



The Impact of Climate Change and Disarmament on International Security



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Introduction

Climate change and competition for natural resources are considered the key root causes behind violent conflict and arms proliferation around the world. The changing environment has also given rise to new challenges and threats to regions that suffer from unstable living conditions and increased natural disasters, fueling the competition for scarce resources and leading to increasing migration flows. Moreover, the exploitation of resources including oil, gas, minerals, etc. has intensified conflicts in the insecure regions of the world that are rich in resources. As such, disarmament and non-proliferation are necessary to prevent violent conflicts and wars and ultimately to build peace and maintain international peace and security.

No country is immune to threats, whether security or health threats, such as the outbreak of new diseases and climate change, especially when combined with other security threats such as cross-border terrorism and widespread cyber-attacks. The current national security frameworks are insufficient to address these threats. Climate change affects, both directly and indirectly, all functions of government and society, land safety, economic well-being, social stability, and military capabilities. It is argued that climate change has become a global existential threat to international security, which makes it fundamentally different from other threats to collective security, particularly in light of technological developments in the field of production and proliferation of weapons of all kinds, and arms deals as well as the weakening of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and the use of prohibited weapons, such as anti-personnel mines and biological and chemical weapons.

Accordingly, in this paper, Maat will attempt to analyze whether there is a connections between the effects created by climate change and arms proliferation, in addition to identifying the policies and measures that can be taken in order to reduce the effects of these changes on international security through the following axes:

First: Conceptual Framework

Second: Climate change and arms proliferation as threats to international security

Third: Efforts of international community to undermine the effects of climate change and disarmament

First: Conceptual Framework

This study focuses on a number of concepts that studies and international laws have attempted to find a specific and agreed upon definition for. These concepts include international security, climate change and disarmament. The basic variables that this study analyzes are the reciprocal effects of each on the other

The concept of International Security

The concept of security is disputed and the changes in the contemporary security environment have led to several attempts to define such changes and lay their conceptual and political framework and their effects on states, societies and individuals. The traditional concept of security includes other concepts that expand the nature of potential threats (terrorism, organized crime...) which are threats related to risk factors in the economic, political, social, and environmental fields, and they have an impact on global security, subnational groups and individuals

Studies agreed on five basic dimensions of security, which are:

- **Military security:** It concerns the two interacting levels of armed attack and defensive capabilities and countries' understanding of each other's intentions.
- **Political security:** It means the organizational stability of states, government systems, and the ideologies on which their legitimacy are based.
- **Economic security:** It concerns the financial resources and markets necessary to maintain, on a permanent basis, acceptable levels of well-being and the strength of the state.
- **Social security:** It concerns the ability of societies to maintain their patterns of specificity with regard to language, culture, national and religious identity, customs and traditions within acceptable conditions for their development.
- **Environmental security:** It is related to the preservation of the local or global biosphere as a basic factor upon which all human activities depend

The United Nations Development Report of 1994 focused on reformulating the concept of security by addressing the types of threats facing the world, particularly the problem of environmental security (pollution, climate change). As a result, the security of individuals, communities and the environment became central to the new concept of security. According to the in-depth explanation of the expanded concept of security by the United Nations Development Report, there are two main dimensions of security:

1- The provision of security against risks or threats to humankind, such as pollution, famine and epidemics... etc.

2- The protection from sudden disturbances and intrusions of daily life.

The report also identified a set of characteristics for the new concept of security, which is universal for all human beings, whether in developed and developing or in rich and poor countries. Climate threats negatively affect and all peoples, such as the issues of desertification, drought, high temperature and rising sea levels...etc.⁽¹⁾

These definitions established the connection between the concepts of security and climate change. The United Nations consider the effects resulting from climate change to be threats to international security

The concept of Climate Change

Scientifically speaking, climate change means a rise in the temperature of the surface of the earth that leads to a change in the characteristics of the climate. Climate is affected by various processes and cycles, including geological and chemical ones resulting from interactions between various environmental components. Hence, climate change is defined as “a disturbance and shift in the characteristics of the climate, which leads to a change in the composition of the atmosphere due to the increase in temperature, which directly or indirectly affects human activity.” In other words, this change is the combustion of gases generated by various natural and unnatural activities in the atmosphere, which lead to high temperatures and climatic disturbances. These gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxide and chlorine .

