

NOVEMBER 6 JOINT STATEMENT

FROM WORDS TO ACTION: TIME TO ACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PEACE AND SECURITY

Over the past year, the crises facing the global environment have become more visible than ever before. The climate emergency, biodiversity collapse, plastic pollution and the murder of environmental defenders have driven powerful civil society movements demanding change. Now is the time for leadership and bold actions to deliver this change and safeguard our environment.

Just as international civil society movements are demanding bold action to combat global environmental threats, so communities and activists in states affected by conflicts are calling for action to prevent and address the environmental consequences of wars. Whether it is the deliberate burning of crops in the Middle East, massive deforestation in protected areas in Colombia, or attacks on water and oil infrastructure in Libya, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Syria, it is the environment and the people depending on it that suffer.

Environmental degradation threatens peace and security, while conflicts can have a devastating impact on ecosystems, and on human health and livelihoods. By reversing sustainable development, they undermine progress towards tackling the massive environmental challenges that we face in the 21st century. Peace and security rely on healthy and productive ecosystems and a protected environment, just as environmental protection relies on peaceful societies.

Our 102 signatories are drawn from many different organisations and experts who are working to improve our understanding of the connections between the environment, peace and security, and to identify opportunities to protect people and ecosystems. And there is no shortage of opportunities.

Where once the environment was a “silent victim” of conflicts, on-the-ground data collection and reporting, innovative research and technologies are improving the visibility of environmental damage and our understanding of its causes. This information will help drive the development of the transformative policies that are urgently needed to reduce harm and help build peace.

We welcome the many initiatives that have emerged in recent years on the environmental dimensions of armed conflicts. From local advocacy to international legal and security policy debates, to new processes to integrate environmental protection into humanitarian response and post-conflict recovery.

But in many cases these initiatives have not yet translated into change on the ground and, just as 2019 has highlighted the urgency of action to address global environmental crises, so it is also time for bold action from the international community on the environment, peace and security.

To move from words to action this [#EnvConflictDay](#), the international community must:

- Establish the capacity to identify, act on and mitigate the environmental risks that can lead to armed conflicts.
- Strengthen, implement and respect the laws protecting the environment in relation to armed conflicts, and hold those responsible for harm to account.
- Assess environmental risks and assist victims after conflicts, remediate damage, and employ all the environmentally sound tools at its disposal to regenerate ecosystems while supporting communities to build sustainable peace.

SIGNATORIES

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Action on Armed Violence (GB)
Airwars (GB)
Al-Haq (PS)
Armed Conflict and Civilian Protection Initiative, Harvard Law School (US)
Article 36 (GB)
Association de Prise en Charge des Orphelins de Guerre (BI)
Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-Geneva (CH)
Associazione Nazionale Vittime Civili di Guerra (IT)
Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal (NP)
Biosecure Ltd (GB)
Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (CO)
Centre for Environmental Humanities, University of Bristol (GB)
Conflict and Environment Observatory (GB)
Conflict and Health Research Group, King's College London (GB)
Conflict Awareness Project (US)
Congoese Campaign to Ban Landmines (CD)
Disarmament Dynamics (GB)
ECPAT Guatemala (GT)
Environmental Law Institute (US)
Environmentalists Against War (US)
Facing Finance (DE)
Fight for Humanity (CH)
Foundation Network of Survivors and People with Disabilities (SV)
Fundación Instituto de Ecología Política (CL)
Geneva Water Hub (CH)
Global Water 2020 (US)
Humanitarian Mine Action Initiative (MM)
IANSAs Women's Network Nigeria (NG)
Igarapé Institute (BR)
Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament and Environmental Protection (IN)
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (GB)
International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (DE)
International Women's Rights Project (CA)
Iraqi Health and Social Care Organization (IQ)
Italian Campaign Against Landmines (IT)
Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines (JP)
Journalists for Human Rights (MK)
Mercy Corps (US)
Mines Action Canada (CA)
Nobel Women's Initiative (CA)
Nonviolence International Canada (CA)
Nonviolence International Southeast Asia (TH)
Norwegian People's Aid (NO)
PAX (NL)
Peace Movement Aotearoa (NZ)
Peace Rising (US)
Promoção da Paz, Prevenção do Crime e Reintegração Social (MZ)
Save the Tigris Campaign, Iraq (IQ)
Society for the Environment (GB)
Soka Gakkai International (JP)
Somali Human Rights Association (SO)
Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (PK)
The Initiative for a Mine Free Turkey (TR)
The Iraqi Environment and Health Society (GB)
Uganda Landmine Survivors Association (UG)
Vision GRAM - International (CD)
West Virginia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Bombs/PSALM: Proud Students Against Landmines and Cluster Bombs (US)
Win Without War (US)
Women Development Society (IN)
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (NO)
Zoï Environment Network (CH)
Zoological Society of London (GB)

INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS

Dr. Adriana Erthal Abdenur
Dra. Teresa Abáigar, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
Dr. Matthew Bolton, Director, International Disarmament Institute, Pace University (USA)
Dr. Nancy E. Boyer, Affiliated Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Delaware
Dr. Guy Cowlshaw, Zoological Society of London, UK
Dr. Pierre-André Crochet, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)
Daniëlla Dam-de Jong, Associate Professor, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden University
Dr. Pinar Dinc, Researcher, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University (SE)
Dr. Marianna Dudley, Co-director of the University of Bristol Centre for Environmental Humanities
Prof. Sarah Durant, Zoological Society of London, UK
Dr. Lina Eklund, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University
Juanita Esguerra-Rezk, Research Associate, Peace Accords Matrix (Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies - University of Notre Dame)
Dr. Peter Gleick, Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security
Dr. Julia Gorricho, Project Officer for South America, WWF Germany
Dr. Rosemary Groom, Southern African Coordinator, Range Wide Conservation Program for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs, Zoological Society of London
Dr. Emma Hakala, Finnish Institute of International Affairs / BIOS Research Unit
Eleanor Harvie, Africa Programme, Zoological Society of London
Prof. Karen Hulme, Law School, University of Essex
Dr. Elaine (Lan Yin) Hsiao, Global Challenges Fellow, Sheffield Institute for International Development (SIID) / Co-Chair, IUCN CEESP Theme on Environment and Peace
Jasper Humphreys, Research Director, The Marjan Centre, King's College, London
Dr. Stasja Koot, Sociology of Development and Change, Wageningen University, the Netherlands
Dr. Torsten Krause, Assistant Professor, Lund University
Olivia Lazard, Director at Peace in Design Consulting Ltd
Miguel Londoño, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
Dr. Maria Andrea Nardi, Affiliated Researcher, Director of Studies, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Lund University (Sweden)
Dr. David Olson, WWF Hong Kong
MSc. Lilianna Pimentel, PhD Candidate at Universidade de Brasília. Former Hubert Humphrey Fellow. Member of The Climate Leadership Corps Brazilian branch, OLAC and EnPax.
Glen Plant, Author: Environmental Protection and the Law of War
Prof. Juan M Pleguezuelos, Granada University, Spain
Diana Rice, Dawson College Peace Centre, Dawson College, QC, Canada
Jo Rodrigues, Gender & Conflict Resolution Consultant
Dr. Roberto Lázaro Suau, Arid Zones Experimental Station, Almería, institute belonging to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
Juliane Schillinger, PhD Candidate, University of Twente
Gar Smith, Author: The War and Environment Reader
Dr. Britta Sjöstedt, Faculty of Law, Lund University
Dr. Alaaeldin Sultán, Department of Ecology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.
Prof. Richard Sullivan, King's College London
Kristin Weis, Coastal Management and Community Resilience Consultant
Zabrina Welter, Scientific Researcher, University of Freiburg
Prof. Rosie Woodroffe, Zoological Society of London, UK