

## NATO and climate change

The topic of climate change is not entirely new to NATO. The 2010 Strategic Concept states that climate change has an effect on security environment and, subsequently, in 2014 NATO adopted the Green Defence framework as guidelines to making NATO activities more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

NATO's approach to climate change has been mostly through military energy efficiency. It included efforts to increase energy efficiency in expeditionary environment, research in green technologies, reducing energy dependencies, alternative fuel solutions, etc. NATO has been indirectly contemplating the reduction of climate change, yet the effects of climate change on security situation has not been directly addressed.

However, recent NATO Reflection group's report "NATO 2030: United for a New Era" (November 2020) foresees climate change as one of the main new security challenges, affecting implementation of NATO security policy and is also seen as threat multiplier, increasing uncontrolled migratory flows or growing geopolitical rivalry for new transport corridors in the Arctic region. NATO Secretary General's food-for-thought paper "NATO 2030 – a Transatlantic Agenda for the Future" (February 2021) also lists combating and adapting to climate change as one of the priorities for the NATO future activities. Strategic awareness of climate change impact on security, reducing carbon emissions from military activities and establishing regular high level-discussions is seen as important goals in this context.

It is worth to mention, that NATO is not the main player in reducing climate change in the broad sense. **NATO's efforts are best implemented in those areas where climate change has a significant impact on Allied security and affects the security environment in which NATO operate.**

[NATO - Opinion: NATO must combat climate change - Op-ed article by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, 27-Sep.-2020](#)