy sphere, where the assessment reveals limited collaboration across policy processes and weak alignment between climate and peace agendas.



Potential initiatives can include the creation of platforms for dialogue and collaboration between participants to broaden the network of experts for future exchange and research and locally implemented educational programs to raise awareness about the interconnections between climate change, peace and security. ”

Policymaker, Istanbul, 2023

5.2 Weak capacities undermine progress

Capacity strengthening emerges as the most urgent gap, with 80 percent identifying it as a priority. Although respondents were not required to choose between one or the other, it was the single most selected response, ahead of finance mobilization and policy development, each selected by 70 percent. Women, in particular, placed emphasis on capacity-building (84 percent compared to 74 percent men). Science-based evidence and advocacy also featured prominently, with 60 percent selecting them as key gaps.

The emphasis on capacities underscores a critical understanding: climate, peace and security is an emerging agenda where institutional and technical capacities are limited, especially at the national level. Capacity-building forms the cornerstone of integrated approaches, enabling governments and practitioners to interpret data, anticipate risks, and implement evidence-based strategies that connect climate action with peace and security objectives.



The challenge is the lack of capacities of national authorities for anticipatory and risk informed decision-making and policy-formulation that would draw on data (existing, new and alternative), articulate risks, allow to anticipate crises and their impacts and guarantee timely and effectively response to shocks that disproportionately effect the vulnerable population.

Policymaker, Cairo, 2023

The policymakers and experts emphasize several key priorities for capacity-building. Most prominent is the integration of security into climate action, cited by 33 percent and even more strongly by the youth cohort at 70 percent. Strategy development and project formulation are also critical priorities, each at 19 percent, with women participants ranking strategy development as their top priority at 22 percent. Other capacity-building priorities included community-driven resilience and adaptation at 14 percent, and knowledge generation at 13 percent. Youth placed particular emphasis on community-driven resilience and adaptation at 40 percent, and youth empowerment and leadership at 33 percent.

Globally, priorities showed broad alignment, though some regional differences emerged. In the Arab States, finance mobilization is the top priority at 82 percent, closely followed by capacity-building, and policy development, both at 79 percent. In Central Asia, knowledge sharing is prioritized at 76 percent, reflecting the region's focus on transboundary challenges. In Asia and the Pacific, science-based advocacy and evidence stand out as key priorities at 65 percent, underscoring governance as the region's primary climate, peace and security challenge.