In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law, states have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources in accordance with their own environmental and development policies. They also have a responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not harm to the environment of other states or regions outside the boundaries of their national jurisdiction. Paragraph 2 of Article 1 of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change defined climate change as ⁽²⁾

(1) التغير المناخي وتداعياته على الأمن الدولي (1989-2018)، الموسوعة الجزائرية

(2) التغير المناخي وتداعياته على الأمن الدولي (1989-2018)، الموسوعة الجزائرية

” a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods

Paragraph 1 of the same Article defined the adverse effects of climate change as “changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare”⁽³⁾

In 195 ,2015 countries signed the 2015 Paris Agreement to combat climate change and adapt to its effects worldwide. This Agreement aims to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 °C compared to pre-industrial levels, so it does not exceed 2 °C by 2100, which is the first step towards climate change mitigation. The Agreement aims to prevent or reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to business-as-usual scenarios⁽⁴⁾

The concept of Disarmament

After the end of World War II and the atrocities it left behind due to the heavy use of weapons of mass destruction, such as the atomic bomb dropped by the United States of America on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world stood awe-struck with horror at the imminent threats posed by this deadly weapon to international peace and security. Accordingly, when preparing the Charter of the United Nations, the international community began to emphasize the idea of collective security instead of the theory of security through a balance of power, which was based on the idea that if countries enjoy the freedom to arm themselves, this would prevent the outbreak of war because both parties will have the same power. This is contrary to the idea of collective security, which requires the presence of an international entity that prevents the use of force and aggression and supports peace and security through the activation of mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of disputes and disarmament⁽⁵⁾

(3) راجع المادة الدولية من الاتفاقية الاطارية لتغير المناخ

(4) داليا صقر، تغير المناخ والدروس المستفادة من كوفيد-19، حلول للسياسات البيئية، ٢ يونيو ٢٠٢٠

(5) د. محمد نادي، ميثاق الامم المتحدة ونزع السلاح، المنظمة العربية للهلل الاحمر والطبيب الاحمر، ١١ نوفمبر ٢٠٢٠

Hence, the international community's new vision is based on maintaining international peace and security through a set of mechanisms, most notably disarmament. The United Nations Charter has a number of articles addressing disarmament as one of the most important purposes of the United Nations, as follows:



Article 1 of the Charter stipulates, “The Purposes of the United Nations are to maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity

with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.” In addition, **Paragraph 3 of Article 2** stipulates, “All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.” **Paragraph 1 of Article 11** also emphasizes, “The General Assembly may consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, and may make recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members or to the Security Council or to both.” **Article 26** stipulates, “In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in **Article 47**, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United-Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.” **Paragraph 1 of Article 47** stipulates, “There shall be established a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments, and possible disarmament.”⁽⁶⁾

(6) يرجى الرجوع إلى نصوص المواد المذكورة من ميثاق الأمم المتحدة على الرابط



Based on the foregoing, the Charter of the United Nations emphasized the connection between disarmament and the achievement of collective security, as it explicitly prohibits the threat or use of force in international relations and urges states to pursue peaceful means of resolving disputes that may arise between them. In the same context, the Charter also emphasized arms reduction as a primary measure to achieve complete disarmament. However, in reality the provisions of the UN Charter are not implemented on ground. An example of such was the proliferation of the arms race after the establishment of the United Nations in the period of cold war between the Soviet Union and the US. Moreover, lethal weapons or at least those that have the same humanitarian, economic and psychological effects as weapons of mass destruction are spread worldwide, for example, land mines that were able to immobilize entire countries. This is in addition to the spread of anti-human mines in non-international armed conflicts in particular and the increase in the number of fields with unknown maps, especially at the level of the Arab region that has the largest percentage of mines planted in the world, which have not yet been cleared, exacerbating the human losses and causing birth defects for a large proportion of people, including children.⁽⁷⁾

Second: Climate change and arms proliferation as threats to international security

There have been different threats to international peace and security in different periods, which affect the political or and economic situation. In modern times, the environmental and technological developments have become the most significant threats to international security. It is not a secret to anyone that the technological developments in the 20th century in the field of the arms industry led to many humanitarian disasters, such as the two world wars and hundreds of armed conflicts in different parts of the world.

