

**UNITED
NATIONS**

**CLIMATE
SECURITY
MECHANISM**

**Bridging
Climate Action,
Peace and Security**

**2023
Progress
Report**

May 2024



CLIMATE SECURITY MECHANISM

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The Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) is a joint initiative by the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO). It aims to strengthen the capacity of the UN and its partners to systematically analyze and address the linkages between climate change, peace and security.

RATIONALE

It is increasingly clear that the severe and often irreversible impacts of climate change extend beyond ecosystems and biodiversity, with adverse implications for communities and nations as well as potentially peace and security. Integrated approaches and strong partnerships are required to find sustainable, cross-cutting solutions.



Photo: UN Photo



Photo: UNDP

OUR GOAL

The CSM Joint Programme works with partners to advance peace-positive climate action, catalyze climate-informed approaches to peace and security, and forge partnerships at all levels to exchange information and build the evidence base.

OUR APPROACH

The CSM provides technical advice and tailored support to UN field missions, country teams, regional organizations and other partners to bolster the analysis, reduction and management of climate-related peace and security risks. Beyond its field work, the CSM seeks to build an enabling environment and catalyze action by partners at all levels by investing in knowledge management and capacity building and by leveraging the convening power of its member entities.



Photo: UN Photo



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OUR TEAM

A headquarters-based team undertakes global workstreams – such as advocacy, knowledge co-generation and policy development – and coordinates initiatives in climate-vulnerable regions around the world, including through the deployment of climate, peace and security (CPS) experts and trainings.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	MPTFO	United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
AU	African Union	NAP	National Adaptation Plan
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	NGO	Non-governmental organization
BINUH	United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	NUPI	Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
CCCPA	Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
CEWARN	IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism	OSE-HoA	Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa
CoP	Community of Practice	PBF	Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund
COP	Conference of the Parties	PBSO	DPPA Peacebuilding Support Office
CPS	Climate, Peace and Security	PDA	Peace and Development Advisor
CPSA	Climate, Peace and Security Advisor	RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
CRRP	Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace	RRP	Relief, Recovery and Peace
CRSP	Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace	RSIS	S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
CSM	Climate Security Mechanism	SG	United Nations Secretary-General
C4P	Climate for Peace	SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
DPO	United Nations Department of Peace Operations	UAE	United Arab Emirates
DPPA	United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	UN	United Nations
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
EU	European Union	UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
FBA	Folke Bernadotte Academy	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IEP	Institute for Economics and Peace	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
JPO	Junior Professional Officer	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
JSC	Joint Steering Committee	UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
LAS	League of Arab States	UNOAU	United Nations Office to the African Union
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission	UNOCA	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
LGA	Liptako Gourma Authority	UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic	UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	UNSSC	United Nations System Staff College
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	UNU CPR	United Nations University Centre for Policy Research
		ZIF	Center for International Peace Operations

HIGHLIGHTS

2023 was by far the warmest year on record.¹ Extreme weather events have wrought havoc on numerous regions worldwide, worsening food insecurity, population displacement, and vulnerability among affected populations. At the same time, conflict event rates increased by 12 per cent compared to 2022.² When interacting with socio-economic and political factors, climate change can exacerbate conflict risks, thereby affecting human, national and international peace and security. This interplay also has implications for climate action. Of the 30 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,³ 18 are experiencing conflict or fragility⁴ and 13 also rank among the 30 countries with the lowest women's inclusion, justice, and security scores.⁵ Whilst among the hardest hit by climate change, most countries and communities affected by fragility and conflict are also among those that have contributed the least to the climate crisis.

Increasing global demand for climate, peace and security (CPS) expertise and capacity continued to shape the CPS agenda in 2023. Communities and countries on the frontlines remained leading advocates, whilst regional organizations, civil society and academia advanced policy, analysis and practice. The past year has also witnessed a notable and steady increase in CPS momentum at the United Nations. As of 31 December, the Group of Friends on Climate and Security had grown to over 65 Member States and the Security Council had introduced climate change-related language in the mandates of 11 field missions.⁶ Senior UN mission officials and CPS advisors regularly briefed the informal expert group of members of the Security Council on CPS, which convened ahead of relevant mission mandate renewals. In March, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates launched the Joint Pledges by members of the Security Council on CPS. This number grew to 11 Council members by the end of 2023. In July, the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace included [recommendations](#) to address CPS interlinkages. The CPS

agenda is also gaining traction in global climate action. Following the *Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace* COP27 initiative and the 50 plus side-events with a peace angle during COP27, a *Relief, Recovery and Peace Day* was included in the COP28 thematic programme and more than 100 related events were held. The subsequent [COP28 Declaration](#) on *Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace* called for collective action to build resilience at the scale and speed required in highly vulnerable places.

Responding to growing calls for action by affected communities, Member States, regional organizations, experts and policymakers around the world, the [Climate Security Mechanism \(CSM\)](#) seeks to strengthen the capacity of the UN and its partners to systematically analyze and address the linkages between climate change, peace and security. Established in late 2018, the CSM draws on the complementary resources of DPPA, UNDP, UNEP, and DPO. In 2023, the CSM entered a [new phase](#) designed to scale up good practices from the CSM's work to date, expand its service offer, and maximize its catalytic impact, while further leveraging the political and technical expertise of its entities. This report summarizes the main achievements of the CSM in 2023 towards advancing peace-positive climate action, catalyzing climate-informed approaches to peace and security, and forging partnerships with actors at all levels.

1 [State of the Global Climate 2023](#) (World Meteorological Organization, 2024)

2 [ACLED Conflict Index](#) (ACLED, 2024)

3 [ND-GAIN Country Index](#) (University of Notre-Dame Global Adaptation Initiative, vulnerability scores for 2021)

4 [FY24 List of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations](#) (World Bank, 2024)

5 [Women, Peace and Security Index 2023/24](#) (Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, 2023)

6 BINUH, MINUSCA, MONUSCO, UNAMA, UNAMI, UNFICYP, UNITAMS, UNMISS, UNOCA, UNOWAS, and UNSOM.

“

The United Nations Climate Security Mechanism is designed to address the links between climate, peace and security in our work.”