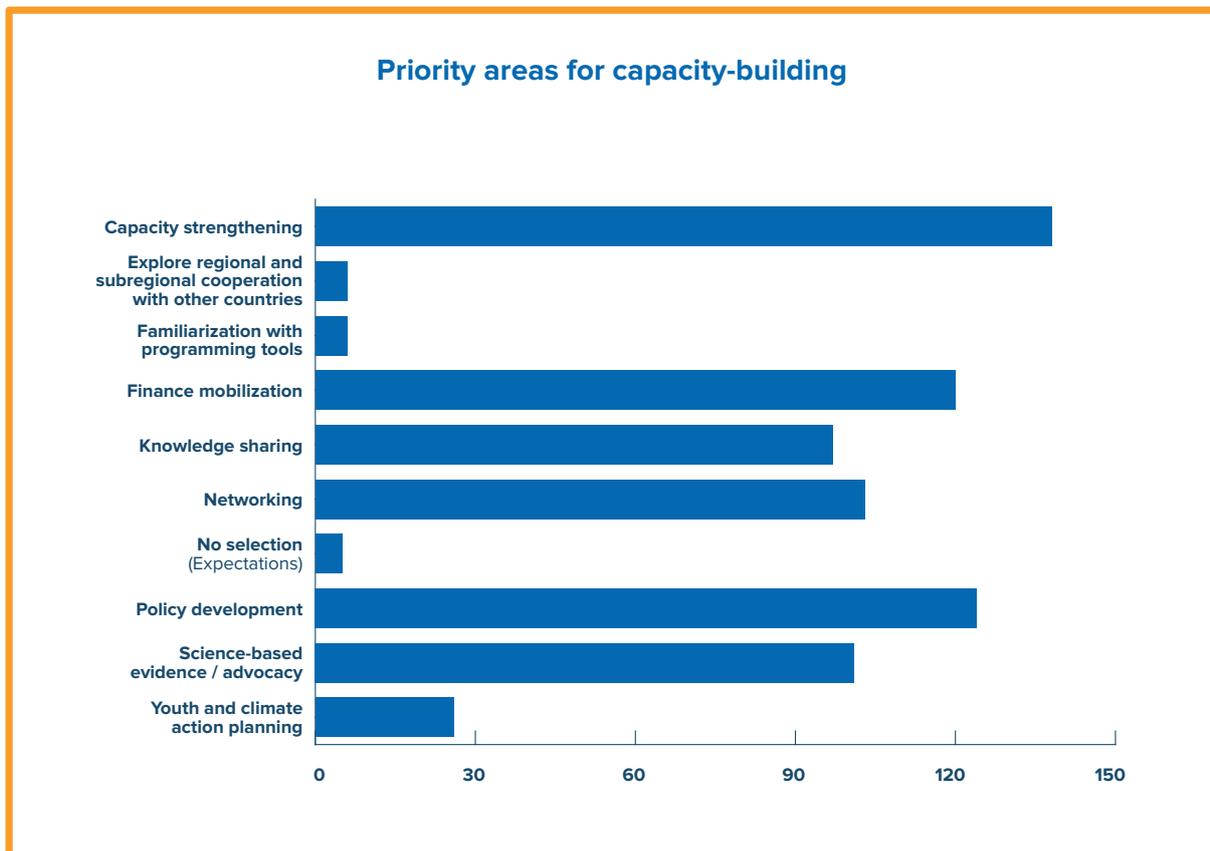


Figure 7: Priority areas for capacity-building



6

Turning assessment insights into recommendations for future capacity-building

Drawing on the first-hand insights into policy, financing and programming gaps, the assessment identifies key priorities for future capacity-building initiatives to strengthen national capacities for integrating climate policies and financing for peace. These recommendations provide a direction for partners and governments to drive the climate, peace and security agenda forward.

I. Multi-disciplinary training to address gaps in coordination

Current gaps in coordination among climate, peace and governance practitioners remain a major barrier. Future programmes should prioritize multidisciplinary training that brings together policymakers and experts from different fields, building a shared understanding and practical skills for joint action. These trainings should go beyond technical knowledge, focusing on scenario-based exercises that simulate real-world scenarios and equip policymakers and experts with cross-sectoral competencies. Multidisciplinary capacity-building programmes can improve policy integration, reduce duplication and strengthen responses to interconnected risks. These efforts should actively involve regional organizations enabling policymakers and experts to address cross-border climate and security linkages through closer coordination, joint planning and shared resources.

II. Dedicated training on climate policies and financing for national, sub-national and local actors

National and local capacities to link climate, peace and security remain limited, particularly in designing integrated policies that enable access to finance. Many governments rely on the UN expertise, creating gaps at the national level. While short-term and postgraduate courses exist, they fall short of meeting the growing demand for specialized knowledge that goes beyond climate, peace and security to target climate policies and financing. Dedicated technical training on climate policy and financing is therefore essential to equip actors at national, sub-national and local levels in policy design, financing mechanisms and resource mobilization to ensure effective implementation and long-term sustainability. This should include engaging actors beyond the climate and peace fields to enhance understanding across diverse stakeholders, such as private sector actors working on energy transition and humanitarian organizations providing immediate disaster relief. Building a cross-sectorial understanding can foster innovative partnerships and unlock financing opportunities.

III. Institutionalization of climate, peace and security within national policies and systems

Institutional capacity remains a critical gap. Despite high prioritization, limited institutional capacity and siloed structures continue to hinder policy coherence and access to financing. Embedding climate, peace and

security into national systems through clear mandates and dedicated budgets is vital. This requires systemic training for government officials in climate change awareness, security risk management and co-benefits of climate and peace as well as integrated strategies to support resilience to climate-related security risks. These trainings should go beyond just one-off events and not be limited to those working exclusively on climate, peace and security issues to build sustained capacity across institutions.

IV. Capacity building for resilient strategies to navigate risks and uncertainties

A major gap lies in the ability to develop adaptive strategies. Climate shocks and security demand adaptive planning, yet current capacities rely too often on rigid models that leave institutions unable to respond effectively, creating additional layers of insecurity. Capacity-building efforts should equip national and regional policymakers and experts with skills to design flexible strategies that incorporate scenario planning, risk analysis and contingency measures, while leveraging scientific tools, artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies to strengthen decision-making. Expanding thematic priorities to include, for example, mitigation impacts, biodiversity loss and links to health and urban fragility will ensure strategies are context-specific and aligned with national priorities. Efforts must also consider both regionalization and localization to ensure that frameworks operationalized through programming that reflect local realities and regional priorities, creating coherent responses that connect policy and practices across scales.