Environmental changes have also resulted in threats that are no less important the security threats. The direct effects of climate change are evident around the world such as melting glaciers, rising sea levels, prolonged droughts, heat waves, persistent wildfires, torrential rains and catastrophic storms, resulting in severe consequences for humans such as crop failure, fisheries collapse, water insecurity and coastal flooding, which in turn lead to mass migration and displacement. This lead to fragile states and regions where increased conflict over scarce resources allows malignant actors to flourish. As such, climate change is a threat multiplier that affects every aspect of international security.⁽⁸⁾

(7) د. محمد نادي، ميثاق الأمم المتحدة ونزع السلاح، المنظمة العربية للهدوء والصلح، ١١ نوفمبر ٢٠٢٠

Calder Walton & Sean Power, Climate Change, Intelligence, and Global Security, Belfer Center, May 2021 (8)

Although there is no direct connection between climate change, violence and conflict and the associated increased demand for arms, whether by states, armed groups, terrorist organizations or non-state actors, large-scale environmental and climate change may contribute to creating an



environment favorable for armed organizations to gain more power and influence. For example, the increasing rates of water scarcity resulting from climate change resulted in the exploitation of water as a weapon by terrorist organizations in Somalia. Many security studies confirmed the direct connection between climate, conflict and water armament. Following of the drought that struck Somalia as a result of climate

change, Al-Shabaab terrorist movement changed their combat tactics, which were based on guerrilla wars, and shifted towards isolating the liberated cities from their water sources⁽⁹⁾. Climate change also influences the arms race between countries. The scarcity of resources resulting from desertification and lack of rain has led some countries to exploit common resources, such as rivers, without taking into account the common interests of other countries.

Climate change as a threat to international security

Many studies confirm that citizens of countries whose economies depend largely on agriculture, such as African countries and countries in South Asia and Latin America, and countries that depend on tourism, such as small island states, are the most vulnerable to security threats resulting from the negative repercussions of climate change. Climate disturbances lead to a decline in agricultural production and an increase in crop prices. As for fragile countries or those suffering from internal tensions, climate change complicates the possibility of overcoming their problems, which often leads to a state of instability in the country. The African continent is one of the regions most affected by climate change, even though it contributes to less than %5 of the total emissions, but it does not have the necessary infrastructure to adapt to that change, which applies to most Arab countries in particular. Climate change leads to drought, desertification and water poverty in most Arab countries⁽¹⁰⁾

(9) التغييرات المناخية تشعل قضايا الصراع في العالم، الامارات اليوم، ١٢ أكتوبر ٢٠١٩

(10) د. حنان أبو سكين، تغير المناخ والامن الانساني الطريق إلى العدالة الانسانية، المركز العربي للبحوث والدراسات، ٣١ مارس ٢٠٢٠

In a report by the international consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) in 2008, it identified 11 areas that are in water-related dispute that could turn into conflict, including Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan. Since that time, these disputes have been increasing and, placing the Arab region in a state of turmoil since 2011⁽¹¹⁾. A US intelligence report also identified eleven countries and two regional regions around the world in which energy and food security will be at risk as a result of climate change, making them unable to adapt to such change, and thus leaving them vulnerable to instability and internal conflicts because of heatwaves and drought. Five of the eleven countries are located in South and East Asia, namely: Afghanistan, Burma, India, Pakistan, and North Korea. There are four countries in Central America and the Caribbean - Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua. This is in addition to Iraq and Colombia. Central Africa and states in the Pacific Ocean are also at risk. The report believes that climate change is likely to result in the displacement of several individuals⁽¹²⁾.