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Remarks to the UN Security Council, 13 February 2024

2023 AT A GLANCE

● Events ● Initiatives ● Partnerships ● Products ● Training

<p>JPO support (Norway) January</p> <p>Norway furthers in-kind CSM support through the provision of a Junior Professional Officer to DPO</p>	<p>Climate, Peace & Security advisor deployed to the Liptako Gourma region January</p> <p>Advisor deployed to the Stabilization Facility following expert support previously deployed in 2021-22</p>
<p>Climate Security in the Pacific Workshop for Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu January</p> <p>Including 4th (2nd in-person) iteration of the scenario game on the participatory exploration of climate-related security risks (UNDP, CSM, IOM, PBSO/PBF)</p>	<p>Climate, Peace & Security training in Mali February</p> <p>With the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (UNEP, CSM, MINUSMA)</p>
<p>Thematic Review on Climate Security & Peacebuilding April</p> <p>Report on global trends and approaches to sustaining peace through climate, peace and security efforts and recent Peacebuilding Fund projects (PBSO/PBF, UNU-CPR, FAO, UNICEF, CSM, UK)</p>	<p>Climate, Peace & Security training in South Sudan February</p> <p>1st iteration of dedicated training for UN field missions (DPPA, DPO, CSM, UNMISS, UNSSC, SIPRI, FBA)</p>
<p>Study on Climate, Peace & Security in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) May</p> <p>Study on “Re-envisioning Climate Change Adaptation Policy to Sustain Peace - A typology & analysis of the National Adaptation Plans” (UNDP & <i>Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace</i> COP27 initiative)</p>	<p>New CSM catalytic initiative in Iraq May</p> <p>New initiative with the deployment of a CPS advisor to the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)</p>
<p>Climate, Peace & Security training for the Middle East and North Africa June</p> <p>2nd iteration of dedicated training for UN field missions, this time for UN missions and Resident Coordinator Offices in the Middle East and North Africa (DPO, DPPA, CSM, UNSSC, SIPRI, CCCPA)</p>	<p>Climate, Peace & Security Experts Academy – Climate Policy & Finance for Peace June</p> <p>2nd and 3rd iterations in New York and Cairo (CCCPA/COP27 & UNDP)</p>
<p>Training course on Climate, Peace & Security Programming July & December</p> <p>1st & 2nd iterations of CPS Programming Training for Peacebuilding Fund Secretariats in response to findings of the Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding (PBSO, UNSSC, CSM, adelphi)</p>	<p>IGAD Regional Climate Security Coordination Mechanism & UN CPS Hub for the Horn of Africa June</p> <p>IGAD decision to establish the world’s 1st Regional Climate Security Coordination Mechanism, supported by a new UN CPS Hub in Nairobi in the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa</p>
<p>High-level event for the launch of the CGIAR Climate Security Observatory October</p> <p>High-level event entitled “Bridging the Science-Policy Gap: Fostering Solutions to Address Climate, Peace and Security” (Switzerland, Mozambique, UAE, in cooperation with CGIAR & CSM)</p>	<p>UNGA side-event “Closing the gap: accelerating climate action in fragile and vulnerable contexts” September</p> <p>Pre-COP28 high-level event (UAE, COP28, Belgium, Marshall Islands, EU, in cooperation with CSM)</p>
<p>Aswan Forum Preparatory Workshop on Multilateral Partnerships on CPS November</p> <p>CPS experts’ workshop in Cairo focused on mission cooperation with regional organizations in the Horn of Africa, West Africa and the Sahel and Central Africa (DPPA, DPO, CCCPA, adelphi, ZIF)</p>	<p>Partnership with Austria October</p> <p>Austria joins the CSM Joint Steering Committee</p>
<p>ASEAN-UN Regional Dialogue on Climate, Peace & Security November</p> <p>ASEAN-UN Dialogue on CPS challenges in Southeast Asia (ASEAN, DPPA/DPO, UNDP, UNEP)</p>	<p>UN Climate, Peace & Security Dialogue Series October - November</p> <p>UN-Academia Dialogues on opportunities for peace through climate action and transitioning to clean and sustainable energies, and climate finance in fragile and conflict-affected settings (UNSSC, CSM)</p>
<p>Partnership with Switzerland November</p> <p>Switzerland joins the CSM Joint Steering Committee</p>	<p>Sahel Climate, Peace & Security Forum & Bamako Declaration November</p> <p>Inaugural Sahel Climate, Peace and Security Forum under the theme “Climate Policy and Financing for Peace and Security” and adoption of the landmark Bamako Declaration on CPS (Mali, UNDP)</p>
	<p>COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace December</p> <p>High-level launch of the CRRP Declaration during COP28</p>



SUPPORT TO ANALYSIS AND ACTION

Support to analysis and action remains the CSM's most direct way of catalyzing impact in countries and regions affected by climate-related peace and security risks, including through targeted assistance delivered via Climate, Peace and Security advisors deployed with CSM support.



SUPPORT TO ANALYSIS AND ACTION



Photo: UN Photo

Through support to analysis and action on the frontlines, the CSM works with the UN system and its partners to analyze climate, peace and security linkages, develop inclusive and forward-looking risk management strategies, and identify opportunities for co-benefits between peacebuilding and climate action. To do this, the CSM draws on its partnerships across sectors as well as with Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society and the global research community.

By the end of 2023, the CSM had launched 13 context-specific initiatives at regional, country and community level that address the linkages between climate change, peace and security and catalyze action. Through those initiatives and beyond, the CSM has so far supported more than 20 UN Country Teams and missions in integrating CPS risks in analytical and planning processes. The CSM has worked with partners to deploy and backstop five CPS advisors in **UN field missions** (adding to the pre-existing UNSOM advisor) and three in **regional and sub-regional organizations**. The most recent additions include advisors to the Liptako Gourma Authority, UNAMI and the Lake Chad Basin Commission. The CSM also supports the strategic planning of **UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs)**, bringing a voice to CPS across mandate areas, and works with **country offices of UN entities and other partners** to implement catalytic initiatives that address CPS challenges (see map below).

