

## The Risk of Conflicts Over Natural Resources in an Era of Climate Vulnerability

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In adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the United Nations and its Member States adopted an ambitious agenda of 17 goals and 169 indicators to transform and improve the world that we live in and to ensure that “no one is left behind.” The 2030 Agenda recognizes that the three dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental must be addressed in a balanced manner, taking into account the inter-linkages and interdependent nature of our world and the SDG Goals. In this paper we will address the risk of conflicts over natural resources in an era of climate vulnerability, the impact that these conflicts can have on the promotion of peaceful societies and some suggestions on how to address this risk through capacity building, education and the integration of methods of managing these conflicts through mediation, technical peace building, conflict resolution training, integration of Climate Change data and the creation of a culture of peace to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

Agenda 2030 is transformational, requiring new ideas, redeployment of sound structures, tools, and concepts to make the SDGs a reality. Yet in order to support change people must recognize the reasons to do so and develop rationales and tools to make changes. The tools of peacebuilding and mediation are well suited to do this and to address conflicts triggered by Climate Change and disputes over natural resources where the inter dependency and common vulnerability of our world are most evident. This paper will provide examples of how conflict resolution tools allow parties, be they Countries, sub-regional areas, businesses, or individuals a means for reinterpreting a situation in a positive light-with a recognition that my humanitarian crisis is also your geopolitical problem and to serve as a defense against destructive, violent conflicts-especially where shared resources are involved.

The pressure Climate Change is putting on natural resources, especially in fragile States threatens peace and security. The use of community dialogues, community practitioners, mediation and facilitation can address behaviors and attitudes, in context, to help manage conflicts before they erupt, address it when it erupts into violence and to create long term stability and prevent the post conflict phase from spiraling into destructive conflict again. “Fragility, conflict and violence damage the social fabrics and social contracts of countries, impacting behavioral codes and trust in government and aggravating ethnic and religious friction” discouraging investments and triggering a flight of capital, often leading to shadow economies and the “rogue exploitation of mineral and natural resources. “ We cannot wait until violence occurs. To achieve the SDGs, we have to help inoculate vulnerable peoples from the economic, social and environmental destabilization that can erupt, especially as climate change puts pressure on the use and availability of natural resources. As recognized in Resolution A/RES/71/243, there can be “no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Climate Change and how natural resources are used needs to be

supported by a Culture of Peace and Non-violence with skills development and leveraging of local resources and intuitions that support resiliency, peace and the SDGs.