Climate change can also lead to armed conflicts or acts of violence, and consequently an increase in the proliferation of weapons in areas of tension and conflict, which is shown by several studies that have examined the connection between climate change and violence. These studies showed that with regard to economies that depend heavily on natural resources, increasing or decreasing rainfall increases the risk of local violence, particularly in African pastoral communities. In the African Sahel, for example, climate change has severely damaged local communities, causing some individuals to engage in violence and armed conflict. In addition, the increase in temperature, irregular rainfall and the resulting desertification of the lands and the reduction of the exploitable areas have fueled these conflicts, which is the case in the Lake Chad region⁽¹³⁾.

(11) محمد عمر، التغييرات المناخية المتصاعدة وتأثيرها على زيادة الصراع بالشرق الأوسط، المركز العربي للبحوث والدراسات

(12) تقرير استخباراتي أمريكي يحذر من احتدام التوتر في الشرق الأوسط وحول العالم، موقع BBC عربي

(13) أحمد ذكي عثمان، عامل تعقيد إضافي تغير المناخ يقاوم معاناة المدنيين في أوقات الحروب، مجلة الإنساني، ٢٨ أغسطس ٢٠١٩

Climate changes often lead to geopolitical changes whose are particular clear in fragile areas such as the Horn of Africa. Based on the foregoing, the impact of climate change on natural resources undermines the ability nations to govern themselves and increases the chances of conflicts, which may result is the transformation of these countries into a fertile environment for terrorism, particularly in light of the current state of instability and the increasing poverty rates. The complex risks arising from climate change and conflicts can contribute to the emergence and growth of terrorist organizations, especially since climate change increases the vulnerability of states and insecurity. As a result, terrorist organizations grow and easily exert their influence in fragile and conflict-affected environments, where the state has no influence and lacks legitimacy. In some cases, terrorist organizations try to bridge the gap left by the state, by providing basic services in order to obtain legitimacy and gain trust and support among the local population ⁽¹⁴⁾

Undoubtedly, climate change affects basic resources, especially food and water, increasing the vulnerability of countries and security problems in many regions around the world. The connection between climate change and conflicts is often addressed by linking climate change and resource scarcity and the repercussions of such scarcity.

With regard to food security, the lack of rainfall and the conflict over the waters of the rivers, which are decreasing while the population continues to grow, will lead to the exposure of Arab countries such as Jordan, Libya and Morocco to severe food shortages in the coming years. Agricultural yields are likely to decline by about %30 by 2050 if the Earth's temperatures hit between 1.5 °C to 2 °C due to the lack of water and the increase in salinity of the lands as a result of the mixing of sea water with agricultural lands, which is the case in the Egyptian Delta and the North African countries. About %25 of the Delta's area is at risk of drowning as a result of climatic changes, in addition to the reduced fertility of the remaining arable land ⁽¹⁵⁾

(14) التغييرات المناخية تشعل قضايا الصراع في العالم، الامارات اليوم، ١٢ أكتوبر ٢٠١٩

(15) محمد عمر، التغييرات المناخية المتصاعدة وتأثيرها على زيادة الصراع بالشرق الاوسط، المركز العربي للبحوث والدراسات

This vision is consistent with the remarks of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which indicate that the main reason for the high levels of food insecurity lies in three factors that may sometimes overlap, namely: armed conflicts, economic crises and extreme climate changes, especially prolonged droughts in some areas of Africa, such as Eastern Africa or Lake Chad. FAO estimates show that the number of undernourished people has increased in 2019, with around 815 million people per day globally. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates show that climate change may increase the risk of hunger and malnutrition by %20 by 2050⁽¹⁶⁾.



Climate change also threatens water security for Arab countries due to the droughts and lack of water that the Middle East has been suffering from for decades. The region has witnessed wide tensions in this regard, whether within one country or between countries that

share the same river such as Iraq, Turkey and Iran. Ankara has taken advantage of the circumstances Iraq has been going through since 2003, to control the waters of the Tigris River by seizing huge quantities of water behind the Ilisu Dam, which was established on the Tigris River in June 2018, leading to a decrease in the flow of water by %50, and causing many Iraqi lands to dry up. In addition, Iran diverted the course of rivers and streams flowing towards Iraq to stop the flow of water that feeds the Zab River heading to Iraq, which is one of the three main tributaries of the Tigris River, which affected the most important areas in southern Iraq. Given that Iraq gets about %70 of its water from outside its borders, this country will face a state of conflict in the future with its neighbors, in addition to the Iranian influence within it, Turkish interventions and the poor conditions of country in general. About a quarter of a million hectares of Iraqi land was decertified due to drought and lack of water. Moreover, many Iraqis in the south migrated from their villages as a result of water scarcity.