V. Training for adaptive programme design and financing frameworks

A recurring barrier is the limited capacity to design bankable projects that attract funding. The policymakers and experts emphasize the need for specialized training in project formulation, implementation and monitoring to meet donor requirements and secure investments. Future capacity-building programmes should provide practical skills in proposal development, resource mobilization and strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems to generate evidence for advocacy and continuous learning. At the same time, donor frameworks must become more flexible to reflect the realities of FCACs. Greater flexibility, supported by robust data and evidence, is essential to ensure financing mechanisms align with local realities and enable projects to deliver sustainable impact.

VI. Building capacity for structural change and scaling up of women- and youth-led adaptation

Scaling community-driven resilience and adaptation efforts is another critical challenge. Women and youth lead local adaptation efforts, yet structural barriers prevent their integrated solutions from reaching broader impact. Future programmes should address these inequalities and create spaces to challenge approaches that limit women's and youth participation. Specialized training is also needed to strengthen women and youth capacities, give them the confidence to lead, and equipping them with knowledge and skills to advocate their priorities and engage in governance platforms. These efforts should be complemented by access to finance and leadership opportunities. The evidence shows that when women are intentionally included, they elevate overlooked issues and foster greater collaboration across sectors. Strengthening women and youth leadership can accelerate integrated approaches by promoting cross-sector coordination and ensuring that strategies reflect local realities.



ANNEXURE

Survey questions

Question #	Survey Question Long Name
Question #1	Academy location where the survey was completed
Question #2	ID
Question #3	Start time
Question #4	Completion time
Question #5	Last modified time
Question #6	Last name/Surname/Family name:
Question #7	First name
Question #8	Gender
Question #9	Email address:
Question #10	Organizational affiliation
Question #11	Professional title

Question #	Survey Question Long Name
Question #12	Country represented
Question #13	Phone number
Question #14	Departure country/city
Question #15	Current job level
Question #16	<p>Please include a short bio similar to the example below to be added to a booklet.</p> <p>Kindly adhere to the outlined structure below when composing and presenting your biography. This practice ensures...</p>
Question #17	<p>Would you identify as a young person? (The UNSCR 2250 describes youth as persons of the age of 18-29 old, but recognizes that the definition can vary in different national and international settin...</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Do you primarily consider yourself:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Young professional 2) Youth advocate (i.e in a role working with youth and/or directly supporting youth empowerment)? <p>Please note, in case of the latter, ...</p>
Question #18	Please briefly elaborate on your area of work
Question #19	How relevant is climate, peace and security nexus to your work and in your country/territory/region?
Question #20	If you work in peacebuilding/conflict prevention or on youth, do you know and regularly work together with your colleagues working in matters related to the climate change adaptation/mitigation an...
Question #21	Are you aware of your country's level of access to climate (or peacebuilding) finance? (ex Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), national budgeting, bilateral finance, GEF/GCF, International Financial Institu...

Question #	Survey Question Long Name
Question #22	Are you currently part of a policy process for climate, peace and/or security? Select as many as appropriate.
Question #23	What is your understanding of the interlinkages between climate, peace and security?
Question #24	In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge in your country/territory related to climate change, peace and security?
Question #25	How much do you know about climate, peace and security and how do you feel?
Question #26	What would you like to get out of this Academy?
Question #27	How do young people come into this intersection of climate, peace and security?
Question #28	What policies, projects and actions on Climate, Peace and Security do you plan to initiate as a result of your participation in the Academy?
Question #29	After the Academy, with which countries do you envision having a follow-up discussion on climate, peace and security work to collaborate with or exchange experiences/lessons learned?
Question #30	Is there a specific issue related to climate, peace and security which you would like us to deep dive?
Question #31	A requirement of the Academy is the provision of a case study on climate, peace and security and the empowerment/engagement/inclusion of youth to advance peer-to-peer learning. The case study sh...
Question #32	Please rate your level of familiarity with futures thinking and strategic foresight?
Question #33	How will the Academy benefit you?





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