The deployment of **CPS advisors and experts** (CPSAs) where feasible and appropriate, based on demand from UN missions and regional organizations, has marked an important milestone. Their value has been recognized in multiple UN fora, including the Security Council and UNFCCC COPs. By supporting and

connecting the already existing capacities and work being done in their organizations, CPSAs deliver technical advice on risk analysis, climate policy and finance, foresight and modelling, and gender-sensitive solution design. They provide knowledge and expertise on the complex ways in which CPS linkages play out in specific contexts, while acting as bridgebuilders between different UN entities and regional actors. In 2023, the CSM continued to backstop the inter-mission network of CPS advisors (and focal points) in UN special political missions and peacekeeping operations as well as advisors deployed to regional entities.

The **regional level** is an increasingly important angle for the CSM's work, to allow for tailored approaches while remaining close to international policy fora and actors and thus strengthening the policy-practice loop. Regionalization has gained ground in 2023, as exemplified by IGAD's [decision](#) to establish the world's first Regional Climate Security Coordination Mechanism to be supported by a new [UN CPS Hub for the Horn of Africa](#) in Nairobi, housed in the UN Office of the Special Envoy, with support from the CSM. This is aligned with a recommendation in the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace for the UN and regional organizations to establish joint regional hubs on CPS.

CATALYTIC INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE, PEACE AND SECURITY

As of December 2023

- UN special political missions and peacekeeping operations
- Regional and sub-regional organizations
- UNCTs, RCOs, country offices of individual UN entities and other partners

i - Andean States (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru)

Evaluating climate-related peace and security risks and priorities, strengthening awareness and early warning, and developing viable policy options as well as an action plan for the Andean States.

ii - Arab States (League of Arab States)

Supporting the League of Arab States in conducting analysis of climate-related peace and security risks, and developing a vision and White Paper to raise greater awareness of the interlinkages between climate change, prevention and sustaining peace.

iii - Central Africa (UN Regional Office for Central Africa)

Supporting the development of a shared vision and capacity in Central Africa for integrated action on climate-related peace and security risks, in partnership with the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

iv - Horn of Africa (UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa)

Strengthening the analysis and evidence base on climate-related peace and security risks and related anticipatory approaches in the Horn of Africa, providing sustained advice to the UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (OSE-HoA), and enhancing coordination among UN entities as well as cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations, including IGAD.

v - Iraq (UN Assistance Mission for Iraq)

Advancing the work of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) on CPS linkages, including in the areas of environment, water management and resilience building.

vi - Lake Chad Basin (Lake Chad Basin Commission)

Strengthening the capacities of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to analyze and respond to climate-related peace and security risks, and informing the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin.

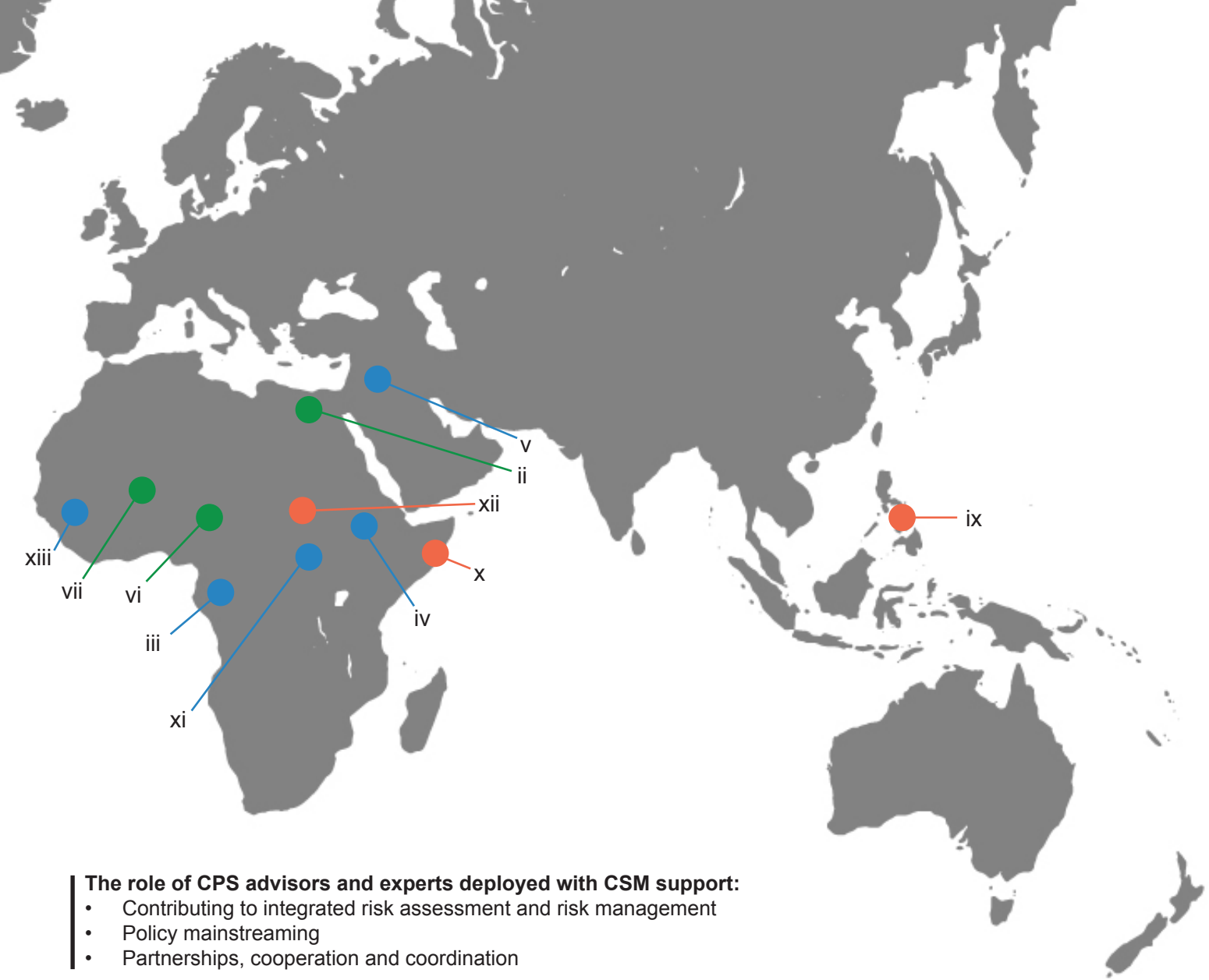
vii - Liptako Gourma (Liptako Gourma Authority)

Supporting climate-related peace and security risk assessments, as well as the development of response strategies to test and validate the CSM's conceptual approach and to inform policy, planning and programming work in the Liptako Gourma region with the Liptako Gourma Authority.

viii - Northern Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras)

Developing data management for integrated analysis, fostering preparedness, and applying a climate, peace and security lens to human mobility and urban resilience in Northern Central America.