(16) أحمد ذكي عثمان، عامل تعقيد إضافي تغير المناخ يقاوم معاناة المدنيين في أوقات الحروب، مجلة الإنساني، ٢٨ أغسطس ٢٠١٩



Turkey has taken advantage of the situation in Syria to deduct from its water quotas. In February 2018, Ankara reduced the waters of the Euphrates River through the Syrian territory, which affected the north of the country. This water reduction will threaten 2 million residents of Aleppo Governorate and other governorates, such as Deir ez-Zor and Raqqa, who depend on the Euphrates River for drinking or irrigation purposes and will increase power outages. The Turkish activities, whether in Iraq or Syria, come within its water project called the "Southeastern Anatolia Project", which Ankara has been working on for years. For Ankara, the current situation in Syria and Iraq serves as the perfect opportunity for it to implement its plans.

The Israeli occupation state also seeks to steal fresh water from the occupied Palestinian territories, Syria and southern Lebanon, which already suffer from severe water poverty as a result of climatic changes that have affected the region for years. Israel steals about 813 million cubic meters of water annually from the lands of Syria and occupied Palestinians.⁽¹⁷⁾

One can argue that climate change will have a significant effect on the potable water of the Arab region and it will lead to an increase in the rate of desertification, which already covers about %68 of the total area of the Arab region. Furthermore, climate change will intensify conflicts in the region, whether between states and each other or within a single state as a result of pressure on resources and the migration of some populations from their areas to other areas of the state, which is the case in Sudan and some African countries due to disputes over pastures. Some coastal Arab cities are at risk of disappearing as a result of the increase in sea levels. This is in addition to the prevalence of water scarcity and drought resulting caused by a lack of rain due to high temperatures on the planet. Therefore, conflicts will erupt and famines will spread in the Middle East are a result of climatic changes caused mainly by the industrialized countries. It is safe to say that the Middle East has already been affected by such changes in varying degrees.

In the same context, rapid natural disasters such as storms and floods affect migration directly and tangibly, and these disasters have become the main cause of forced migration, especially internal displacement. The effects of climate change are expected



to intensify such disasters and accelerate displacement rates in the upcoming decades. The number of natural disasters such as storms and floods has tripled over the past 30 years, and their impact on vulnerable communities are devastating, particularly in the developing world. It is estimated that since 2008

approximately 27 million people have been displaced annually because of the natural disasters. Slow natural disasters such as drought, water scarcity, sea-level rise, desertification and coastal erosion are more complex and affect vulnerable people such as indigenous peoples, women and children. These groups may be more dependent on natural resources, which may exacerbate existing political and social tensions.⁽¹⁸⁾

Hence, it is expected that climate change will have implications, including the rise of extremist groups, violence and conflict between citizens and States, which would lead to the possibility of conflicts between States competing to secure resources for their citizens. United States intelligence reports issued in March 2021 have highlighted the effects of climate change and the likelihood that it will exacerbate risks to human security and then patriotism. States will be forced to make difficult choices and trade-offs, and the burden will probably be distributed disproportionately, increasing competition, contributing to instability, straining military readiness, encouraging political movements, rebel movements and terrorism to threaten the security of States and their survival.⁽¹⁹⁾

(18) د. حنان أبو سكين، تغير المناخ والامن الانساني الطريق إلى العدالة الانسانية، المركز العربي للبحوث والدراسات، ٣١ مارس ٢٠٢٠

(19) تغييرات المناخ تهديدات متصاعدة للامن القومي للدول، العين الاخبارية، ٢٤ أكتوبر ٢٠٢١

Third: Efforts of international community to undermine the effects of climate change and disarmament

Disarmament is key purpose for which the UN was established. However, some people argue that climate change should not receive the attention of the United Nations in general and the UN Security Council in particular, since it must remain solely within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Economic and Social Council. This is complicated by the fact that the five permanent members of the Council are among the world's biggest polluters. For example, China emits more greenhouse gas than the entire developed world combined, while the per capita greenhouse gas emissions are highest in the United States, the largest share of historical emissions.

