



EUROPEAN CENTRE
OF EXCELLENCE
FOR CIVILIAN
CRISIS MANAGEMENT



Exploring progress at the intersection of Gender, Climate, Environment and Security

Online Event celebrating 25 years of UN
Security Council Resolution 1325 on
Women, Peace and Security

22 October 2025

About the CoE

The European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management (CoE), located in Berlin, is a member-based association founded in February 2020. Created following an invitation from the German Federal Foreign Office to all European Union (EU) Member States (MS), the CoE is a service provider, supporting its 25 current members (EU MS), and working together with the European External Action Service (EEAS), its Preferred Partner, to strengthen civilian crisis management capabilities within the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy.

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of key insights and points of discussion shared during *'Exploring progress at the intersection of Gender, Climate, Environment and Security,'* an online event celebrating 25 years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Hosted by the European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management and the Civilian Operations Headquarters (CivOpsHQ) of the European External Action Service, the event explored how gender and environmental considerations intersect in conflict contexts, and how civilian peace missions can better respond to these challenges.

Abbreviations

CivOpsHQ	Civilian Operations Headquarters
CoE	European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management
CPS	Climate, Peace and Security
CSDP	Common Security and Defence Policy
EEAS	European External Action Service
MCF	Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency
MS	Member State
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NUPI	Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
UN	United Nations
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WPS	Water, Peace and Security

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Introduction

2025 marked the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) — a landmark resolution recognising the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and the critical role they play in peacebuilding. As global challenges evolve, the intersection of gender, environmental degradation, and conflict has become increasingly evident.

In addition to relying on Resolution 1325 as its organising framework, the WPS agenda is grounded in nine other cross-cutting thematic resolutions of the UN Security Council. Resolution 2242, the eighth in line of this framework, situates the WPS agenda as a central component of global efforts to address specific challenges of gendered nature in the contexts of armed conflict, rising violent extremism, climate change, and displacement across borders.

Climate change and environmental stressors exacerbate resource scarcity, displacement, and social tensions, often fuelling conflict. These dynamics have gendered consequences, with women and girls, and other marginalised groups, facing heightened risks of violence, exclusion, and loss of livelihoods. As our understanding of how climate change and security are interrelated has grown, so too has the recognition that women and men are often differently impacted by climate change, and that gender inequality limits communities' abilities to adapt to climate change, be resilient to climate shocks, and slow environmental damage.

Integrating gender-sensitive and environmentally aware approaches into conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict recovery is essential for sustainable peace because climate change exacerbates gender inequality and conflict risks, while women's participation and empowerment enhance resilience and stability. These integrated approaches ensure that policies and programmes address the disproportionate impacts of environmental changes on women, address climate-related security risks, and leverage women's leadership for more inclusive and effective peacebuilding outcomes.

To celebrate 25 years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security the CoE and CivOpsHQ at the EEAS organised an event to explore how gender and environmental considerations intersect in conflict contexts and how civilian peace missions can better respond to these challenges.

Opening statements

Douglas Carpenter provided opening remarks as **Head of Division of CivOpsHQ.1, EEAS**.

Mr. Carpenter explained that civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions of the European Union provide support to host countries in areas such as Security Sector Reform (SSR), border management, and monitoring. Personnel may be uniformed or civilian, working on topics including human rights, gender, climate and environment. Missions are undergoing

changes, and mandates are expected to expand in the future. At present, the climate-gender-security nexus remains an important area of focus. The nexus is addressed through an integrated approach, using EU instruments such as financial tools and diplomatic engagement.

The WPS agenda is a core principle of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy and continues to receive high-level support. In civilian operations, the 2023 Civilian CSDP Compact sets objectives for the EEAS. CivOpsHQ oversees human rights management, including obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs), promoting women's participation (target: 40%) and gender parity, as well as engagement with civil society. Mr. Carpenter highlighted the need to support accountability structures that remain after missions conclude, with women expected to play a significant role.

Johanna Sumuvuori, Director of the CoE, provided additional opening remarks.