The role of CPS advisors and experts deployed with CSM support:

- Contributing to integrated risk assessment and risk management
- Policy mainstreaming
- Partnerships, cooperation and coordination

ix - Philippines

Addressing climate-related peace and security risks in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), building capacities for assessment and planning to integrate CPS risks into local planning and budgeting processes, as well as support to communities, livelihoods and social cohesion.

x - Somalia

Analyzing evolving CPS challenges and piloting community-based approaches, with a Somalia Climate Security Action Plan launched that covers water management, environmental health and land restoration.

xi - South Sudan (UN Mission in South Sudan)

Improving analysis, reporting and programming for action on climate-related peace and security risks in South Sudan with a growing focus on capacity building on CPS for the UN System.

xii - Sudan

Promoting integrated approaches to climate action and peacebuilding in Kassala (North Halanga and Kormota communities) and production and distribution of eco-friendly solar stoves among other locally self-sufficient pilot solutions, to enhance community resilience.

xiii - West Africa and the Sahel (UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel)

Strengthening the understanding of CPS linkages in West Africa and the Sahel and deepening partnerships with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other regional actors in this field.

ZOOMING IN

The Sahel region (Lake Chad Basin Commission and Liptako Gourma Authority)

The first regional forum on CPS in the Sahel was convened by Mali with support from UNDP and partners in Bamako from 9-11 November 2023 under the theme “Climate Policy and Financing for Peace and Security”. The [Sahel CPS Forum](#) served as a platform for strategic reflection between the Sahel countries on CPS and focused on innovative climate policies and financing mechanisms. It brought together 150+ policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to discuss sustainable solutions for peace and security. The Forum was joined by environment ministers and other officials from Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal as well as representatives of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region and the Liptako Gourma Authority – the latter being supported by the CSM through the deployment of a CPS advisor. Ahead of COP28, the Forum produced the landmark ministerial [Bamako Declaration](#) on CPS to serve as a basis for advocacy for dialogue and negotiation by Sahel countries and organizations in favor of the CPS nexus.

The Horn of Africa (UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa)

The CSM works with OSE-HoA and IGAD to strengthen CPS analysis, evidence base and related anticipatory approaches. Two years after the deployment of the CPISA to the OSE-HoA, the CSM has served as a catalyst for the inception of the first regional [UN CPS Hub](#) under the direction of OSE-HoA, hosted by UNEP in Nairobi, and launched at COP28 to support the operationalization of the new IGAD Climate Security Coordination Mechanism. This Mechanism, along with the IGAD-UN strategic joint task force and the HoA Community of Practice, are improving regional coordination in the Horn of Africa. In parallel, the completed CPS scoping study, mapping of community solutions and Manderla Triangle joint context analysis have fostered shared understanding. On this basis, achievements towards addressing CPS risks have focused on transboundary waters (regional analysis, Juba-Shabelle Basin scenario development, Somalia maritime security foresight exercise), tensions over land (scoping study, regional land governance programme, inclusion of land issues into country cooperation frameworks) and climate-induced mobility (displacement risk profiles, implementation roadmap for the Protocol on Transhumance, mapping of climate, conflict and migration hotspots).

South Sudan (UN Mission in South Sudan)

Building on a clear reporting mandate and existing strategies and initiatives in South Sudan, the CPS advisor and his team have over the last two years taken a range of actions to address priority CPS risks including those related to food security, displacement and farmer-herder conflicts. The CPISA and his team have mapped transhumance patterns, supported CPS-informed cross-border transhumance conferences and integrated CPS perspective in community peace dialogues, enabling participants to jointly identify what can be done to enhance peaceful coexistence amid the impacts of climate change. Further, the CPISA and his team have strengthened partnerships between the Government, regional organizations and agencies and the UN in efforts to develop national disaster risk strategies and early warning and response systems, including through the UN Climate Change Working Group. Both UNMISS and UNCT have further mainstreamed CPS risk management across their work, including by integrating CPS considerations into reports of the SG and the Common Country Analysis and CPS indicators into UN's Sage system.

Northern Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras)

The Northern Central America CPS barometer was jointly developed by the CSM, the regional Peace and Development Advisor (PDA), the RCOs in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). This quantitative data tool analyses cross-sectoral risks and informs preparedness based on existing statistical data. While the original plan was to create a composite index where domains are combined into one overall score, based on user feedback, the design was changed into a barometer which treats environmental, resilience and security domains separately. This helps to illustrate the different profiles of risk, rather than ranking areas based on an aggregated score. Visualisations of the CPS Barometer were a good engagement tool with the cross-border local authorities who confirmed the need for integrated data for their decision-making. This was an opportunity to test the use of existing environmental, resilience and security data to go beyond a snapshot and gain insights into a dynamic model. This workstream requires further efforts, including combining mixed methods. The local authorities consulted continue conversations with the UN on possible support to a data observatory.

GLOBAL WORKSTREAMS

In addition to backstopping integrated analysis and action in regional and country contexts, the CSM maintains thematic workstreams to create an enabling environment for more climate, peace and security work to emerge across the UN system and beyond, while amplifying the CSM's impact.





ADVOCACY, PARTNERSHIPS AND CONVENING

Through advocacy, partnerships and convening, the CSM works with partners to increase collaboration between global, regional and national decision-makers and stakeholders to harmonize climate action, peace and security policies, and scale up and improve access to climate finance in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.