The UN Charter gives the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Chapter VI of the UN Charter gave broad discretion in investigating situations that are likely to endanger international peace and security. Chapter VII: Article 39, however, states that "Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security." In this light and according to estimates of environmental scientists, climate scientists and national security specialists, attention has been paid to the role of climate change in stimulating conflicts, intensifying natural disasters and threatening the territorial integrity and sovereignty of many island States, leading to an increase in international and non-international conflicts. The consequences of climate change also strike at the heart of the sovereign system of the UN Charter. Scientists predict that four islands such as Kiribati, the Maldives, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu may be uninhabitable by the middle of the century and the resulting potential for increased proliferation rates of all types of weapons.⁽²⁰⁾

UN Disarmament Efforts

Throughout history, states seek to work on disarmaments in bilaterally or multilaterally to build a safer world and to protect people from harm. Since the establishment of the UN, disarmament and arms control efforts have played a crucial role in preventing and ending many crises and armed conflicts. Weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, remain a major concern because of their destructive power and their threat to all humanity. The excessive accumulation of and illicit trade in conventional weapons threaten international peace and security and sustainable development, while the use of heavy conventional weapons in populated areas threatens civilians. New and emerging weapons techniques, such as autonomous weapons, threaten global security, and the international community has been called upon to pay increased attention to them in recent years. There are many reasons why disarmament measures must be pursued and why: maintaining international peace and security, upholding the principles of humanity, protecting civilians, promoting sustainable development, strengthening trust among States and preventing and ending armed conflicts. Disarmament and arms control measures help to ensure international and human security in the twenty-first century and must therefore be an integral part of a credible and effective collective security system.⁽²¹⁾

It is well known that the UN Charter does not prevent its Member States from possessing and using conventional weapons in accordance with international law. This is why terms such as arms control and limitation of armaments are used more than disarmament when referring to conventional weapons. However, some conventional weapons may cause humanitarian concern either because of the manner in which they are used or they may be used, or because of their design that makes them even relevant to international humanitarian law⁽²²⁾

(21) نزع السلاح لتأمين مستقبل البشرية، الأمم المتحدة

(22) نزع السلاح، الامم المتحدة

Accordingly, armaments are a sovereign right guaranteed by international law and international relations. However, there are controls over which States have come into contact in dealing with this issue. There are two aspects of each of them. Disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation, arms control, etc. Disarmament is a wide field for agreed international efforts to reduce and permanently abolish all forms of war. Today, it has become a basic principle of international law, as the UN Charter and its resolutions define the methods to be followed for disarmament, through two main organs of the international organization: The General Assembly and the Security Council, as well as the UN, have a Committee known as the Disarmament Commission composed of all Members of the UN.

Total disarmament: General Assembly resolution 1378 (2000/11/1959)) was the first international legal instrument for the adoption of a text that considers comprehensive and general disarmament to be the ultimate objective of the arms control process. This resolution subsequently became an integral part of a number of numerous agreements, such as the Moscow Convention of 1963 prohibiting nuclear testing by its three means and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1968. It should be recalled that the idea of complete disarmament has been evident since 1961 between the United States and the Soviet Union, through negotiations on accepted principles of complete disarmament. The third paragraph states:

2-Elimination of stockpiles of nuclear, chemical, and microbial weapons.



1-Demobilization of armed forces and dismantling of military structures, especially bases.




4-Abolition of organizations, agencies, and institutes devoted to the organization of military efforts and military training



3-Destruction of the means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction.





Thus, it can be said that complete disarmament requires a form of global government that deters one nation from attacking another. In a demilitarized world and without a government sufficiently armed to prevent aggression between nations, doctrinal differences and interests may easily lead to renewed global conflict and the threat of war, but any global government is capable of preventing global conflict may turn into an absolute dictatorship. This saying might avoid the truth in the unipolar world we live in today.