Ms. Sumuvuori presented an overview of the CoE: the Centre was established in 2020 by the Federal Foreign Office of the German government, which invited other EU Member States to join. The CoE works closely with the EEAS and regards NATO as a Preferred Partner. The CoE's mandate focuses on strengthening capability development at MS level, in line with the 2023 Civilian CSDP Compact, and aims to facilitate exchanges with all relevant stakeholders, emphasising the need for strategic communications for civilian CSDP.

The CoE Director underscored the importance of WPS, citing backlash against gender-related initiatives and the need for joint efforts to address this challenge. Ms. Sumuvuori emphasised that violent uprisings and conflicts disproportionately affect women. Further, the impact of climate change on the security-gender nexus adds complexity, requiring joint efforts and close cooperation between advisors and actors on the ground. Political will to address this complex nexus exists in MS, and the CoE, together with the EEAS, seeks to translate this into concrete action. Finally, the CoE Director stressed the importance of MS including this topic in pre-deployment training to ensure advisors are aware of these intersections.

Keynote Address

Laura Birkman, Director of the Climate, Water and Food Security Programme at the Hague Centre of Strategic Studies, delivered the keynote address "Women, Water, and Peace: Integrating Pathways for Sustainable Security".

She started by saying that water can be a source of tension, but when managed inclusively, it fosters dialogue, trust, and cooperation. Water insecurity does not respect borders or mandates. When water stress interacts with gender inequality, risks such as undermining livelihoods and fragility multiply. Across many contexts, women are responsible for securing water, food, and family well-being. Including them in decision-making and making use of their insights would lead to more durable solutions and ultimately to more peace.

According to Ms. Birkman, the *Women, Peace, and Security* agenda taught us that inclusion is not only a moral imperative, but a strategic one. She stressed that, as we integrate environmental and climate dimensions into peacebuilding, we must ensure that inclusion remains central—not as a parallel track, but as a principle that infuses all areas of peace and security policy. She noted that, while budgets are under pressure, investments in *nexus challenges* are growing — funding is following complexity. Ms. Birkman provided two examples from the WPS partnership of how nexus thinking translates into practice:

- In southern Iraq, detailed analyses showed how declining water quality and quantity, governance failure, and interprovincial competition interacted to create security risks. Research also highlighted the central role of women whose knowledge is vital for adaptive governance. Inclusive governance—integrating technical analysis, local knowledge, and women’s participation—appeared to be essential for sustainable peace in the region.
- In Mali, the partnership addresses water insecurity, climate variability, and conflict among farming, fishing, and pastoralist communities. The programme has established networks of government officials and civil society actors called “Water Champions” and trained them in gender-sensitive, inclusive, climate- and conflict-sensitive approaches.

The conclusion from these examples is that when gender inclusion, environmental governance and peacebuilding are pursued together, they reinforce each other.

Ms. Birkman suggested three priorities for the period ahead:

1. Integration

Sustainable peace requires integration. We must institutionalise nexus thinking—for example, through mission partnerships already in the planning phase.

2. Inclusion

Women’s leadership must be central in research and governance—women bring perspectives and trust networks essential for achieving sustainable outcomes.

3. Innovation

Predictive tools combining multiple indicators help missions understand dynamics across different locations.

Laura Birkman concluded by saying that, as we celebrate 25 years of WPS, we have seen the power of inclusion. In the next 25 years, we must demonstrate the power of integration by carrying forward the spirit of both WPS agendas—*Women, Peace, and Security* and *Water, Peace, and Security* are mutually reinforcing pillars.

Current Research

The keynote address was followed by two research pieces.

Ingvild Brodtkorb, a research fellow at Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI), presented a [SIPRI-NUPI factsheet](#) on "*The interface between CPS and WPS in conflict- and climate-affected contexts*".

She noted that, while climate-related peace and security risks intersect with existing inequalities and shape people's exposure to risk and inclusion in peacebuilding, gender inequality remains inconsistently addressed in climate policies. In addition, climate is often superficially addressed in WPS frameworks.