Photo: Unsplash

Partnerships remain vital to operationalize the CPS agenda and link it to other policy areas such as climate finance, mediation, Women, Peace and Security, Youth, Peace and Security, human rights, climate justice, ecosystem restoration or water for peace. In 2023, the CSM continued to support expanding and diversifying **multi-disciplinary and multilateral initiatives**, including by working with Member State-led initiatives such as *Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace* (CRSP/COP27 Presidency) and *Climate for Peace* (C4P). Several CSM colleagues and CPSAs joined and contributed to the 2023 edition of the Berlin Climate and Security Conference in Nairobi and Berlin. The CSM also liaised with the COP28 Presidency to input and endorse, through its four constituent entities, the COP28 [Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace](#) (see box below), whose commitments explicitly build on the CSM among other initiatives.

Over the past year, the CSM sustained its engagement with **Member States**, including the Group of Friends and informal expert group of members of the Security Council on climate and security, and CSM Joint Steering

Committee (JSC) partners. France and Germany, as JSC Co-chairs in 2023, released a [short video](#) to promote the role of the CSM and call on States to join this collective effort and engage with the CSM. The first CSM Partnership Dialogue was attended by participants from 35+ States (see box below). As of December, 11 UN Security Council members had signed the Joint Pledges related to CPS, and during the open debate convened by the UAE in June, more than 20 statements made reference to the CSM. Another milestone was the Secretary-General's [policy brief](#) on A New Agenda for Peace, which contains dedicated policy recommendations on CPS for Member States' consideration ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future and in other processes such as the 2025 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review. Dozens of CPS references were made during the 78th UN General Assembly general debate, and on the sidelines, a [high-level event](#) by the UAE/COP28, Belgium, the Marshall Islands and the EU in cooperation with the CSM discussed how to close the gap in accelerating climate action in fragile and vulnerable contexts.

CSM Partnership Dialogue: Mobilizing Partnerships to Bridge Climate Action, Peace and Security

The CSM convened its first Partnership Dialogue on 28 April 2023 in New York and online. It showcased how the CSM is working with partners to maximize its catalytic impact and deliver results in frontline countries and regions. Partners as well as advisors and experts deployed with CSM support highlighted progress and perspectives with examples from the Arab States, the Horn of Africa, the Philippines, and Northern Central America. The CSM team presented priorities for the CSM's new phase (2023-2025), which focuses on support to analysis and action, knowledge co-generation, data and evidence, and diversification of partnerships. An opportunity for a wide range of current and prospective partners to deepen their understanding of the CSM's work and vision, the Dialogue was attended by 90+ participants, including 35+ Member States among which donor partners, members of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, and *Climate for Peace* members. Ahead of the Dialogue, the CSM released its first [Brochure](#) providing an overview of the CSM and its new phase.

Collaboration with **regional partners** has also been further intensified in 2023. The CSM delivered analysis, programming support, advocacy and advice to foster the implementation of key CPS policies and plans, including with the below regions, sub-regions and partners:

- In **West Africa and the Sahel**, the implementation of the [Dakar Call to Action](#), adopted at the regional CPS conference convened in 2022 in partnership with Ireland and Niger, continued with the support of the CSM. A number of national technical consultations were led by UNOWAS in Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin, working closely with ECOWAS. The [Sahel Forum](#) on CPS convened by Mali in Bamako with support from UNDP under the theme "Climate Policy and Financing for Peace and Security" brought together policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to discuss sustainable solutions for peace and stability. It focused on innovative climate policies and financing mechanisms and produced the landmark [Bamako Declaration](#).
- In the **Horn of Africa**, the CSM through the CPSA to OSE-HoA continued to work closely with IGAD, including in support of the IGAD Regional Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 and Protocol on Transhumance, as well as the Kampala Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change. Capacity building of IGAD Member States and their Climate Security

Coordination Mechanism housed at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) is now supported by the newly established [UN CPS Hub](#) in Nairobi, also working with the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN).

- In June, the [Joint Communication](#) to the European Parliament and the Council stated that the **European Union** would deepen its exchange with the CSM to enhance the sharing of lessons learned, coordination, cooperation on policy and programming approaches, and training. Since then, the CSM has shared experiences and lessons from the deployments of CPSAs to inform the EU's upcoming CPS deployments to Common Security and Defence Policy missions. The EU and the CSM agreed to ensure coordination between UN and EU advisors working in the same contexts.
- In **Southeast Asia**, the CSM has been a partner of ASEAN's early endeavours on CPS. DPPA commissioned the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) to conduct a preliminary [assessment](#) of climate change and its impact on peace and security in the region. The report informed the CSM-supported ASEAN-UN [Regional Dialogue](#) in November which strengthened shared understanding and collaboration on CPS for ASEAN and laid the foundation for future UN-ASEAN cooperation in this area.

Within the UN system, the CSM has established platforms for peer learning and cross-cutting knowledge exchanges for practitioners working at headquarters, regional and country levels across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The **Community of Practice (CoP) on CPS**, formed by the CSM in 2019, now comprises 550+ UN staff (100+ new members in 2023) from 35+ entities. Six CoP meetings were held last year, with exchanges covering CPS in the Pacific,

CRSP Pillar I on adaptation and peacebuilding, CPS and mediation in practice, and developments in the work of Co-chairs of the Group of Friends and informal expert group. In September, the CSM invited the COP28 Presidency to brief the CoP on what to expect at COP28 including the outcomes of *Relief, Recovery and Peace Day*. The CSM then introduced a [CPS Trello board](#) section dedicated to the 100+ CPS-related side-events identified by the CSM during COP28.