- **Arms control:** Disarmament has been replaced by arms control in the vocabulary of experts since the 1960s and has meant greater scope for action than disarmament because it includes steps that impose balance and help avoid incidents. However, it has been difficult to separate the subject of arms control from political problems. **The process of arms control and armaments has played a positive role that can be appreciated through three dimensions:**

1- **Static deterrence:** That is by securing sufficient and reasonable forces to deter the opponent from undertaking an ill-calculated political adventure that could lead to war.

2- **Fixed weapon surveillance:** Through the establishment of mutual military relations between the two States, they allow for the monitoring of their respective military structures and resources.

3- **Crisis stabilization:** By finding some form of power on both sides that prevents either of them, in time of crisis, from doing the first strike.

Indeed, arms control measures have opened the door between the warring parties to try to build confidence, through communication more than by changing the reality of military forces on the ground.⁽²³⁾

United Nations General Assembly First Committee also deals with disarmament and the global challenges to peace that affect the international community. The Committee seeks to find as many solutions as possible to threats within the international security system. It promotes cooperative measures aimed at promoting stability through reductions in arms levels

The Committee cooperates closely with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. The UN Disarmament Commission was established as a body of the UN General Assembly composed of all UN States Members. The establishment of this body is a deliberative body responsible for reviewing various disarmament issues, making recommendations on disarmament and following up on the decisions and recommendations of the special session. The UN General Assembly supported the goal of disarmament because the United Nations was one of the first fundamental diplomatic efforts to promote nuclear disarmament. In 1978, the UN General Assembly convened the first special session on disarmament and recognized that nuclear disarmament must be the primary objective of disarmament, that is, that goal. The UN Secretary General has acted to that end. The doctrine of nuclear deterrence continues to exist as part of the security policies of all possessor States and many of their allies.⁽²⁴⁾

In 122 ,2017 States signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Although it has been boycotted by the nuclear Powers, it not only has a symbolic character, but it also sets a trend for the majority of States that look at deterrence paradoxically and try not to separate nuclear weapons from conventional weapons, as they both have a devastating effect on the civilian population. The nuclear escalation between Pakistan, India or North Korea and its enemies will have serious consequences, but it also applies to the many wars that have been fought with conventional weapons, such as in Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Libya.⁽²⁵⁾

The Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament, founded in 2019, aims to strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, promote nuclear disarmament and move towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. Last year in Berlin, the initiative presented 22 concrete proposals for revitalizing and promoting nuclear disarmament efforts. In recent years, Spain has demonstrated a firm commitment in the area of nuclear disarmament, promoting the implementation of the objectives of the Stockholm Initiative, mobilizing diplomacy for support for the Stepping Stones document "and seeking international consensus. Prior to the Review Conference and as a result of this commitment, Spain offered to organize this fourth ministerial meeting, following the meeting held in Amman (Jordan) in January this year on the margins of the Ministerial Meeting, the Minister will hold bilateral meetings with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Sweden, Jordan and Kazakhstan, with which they will discuss general issues on the relevant bilateral agendas.⁽²⁶⁾

(24) جهود منظمة الأمم المتحدة لنزع السلاح، موقع عربي، ٦ فبراير ٢٠٢١

(25) International Security & Disarmament, The International Institute for Peace


(26) إسبانيا تستضيف الاجتماع الوزاري لمبادرة ستوكهولم لنزع السلاح النووي، الجامعة الإسبانية العربية، ٣ يوليو ٢٠٢١

Efforts of the international community to undermine the effects of climate change

Several studies suggest that the climate crisis will increase the risk of future violent armed conflicts within countries. Hence, the Security Council should take a more proactive and risk-based approach to the climate. In 2017, the Council took a historic step by specifically recognizing the destabilizing effects of climate change on the conflict in the Lake Chad Basin. Similar statements followed in Mali, Somalia and Darfur. In doing so, the Council stressed the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies to address future conflict areas. While the Council recognized the relationship between climate change and conflict in those resolutions, they were essentially reactive in nature, it is clear that climate change will have a significant destabilizing impact on the Sahel region and many developing countries in other regions. The development of forward-looking risk assessment procedures can take several forms. The Council could also coordinate specific climate and security issues through interested UN organs. This could include the development of an early warning system for climate. Better still, the Council could establish a clearing-house system for the exchange of early warning information through UN agencies or a more formal institutional home to assist the UN in responding to the future climate crisis. In both cases, the Council - which has been historically criticized as an interactive institution - must proactively reflect on where future climate disruption and conflict are likely to occur. It is better to adopt a proactive, risk-based approach to climate today, rather than waiting for inevitable climate disruption.⁽²⁷⁾

