



European  
Commission

**DRMKC - GCRI**

**Global Conflict Risk Index Workshop**  
on climate, conflict and short-term forecasting  
Venue: JRC Ispra 22 September 2022

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European Union  
EXTERNAL ACTION

Foreign Policy Instruments  
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into action  
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Grid of risk factors on the left:  
LACK OF GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS  
GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS  
LEVEL OF REPRESSION  
EMPOWERMENTS RIGHTS  
RECENT INTERNAL CONFLICT  
NEIGHBOURING WITH IVC  
YEARS SINCE IVC  
CORRUPTION  
ETHNIC POWER CHANGE  
ETHNIC COMPLEXION  
TRANSNATIONAL ETHNIC BONDS  
HOMICIDE RATE  
GDP PER CAPITA  
INCOME INEQUALITY  
OPENNESS  
FOOD SECURITY  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
OIL PRODUCTION  
STRUCTURAL CONSTRAINTS  
WATER STRESS  
CLIMATE  
FOREIGN POLICY

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Joint Research Centre

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# The Global Conflict Risk Index workshop on climate, conflict and short-term forecasting

JRC Ispra, 22 September 2022

The European Commission's Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC), in collaboration with the Conflict Prevention and Mediation Support Division of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Foreign Policy Instrument services (FPI) of the European Commission, is organizing the annual **Global Conflict Risk Index (GCRI) workshop** on **22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022** in **Ispra**.

## Background

Preventing conflicts is a priority for the European Union (EU). Based on the 2011 Council Conclusions on Conflict Prevention building on the Treaty of Lisbon (Article 21c), the EU received a strong mandate to engage in conflict early warning. Close cooperation between policy makers and scientific experts is key to design tools for anticipating, monitoring and addressing conflicts.

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre supports the conflict Early Warning System led by the EEAS Conflict Prevention and Mediation Support Division and the FPI - Crisis Response, Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Unit - in providing its scientific expertise through the GCRI and addressing the conflict warning-response gap by enabling decision-makers to take preventive actions based on statistical-quantitative evidence, and a deeper understanding of the underlying causes and dynamics of national and regional violent and conflict events.

## Objective

Until recently, conflict predictions in the context of the GCRI focused on large-scale, country-level violent events with a time-horizon of 1 to 4 years relying on structural variables with yearly updates. New advances in data availability at the sub-national level and computing techniques, coupled with the increasing need for higher-frequency predictions for anticipatory action, motivated the developments of short-term conflict forecasting models for situational awareness and conflict prevention.

In addition, emerging challenges related to climate change together with environmental degradation are recognized to either accelerate or deepen ongoing or latent vulnerabilities and instabilities of conflict. In some fragile societies, climate change and environmental degradations are considered as conflict drivers, particularly when coupled with demographic imbalances as set out in the Concept for an Integrated Approach on Climate Change and Security<sup>1</sup>, the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap<sup>2</sup> and Commission Communication on the European Green Deal<sup>3</sup>.

While there is a scientific consensus that climate change can act as a threat multiplier for state instability and social disruptions in already vulnerable societies, it remains a challenge to establish a generalized causal link between vulnerability to weather shocks and conflict. This is due to the heterogeneous geographical impact of the climate and conflict nexus and its indirect repercussions through other factors such as food insecurity and water stress. Given the complexity of the interplay

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<sup>1</sup> EEAS(2021)770

<sup>2</sup> EEAS(2020)1251

<sup>3</sup> COM(2019) 640 final

between climate change, environmental degradation and peace and stability, the proposed workshop aims at bringing together the scientific evidence on conflict dynamics with the policy maker's need for action-based policies related to climate change.

In the light of the strive for constantly improving conflict forecasting methods to better meet evolving policy needs and building on the outcomes of the workshop on Climate and Conflicts that took place in Brussels on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2019, this year's GCRI workshop focusses on **(i) short-term forecasting for situational awareness and conflict prevention** and **(ii) the climate change-conflict nexus**.

The general goal of the workshop is to promote dialogue and share knowledge among scientific experts and policy-makers on both topics. The workshop audience will mainly consist of professionals from the scientific/academic world and the EU institutions.

The discussion will be encouraged through three invited speakers by session and moderated panel discussions where policy-makers and scientists will have a space to review the policy needs and scientific solutions with the objective of reaching a common understanding of priorities for evidence-based policy support.

Christina Corbane  
Team Leader of the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre, JRC.E1

## Venue

JRC Ispra: Auditorium, building 58c

## Links

For more information on the GCRI:

- Visit our webpage: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/initiatives-services/global-conflict-risk-index#documents/1059/list>
- Access the Science4Peace portal<sup>4</sup>: <https://science4peace.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

Event webpage:

- <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events-news/drmkc-featured-events/the-global-conflict-risk-index-workshop-on-climate-conflict-and-short-term-forecasting>

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<sup>4</sup> For EEAS and EC staff, access is granted automatically. For other users, access should be requested by sending an e-mail to [JRC-science4peace@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-science4peace@ec.europa.eu).

## Agenda

08:30-09:00 *Arrival to JRC and welcome coffee*

09:00-09:15 **Welcome**

*Alessandra Zampieri, JRC*

*Robert Krengel, FPI*

*Guillem Riutord Sampol, EEAS*

09:15-10:00 **The Global Conflict Risk Index (GCRI), latest developments and the dynamic conflict risk model (JRC)**

10:00-10:20 *Coffee break*

10:20-12:30 **Session I: Short-term Forecasting to Situational Awareness and Conflict Prevention** (45 min presentations followed by a moderated discussion and Q&A)

Moderator: Sarah Bressan, Global Public Policy Institute

- The Conflict Forecast Project (*Christopher Rauh, Cambridge University*)
- Violence Early-Warning System: A New Fatality Prediction Model (*Håvard Hegre, Uppsala Conflict Data Program*)
- Dynamic vs. Structural Conflict Risk Forecasting Models and their Inter-connections (*Thomas Mayer and Stefano Ferri, German Federal Foreign Office*)

### **Round table and Q&A**

*Nils Metternich, University College London*

*Nils Weidmann, University Konstanz*

*Wolfgang Schneider, IBM*

*Katayoun Kishi, Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project*

12:30-14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00-16:10 **Session II: Climate Change and Conflict Risk**

(45 min presentations followed by a moderated discussion and Q&A)

Moderator: Silja Halle, United Nations Environment Programme

- How Climate Change Fuels Deadly Conflict (*Ulrich Eberle, International Crisis Group*)
- Weathering Risk, a Climate and Security Risk and Foresight Assessment (*Janani Vivekananda, Adelphi and Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research*)
- Climate-Related Peace and Security Risks (*Karen Meijer, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute*)

### **Round table and Q&A**

*Halvard Buhaug, Peace Research Institute Oslo*

*Nina von Uexkull, Uppsala University*

*Mathieu Couttenier, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon*

16:10-16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30-17:00 **Key messages and concluding remarks**

*Jonas Claes, EEAS*

*Tom De Groeve, JRC*

20:00-22:00 *Dinner*