From the COP27 Initiative *Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace* To the COP28 Declaration on *Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace*

In 2022, the Egypt COP27 Presidency launched the *Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace* (CRSP) initiative with the aim of ensuring that integrated climate responses contribute to sustainable peace and development in line with national ownership and context specificity. Building on this effort taken forward in 2023 by CCCPA with UNDP and other CRSP partners, the UAE COP28 Presidency organized the first-ever thematic day on *Relief, Recovery, and Peace* (RRP) at any climate COP and launched the *COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace* at a high-level launch event joined by the UNDP Administrator and the UNEP Executive Director. Another highlight was a high-level official side-event on CPS in the Horn of Africa, convened by IGAD, OSE-HoA and the COP28 Presidency, co-chaired by the Special Envoy of the SG for HoA and the Executive Secretary of IGAD. The CSM helped shape the Declaration alongside governments, international and regional organizations and financial institutions, philanthropic and private sector entities, and organizations from the climate, environment, development, humanitarian, and peace sectors. Endorsed by more than 90 States and 40 organizations - including UNEP, DPPA, UNDP and DPO - the Declaration is a call for collective action to build climate resilience at the scale and speed required in highly vulnerable countries and communities, particularly those threatened or affected by fragility or conflict, or facing severe humanitarian needs. It calls for enhanced financial support for climate adaptation and resilience, better understanding and improvement of good practice and programming, and strengthened coordination and partnerships. It comes with an accompanying package of contributions, many of which include support to the CSM.





KNOWLEDGE CO-GENERATION & MANAGEMENT

Through knowledge co-generation and management, the CSM contributes to a stronger and data-driven evidence base as well as a set of tools enabling UN entities, in particular at local level, to analyze climate-related peace and security risks and develop response strategies in an integrated, gender-sensitive manner that takes local and indigenous knowledge as well as nature-based solutions into account.



Photo: Unsplash

While research partners are contributing to a stronger evidence base and tools on CPS, there is a further need for CSM **knowledge co-creation** on good practice to support a knowledge hub/clearinghouse function, thereby enabling UN entities to better analyze and report on CPS risks and related response strategies. In 2023, the [CPS Toolbox](#) continued to enable the CSM and its partners to strengthen the understanding and mainstreaming of CPS risks through support to UN joint analysis and strategic planning processes such as Common Country Analyses and UN Cooperation Frameworks. Part of the Toolbox, the [Conceptual Approach](#) was used in various studies last year, including by DPPA in a [desk review](#) in Iraq, a mission with the CPSA to UNOWAS together with a national PDA to study CPS risks in six towns and villages in Mauritania, and a UNAMA study on Afghanistan. The CSM also contributed to **complementary approaches**, including in Haiti where the Weathering Risk methodology, which builds on the Toolbox, was applied to the [Roots for peace](#) study mapping out CPS linkages in the country as part of a collaboration between adelphi, the Ministry of the Environment, the Haiti Climate Security Working Group, UNEP and UNDP. In October, the CSM joined with

CGIAR, Switzerland, Mozambique and the UAE for the high-level launch of the CGIAR [Climate Security Observatory](#).

Key 2023 **knowledge products** supported by the CSM include [lessons learned](#) from the first UN CPS Practitioners Dialogue, the [Thematic Review](#) on Climate Security and Peacebuilding (see box below) and the [thematic evaluation](#) on CPS risks in UN missions. Efforts leading up to the COP28 RRP Day and [Declaration](#), to which the CSM contributed, were informed by the 2021 UNDP/CSM [study](#) on climate finance for peace. Contributions in 2023 also include the UNDP [typology and analysis](#) of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) with CCCPA/COP27 Presidency and a [guidance note](#) on CPS in Latin America and the Caribbean, the DPPA-supported [study](#) on CPS in Southeast Asia, as well as inputs to internal UN strategies and guidance on farmer-herder conflicts exacerbated by climate change and on critical minerals for energy transition in fragile and conflict-affected places. More can be found on the [CPS Trello board](#) managed by the CSM.

Thematic Review on Climate Security and Peacebuilding 2023

The [Thematic Review](#) on Climate Security and Peacebuilding, commissioned by DPPA's Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) in partnership with FAO, UNICEF, the CSM and the United Kingdom, and led by UN University's Centre for Policy Research (UNU CPR), distills trends and lessons from CPS and environmental peacebuilding programming supported by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). It suggests guidance for future CPS investments in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Key findings and recommendations include:

- **Cross-border and regional approaches:** Due to the transnational nature of CPS risks, cross-border and regional CPS approaches are key and related programming should have a greater focus on building political engagement around the issue.
- **Risk-tolerant approach:** Of the 10 countries that received the most CPS and environmental peacebuilding PBF funding between 2017-2021, nine were among the most vulnerable to climate change. Effective PBF investments can offer proof of concept that other climate funds and donors can consider scaling up.
- **Co-benefits of climate, peace and security:** Investment in CPS and environmental peacebuilding approaches, including improvements to agriculture and natural resource infrastructure, get to the heart of what many communities view as both their most pressing human security concerns, and the factors that contribute to persistent conflict and competition. Greater such investment should be encouraged.
- **Gender-climate-peace and security nexus:** Many projects utilize natural resource management or localized climate adaptation as an entry point for greater inclusion of women and youth in local governance and decision-making processes. Greater support to learning in this field is however still necessary.
- **Reinforcing project design, learning and innovation:** While it is important to continue to reinforce existing guidance on project design, monitoring and evaluation, it is critical to promote flexible project implementation and encourage check-ins or referrals back to the “theory of change” throughout the project cycle to strengthen learning and reflection on the relatively new field of CPS programming.

Recognizing the need to **diversify research partnerships** and amplify the voices of academics from around the world, the CSM collaborated with the UN System Staff College (UNSSC) to run the [UN CPS Dialogue Series](#) in the lead-up to COP28. This series served as a free forum to generate new ideas and debate on emerging research topics, involving UN

practitioners from the CoP on CPS as well as researchers from relevant academic institutions, focusing in particular on Global South debates. The series focused on [leveraging opportunities for peace through climate action](#), [opportunities for peace associated to the energy transition](#), and [channelling climate finance to fragile and conflict-affected countries](#).



CAPACITY BUILDING

Through capacity building, the CSM enables policymakers and practitioners in UN entities and beyond to combine technical and political expertise to develop a shared understanding and approach regarding the complex interlinkages between climate change, peace and security.