Gendered vulnerabilities in the context of Climate, Peace, and Security (CPS) were noted across four interrelated pathways: livelihood impacts; migration and mobility; armed actors and security; and political and economic grievances.

Despite all this risk, women play a crucial role in peacebuilding at a local level. Women engage diverse voices and work towards creating trust in communities, and among conflict parties. One of the recommendations was that climate should be a cross-cutting theme within WPS frameworks, and gender should be systematically addressed in CPS policies and climate strategies.

Bárbara Magalhães Teixeira, researcher at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), presented a report on "*Gendered dimensions of climate-related security risks in the OSCE region*".

She explained that the project, commissioned by the Organisation for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE), aims to better understand the gendered dynamics of climate-related security risks. The report examines how gender and other intersectional factors (including age, ethnicity, disability, class, religion, migration status, and sexual orientation) shape vulnerabilities to climate-related risks and their security implications in OSCE focus regions (South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia).

Findings indicate that climate-related security risks are highly context-specific. While impacts vary by context, patterns emerge across regions, often linked to structural drivers such as inequality. Many vulnerabilities identified are also present in other regions, offering transferable insights for addressing these challenges.

Policy mapping shows that climate- and environment-related terms appear more frequently in recent National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security (NAP 1325). However, frameworks often fail to address root causes and are sometimes copied from previous years without adapting to changing contexts. Climate-related keywords remain infrequent in policy documents, indicating that this is still an area of concern.

The current landscape also presents challenges, with funding cuts being faced while efforts should shift towards implementation.

Implementation

Following the presentations on advances in research, the focus shifted to the practical implementation of the WPS and CPS. Helena Bergé discussed implementation through NAP 1325, while Patrick Fox outlines how a government agency mainstreams gender, climate and environmental principles.

Helena Bergé, NAP 1325 Coordinator at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on “Integrating Climate into WPS National Action Plans”.

Maintaining WPS on the agenda remains a priority for Belgium, with the NAP as a key instrument. Belgium is implementing its fourth NAP, running until 2026. It involves a coordinated effort across multiple bodies and covers internal and external dimensions. Climate change has been included since 2022. Civil society, particularly women’s organisations, has played an important role in requesting the inclusion of climate change, and continues to contribute actively.

To avoid a “tick-box” approach, two areas were prioritised for substantive progress:

1. International Development Cooperation

- Climate security programmes in the Sahel have integrated gender from the outset.
- In Mali, women received training in land management and established land commissions, alongside training on water-related conflicts and sustainable farming practices.
- Similar initiatives were implemented in Burkina Faso.
- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, support was provided to women farmers to strengthen participation in decision-making processes and improve access to resources, contributing to economic empowerment.
- Work also includes climate and just energy transition, with an action plan on gender equality and social inclusion, supported by a gender expert to monitor progress.

2. Multilateral Climate Negotiations

Gender is often treated as a silo in these discussions. Efforts have been made to ensure gender and human rights are mainstreamed, including through workshops and strategic dialogue with senior negotiators.

Ms. Bergé concluded that inclusion of climate in the NAP has led to more initiatives and stronger policies.

Patrick Fox, Senior Advisor on Environment, Climate and Security at Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF), on “A Collaborative Approach”.

MSB was renamed the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF) on 1 January 2026, while continuing its deployment functions and existing tools. Approximately 1,500 staff work across multiple professional fields, with MCF seconding climate experts to OSCE, civilian CSDP missions, UN missions, and the CoE.

Gender, climate and environmental considerations are mainstreamed throughout operations, with around 20% of time allocated to these areas despite budgetary constraints.

Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) work is aligned with WPS commitments, embedding gender equality in preparedness, response, and recovery efforts in climate-related crises. Climate change is recognised as a gendered security risk, and gender and conflict-sensitivity analysis informs climate adaptation in fragile and post-conflict contexts.