At the States level

States must take serious steps to address climate change as quickly as possible and as humanely as possible. Through their efforts to counter climate change, States must not resort to actions that directly or indirectly violate human rights. For example, natural reserves or renewable energy projects should not be built on indigenous peoples' lands without consultation and consent



In all measures, States should respect the right to information and participation of all affected persons, as well as their right to have access to remedies for human rights violations. States must also take all necessary steps to assist everyone within their jurisdiction to adapt to the projected and inevitable effects of climate change, thereby minimizing the impact of climate change on their human rights regardless of whether the State is responsible for those effects, as States have an obligation to protect people from damage caused by third parties. This should be done through the fulfilment by States of their commitment to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change by taking the most ambitious actions to prevent or reduce greenhouse emissions within the shortest possible time frame. While rich nations must lead the way, both internally and through international cooperation, all States must take all reasonable steps to reduce gas emissions to the best of their ability.⁽²⁸⁾

Finally, it can be said that international security is unique for being achieved in an international collective framework. The environment that constitutes this framework can only be maintained within a collective framework that includes all parties living within this framework and without this collective effort environmental security cannot be achieved, which provides the appropriate framework that encourages the achievement of international security or the highest possible degree of international security. Achieving inclusive international security is an ideal situation that is difficult to achieve in a global framework characterized by conflicting priorities and intersection of interests. Overall, the issue of climate change has become one of the most serious issues at the local and international levels. It is undeniable that climate change is increasingly seen as a source of threat to the security of countries and regions, and one of the most potential threats to global security in the twenty-first century. There is no doubt that resource scarcity, massive population shifts, natural disasters, the spread of epidemics and infectious diseases, as well as drought, sea level rise, global warming and melting ice, represent some of the expected consequences of climate change, which would push the world towards more conflicts and instability, threatening the human security and national security of countries, especially on the African continent, because of its repercussions that pose a danger to the future of future generations who have the right to stay in a clean and safe environment. Moreover, the environmental changes that African countries are exposed to represent an issue that requires concerted international and local efforts to be addressed, as it transcends national borders and extends to all parts of the earth, endangering global security and all living creatures, especially humans.

Key Recommendations:



Supporting regional cooperation for the development of monitoring and early warning systems for climate disasters and participation in regional cooperation and dialogue on food production systems



Adapting to climate change in order to implement a flexible system of global food production that requires institutional, technological and economic changes, not only in food exporting countries but also in food importing countries; Applying a multidimensional approach to conflict resolution to promote a more peaceful, healthy and secure world



Intensifying debate and disseminating information on the links between these environmental issues and global conflicts to address the underlying causes of violence and promote a peaceful resolution of the dispute that takes environmental and health factors into account



Think tanks and decision-makers must commit themselves to developing a vision for the future based on immediate plans and actions to reduce the negative consequences of climate change and its implications for global security



States should respect the right to information and participation of all affected persons, as well as their right to have access to remedies for human rights violations



States should respect the right to information and participation of all persons affected by climate change and its security implications, as well as their right to have access to remedies for human rights violations



The Council must discuss whether the consequences or causes of climate change constitute a threat to peace within the meaning of Article 39 of the Charter of the United Nations. To do so would raise the level of climate change and its security implications on the international stage and serve as a potential key to a list of robust and legally binding follow-up actions by the Council



There should be general mechanisms or rules in the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations for oversight and inspection, which are necessary to reduce the effectiveness of the disarmament process



Activating the text of article 26, which referred to the Military Staff Committee (MSC), which was set out in article 47, but has not yet been implemented. The text remains rigid or impractical and is impossible to apply in view of the procedures required by Article 26 of Chapter V of the Charter. The Security Council cannot, therefore, act on disarmament in accordance with Chapter VII of the Council.



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