Photo: UN Photo

The CSM's **capacity building offer** ensures that good practice and co-generated analysis and knowledge are translated to support practitioners' efforts at developing policies and programmes that effectively address CPS interlinkages, integrating a gender and social inclusion lens. In 2023, 250+ UN mission and country team staff as well as other experts have been equipped with knowledge, skills, networks, and resources through CSM-led/supported sessions expected to translate into more systematic CPS analysis, programming, indicators and reporting. The CSM also continued to mainstream CPS into broader UN training offerings. CSM-supported capacity building engagements over the past year built on the [Toolbox](#), [lessons learned](#) from the UN CPS Practitioners Dialogue and the [online course](#) on "Understanding Climate-Related Security Risks Through an Integrated Lens" translated into French in 2023 with CSM support.

2023 marked the rollout of a **CPS training curriculum for UN field missions** by DPPA, DPO and the CSM, with the first pilot delivered in South Sudan for UNMISS and the UNCT with UNSSC, SIPRI and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA). This was [replicated](#) for a cluster of UN missions and RCOs in the Middle East

and North Africa, working with UNSSC, SIPRI and the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA). Participants learned how to analyze and address CPS risks and advance climate-informed prevention, peacemaking, and peacebuilding. The CSM also supported a UNSSC-adelphi training for the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen and organized a participatory exchange on environment and CPS with UNEP and MINUSMA. It examined the Integrated Environmental Assessment by UNEP, UNDP and Mali, as well as findings of the Mali CPS assessment by adelphi, and further identified solutions building on examples by the PBF, the Malian NGO Azhar and UNEP.

In response to the findings of the [Thematic Review](#) on Climate Security and Peacebuilding and building on the Toolbox, DPPA/PBSO together with the CSM, UNSSC and adelphi co-organized the first of its kind [training](#) on **CPS Peacebuilding Programming**. It strengthened the capacity of practitioners from UN entities in the Gambia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger and South Sudan, representing FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, UN Women,

UNMISS, PDAs, and PBF secretariats. Participants improved their programming capacity and project design to respond to climate-related peace and security risks in the context of new national and cross-border projects being developed for consideration by the PBF. A [second iteration](#) has already been conducted with CSM support.

In the lead-up to the upcoming fourth edition of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, an **Aswan Forum Preparatory Workshop** was co-organized in Cairo by DPPA, DPO and CCCPA, along with adelphi and the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF). The [workshop](#) was dedicated to **multilateral partnerships on CPS** and focused on mission cooperation with regional organizations in the Horn of Africa, West Africa and the Sahel and Central Africa, to explore challenges and successes within the CPS space, as well as opportunities for collaboration and complementarity within and across organisations. It convened CPSAs deployed to UN missions (UNOWAS, UNOCA, OSE-HoA, UNMISS), experts and policymakers from relevant CPS and peacebuilding communities within regional organizations (AU, EU, LAS, LGA) and regional economic organizations (IGAD, ECCAS). The workshop facilitated cross-cutting inter-institutional knowledge exchange,

strengthened collaboration among CPSAs, and the identification of avenues for effective multi-level partnerships that build capacity and exchange information. It built upon the 2022 [UN CPS Practitioners Dialogue](#) (CSM & UNSSC).

In 2023, the **CPS Experts Academy** was further developed and replicated by UNDP and CCCPA/COP27 to train **policymakers and experts** working on climate, environment, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and financing. Delegates from 13 countries and sub-regions facing CPS challenges joined the second iteration to focus on strengthening climate policy and finance in conflict-affected and fragile contexts and shared case studies on their challenges and efforts on CPS. The third, “all-women” iteration organized in Cairo brought together participants from 15 fragile and conflict-affected settings to advance peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, establish networking, and foster sharing of best practices and lessons learned on integrated CPS approaches. A regional iteration for Europe and Central Asia was also convened in Istanbul. As of 2023, 160+ policymakers, negotiators and experts (with women comprising 60% of participants) had benefitted from in-person co-facilitator supported training through the Academy since its launch in late 2022, representing 60+ countries and 45+ institutions.

Photo: Climate, Peace & Security training in Mali, February 2023 (UNEP, CSM, MINUSMA)



LOOKING AHEAD

The **CPS policy field** continued to evolve dynamically in 2023, concluding with the COP28 CRRP Declaration. In the immediate aftermath, the CSM convened UN colleagues from the CoP on CPS to reflect on its implementation, which is expected to be a continuing theme towards COP29 and beyond. The CSM will further support the mainstreaming of CPS into **UNFCCC** discussions, including through COP27 and COP28 initiatives in the lead-up to COP29 and COP30. In addition to deepening existing collaboration with a variety of UN, State, regional, research and civil society partners, in 2023 the CSM invested in expanding the conversation with **additional voices from the frontlines**. The first Partnership Dialogue was a platform to share CSM experiences while bringing forward concrete examples and insightful perspectives from a variety of States. This format will be further enhanced and brought to other geographical contexts.

Moving forward, the CSM will continue to work with partners on **catalytic initiatives** that generate impact in some of the most affected regions and countries, while ensuring that local knowledge drives innovative risk management solutions. The success and **growing cadre of CPS advisors and experts** meant increased demands for cashflow in 2023, to assure maintaining existing posts while creating new ones. In 2024, the CSM will strive to sustain current deployments, extend support to new advisors to UNOAU and UNAMA, as well as support efforts towards regularising the posts in the mission budgets. The CSM will also strengthen collaboration with regional entities and provide CPS inputs to UN strategic planning processes.

Last year, the CSM undertook to better package its proposed **global knowledge, training and convening functions** and explain the required needs for **backstopping support** to CPS advisors and initiatives. In 2024, the CSM will further develop tailored technical support to connect CPSAs with expertise, networks, data and tools including to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, diagnostics and response design. This will be part of a broader effort to refine the **CSM's capacity building offer** for policymakers and experts, including by convening a strategic dialogue on CPS with senior UN mission officials and CPSAs.

Partnership and resource mobilization efforts were intensified in 2023, highlighting both the needs for expanding presence and for supporting CPS activities serving an increasing diversity of contexts. To ensure adequate, predictable and flexible resources to sustain and expand work that delivers results set out in its [Joint Programme Document](#), the CSM will strengthen existing partnerships while mobilizing diversified sources of funding, bringing in new partners and maintaining a sizeable donor base. An additional step is to explore opportunities with other potential partners, including by establishing



Photo: UN Photo

closer models of collaboration with international financial institutions and climate funds.