Training for staff includes:

- Gender and environmental protection in emergencies;
- Climate-sensitive logistics;
- Gender-based analysis for disaster and conflict risk;
- Gender and environmental considerations.

CSDP missions aim for durable impact through guidance and structures left behind. Expertise is shared via secondments, and advice is accessible even when resources are limited, either through deployed advisors or remotely via Brussels or other channels.

Civilian CSDP missions

Mervi Patosalmi, Gender Advisor, and Johanna Lauritsen, Environmental Coordinator at CivOpsHQ.1, on “Intersections of women, peace and security, climate change and environmental degradation in civilian CSDP missions”.

Mervi Patosalmi:

Civilian CSDP missions operate in areas such as SSR, rule of law, and border monitoring. There are established mechanisms for gender mainstreaming including operational guidelines, gender advisors, focal point networks, annual reporting and networking opportunities.

The WPS agenda is integrated into mission activities, ensuring that gender perspectives are included according to mandates. Targeted actions address, among others, conflict-related Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and promote women’s participation and capacity to respond to GBV.

- Intersections between gender and climate/environment include:
 - Gender analysis in environmental crime, examining roles and impacts to tailor responses;
 - Participation and ensuring women are part of solutions in climate and security contexts;
 - Climate change influencing GBV, for example, studies show an increase in intimate partner femicides during heatwaves, which could have implications for police training on domestic violence.
- Encouraged mutual integration of objectives with regards to gender considerations in environmental work and vice versa.

Johanna Lauritsen:

Environmental and climate work in missions has two dimensions:

- **Internal:** improving missions' environmental footprint and performance through initiatives such as "green groups" that include diverse voices.
- **External:** integrating environment and climate into operational tasks, including addressing environmental crime, supporting confidence-building measures, providing climate-security advice, and promoting sustainable construction.

Initial efforts focused on fulfilling compact commitments and deploying environmental advisors; by year-end, 5-6 experts are expected in missions. Environmental topics have been relatively new to missions, leading to siloed approaches; efforts aim to strengthen relevance and integration.

Sharing experiences among advisors, including communication strategies, is considered beneficial for overcoming resistance and improving cross-cutting work. Greater gender-sensitivity in environmental assessments is needed, particularly regarding groups most affected by environmental crime.

Final Remarks

Marianne Flach, Gender, Peace, and Security Advisor at the CoE, presented final remarks. She noted that further research on the intersections of gender, climate change, environmental degradation, and conflict is needed, in addition to frameworks addressing root causes and adapting to changing contexts, and climate-related keywords being more widely included in policy documents. As for civilian CSDP missions, there is a need for more mutual integration of objectives and greater sensitivity in environmental assessments.

Finally, Ms. Flach stressed that it was encouraging to hear from implementation practices, whether through NAPs 1325, government agencies, or within civilian CSDP missions.

To conclude: inclusion remains central, not as a parallel track, but as a principle that infuses all areas of peace and security policy.

Annex

Ingvild Brodtkorb, Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI), [Presentation Slides](#)

Bárbara Magalhães Teixeira, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), [Presentation Slides](#)

References

Magalhães Teixeira, B., Dr. & Baldwin, G. (2026). Gendered dimension of climate-related security risks in the OSCE area. SIPRI. <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2026/partner-publications/gendered-dimensions-climate-related-security-risks-osce-area>

CoE Support

The Civilian CSDP Compact highlights several emerging challenges that should be integrated into National Action Plans (NAPs) for UNSCR 1325. These include climate and environmental issues, cyber/hybrid threats and Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), violent extremism, the proliferation of small weapons, and human trafficking, specifically concerning women and girls.

To support this integration, the Center of Excellence (CoE) has developed [advisory guidelines for future NAPs 1325 and civilian CSDP](#), specifically addressing:

- The nexus between gender and climate/environmental security.
- The [gendered impact of cyber, hybrid, and FIMI threats](#).

Guidance on other emerging challenges is currently under development. Additionally, the CoE has formulated specific recommendations for cluster meetings addressing these thematic areas.

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