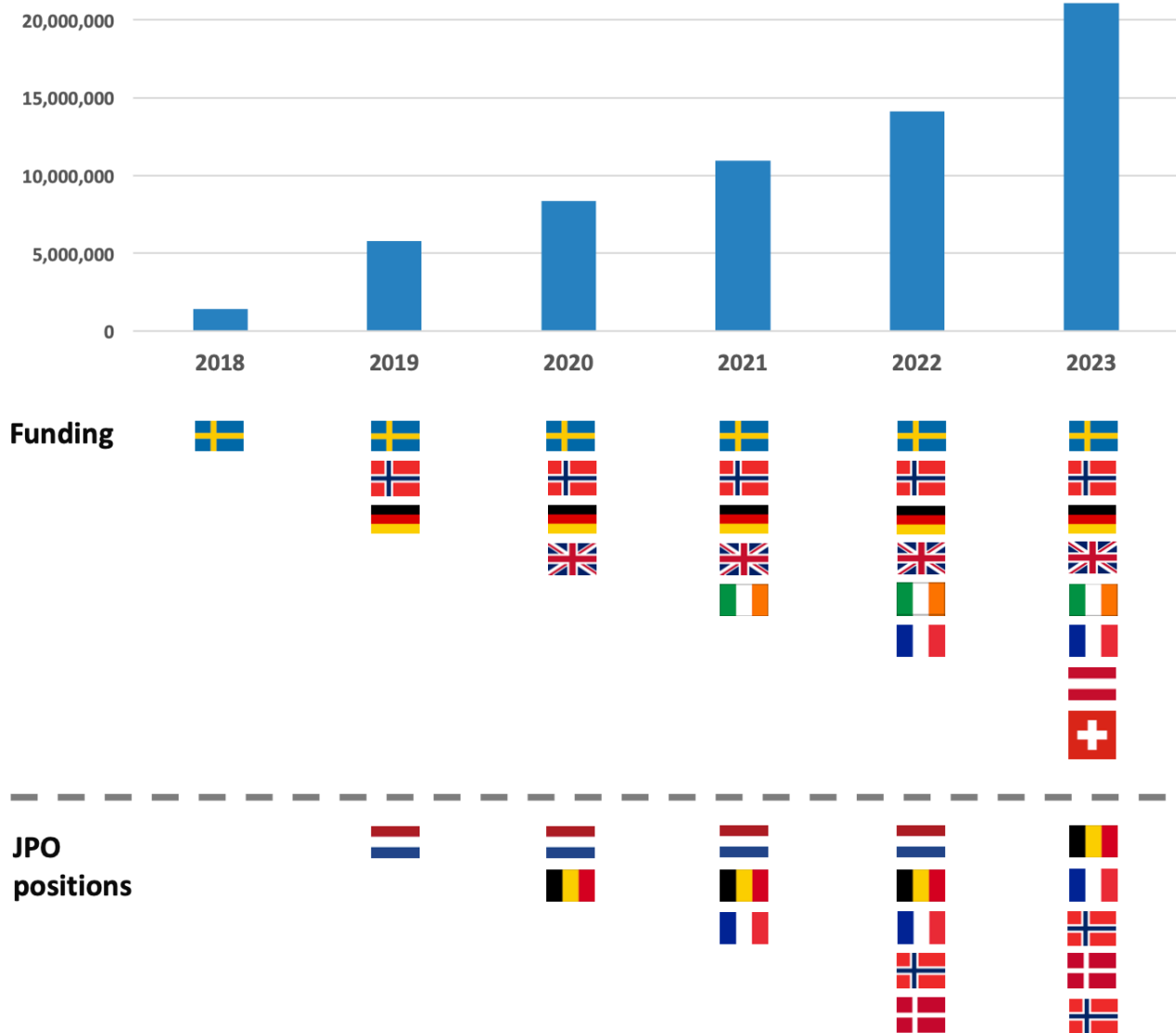
The CSM has documented and processed **good practices** in the UN context through the years. Trainings have conveyed **emerging lessons and guidelines**. In 2023, the CSM and research partners stepped up the discussion on quantitative data. CSM-organized conversations bringing together data producers and users have identified two main areas requiring further attention: 1) navigating existing platforms and understanding the complementarities of available tools; and 2) developing data beyond the diagnostic use and better grasping **data for opportunities, solutions and transformative change**. In 2024, the CSM will develop this line of work, initiate **knowledge products** looking at best practices and impact stories from CPS advisors and initiatives, and consider a light update of the Toolbox. The CSM will also enhance its **outreach and knowledge hub function** by developing a dedicated website for the UN and partners.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

The CSM Joint Programme, administered by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), provides the CSM with a flexible and efficient pooled funding modality to support its work around the world. As of December 2023, a total of US\$ 21.1 million⁷ out of US\$ 52.4 million had been mobilized by the CSM since the inception

of the first phase of its work in late 2018. The status of funding contributions through MPTFO to date can be found on the [MPTFO Partners Gateway](#). The graph below shows the CSM’s estimated cumulative resources, highlighting both funding and in-kind contributions from Member State partners.

Cumulative funding mobilized as of December 2023 (US\$)*



*The above graph reflects resources mobilized as of December 2023 and therefore does not include new funding contributions pledged in 2024 by Canada, the United Arab Emirates, France and Ireland at the time of writing.

⁷ Calculated using UN operational rates of exchange on the dates the respective transfers were made.

THANK YOU

The CSM expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom for their generous contributions and consistent support through the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The CSM would also like to thank the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Norway for their in-kind support through Junior Professional Officers. Without the strong support from partners, including at political and technical levels, the work of the CSM would not be possible.

The CSM extends its thanks to partners in UN entities, regional and sub-regional organizations, the academic and research community, and civil society for their strong collaboration. These partnerships have helped foster innovative thinking, a shared language, a more robust evidence base, emerging lessons learned and, critically, entry points for further collaboration. They will remain vital in advancing this agenda globally and in effectively addressing the linkages between climate change, peace and security.



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Climate, Peace and Security Trello Board: [Link](#)

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