Security Council Topic Background Guide
*Topic 2: Global Warming as a Security Issue*[1]

7 August 2014

Before 2007, the UN treated climate change as falling under the organization's goal of achieving "international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character" and only the General Assembly (GA) and some of its subcommittees like the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) had held any discussions on the issue. This began to change with the arrival of a new Secretary-General in January 2007 and the relase in March 2007 of a report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a network of 2,000 scientists, which concluded that the evidence that significant increases in earth's temperatures are occurring is "unequivocal and that it is due to human activities."[2]

Calling attention to the implications of climate change for international peace and security, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon argued that climate change is of the same importance as war:

Today, war continues to threaten countless men, women and children across the globe. It is the source of untold suffering and loss. And the majority of the UN's work still focuses on preventing and ending conflict. But the danger posed by war to all of humanity – and to our planet – is at least matched by the climate crisis and global warming.

The secretary general also argued that there is a strong relationship between climate change and war. Specifically, he said climate change is "likely to become a major driver of war and conflict" as natural disasters, rising ocean levels, droughts, land degradation and other effects of climate change lead to job loss, poverty, decreasing agricultural yields, the spread of disease, and mass migration.[3] In response to both the secretary general and the IPCC, the Security Council held its first-ever discussion of climate change in April and the GA held its first plenary session on the matter in July.[4]

The United Kingdom (UK), which held the rotating presidency of the Council at the time, put the issue on the agenda to "highlight 'what a sensitive, difficult issue' climate change is and the importance of addressing its potential security ramifications -- from rising temperatures increasing water levels and swallowing up island nations to possible famine." The UK invited the other Council members to send ministerial representatives to the conference, emphasizing the priority the UK felt the issue deserved. However, the UK's ambassador to the UN emphasized that the purpose of the session was to discuss the security aspects of climate change, not produce a statement or resolution.[5]

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[1] This document was written by Karen Ruth Adams, faculty advisor, with contributions from David Knobel (2007), Aimee Ryan (2008), and Eric H. Hines (2014). Copyright 2011 by Karen Ruth Adams.

[2] IPCC, "IPPC Fourth Assessment Report: Working Group I, Physical Science Basis," 2007, available at http://www.ipcc.ch/

[3] UN News Centre, "Ban Ki-moon calls on new generation to take better care of Planet Earth than his own," March 1, 2007, available at http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21720&Cr=global&Cr1=warming

[5] Associated Press, "UN to Discuss Climate as Security Issue," April 5, 2007, http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/envronmt/climate/2007/0405climatesecurity.htm

In calling this meeting, the United Kingdom exercised the authority of the Security Council to "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 … to maintain or restore international peace and security." However, by limiting the session to debate and discussion, the UK also left open the opportunity for the GA to remain active in the issue. According to the UN Charter, the GA can address any issue related to international peace and security as long as it is not informed by the Security Council that the Council is dealing with the matter.[6]

Reaction to this meeting was mixed, with some states welcoming Security Council concern and calling for resolutions on the matter, and other states arguing that climate change should continue to be dealt with by the full-membership GA instead of by the limited-membership Security Council. Today many questions remain. To what extent is global warming a security issue? How and by whom should it be addressed?

*History and Current Events*

Global climate change has been on scientists' minds since the 19th century, when there were several theories about climate change and broad disagreement over it. In 1896, a scientist noted that carbon dioxide levels were increasing in the Earth's atmosphere.[7] After that, many scientists speculated on what that might mean for the environment. In 1931, an American physicist named E.O. Hulbert published a paper that linked a rise in carbon dioxide levels with a rise in temperature. Hulbert argued that when humans release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the Earth is warmed because the sun's rays are reflected back to Earth by the gases. In 1951, by contrast, the American Meteorological Society's *Compendium of Meteorology* suggested that an increase of carbon dioxide would not increase the Earth's temperature.[8]

The global environment first got international attention in the 1980s with "the discovery of the ozone hole over Antarctica, the growing evidence of global warming, or climate change, and the accumulating data on loss of biodiversity and depletion of fisheries."[9] In response to climate change, in 1988, the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) created the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In 1990, the IPCC issued its first report, which found that Earth's temperature had risen 0.5 degrees Celsius in the previous half century.[10] The report did not say that global warming was anthropogenic (man-made), but it did bring the issue to the forefront of international politics.

In 1992, to respond to this issue, the United Nations Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At the Convention, 154 UN member states signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Parties to the UNFCCC agreed to stabilize

> greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.[11]

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[6] "Charter of the United Nations," 26 June 1945, Chapter VII, Article 39; and Chapter IV, Article 12, available at http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/.

[7] Ginger L. Gist, "Global Climate Change; components and consequences," *Journal of Environmental Health*, 61.5 (Dec 1998), 4(2)

[8] Janet Conley, "Timeline, a science is born," *Daily Report*, September 17, 2007.

[9] Karen A. Mingst and Margaret P. Karns, *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, 3rd edition (Boulder: Westview, 2007), 215.

[10] Conley, "Timeline; a science is born"

[11] "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change," Article 2, available at http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/background/items/1349.php

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Specifically, state parties to the UNFCCC agreed to monitor and try to reduce their greenhouse emissions, and to cooperate to share information about and technology to address climate change. In addition, developed states (listed by name in Annex I at the end of the Convention) pledged to "aim to" reduce their greenhouse emissions, especially carbon dioxide, "with the aim of returning individually or jointly to their 1990 levels." Furthermore, the most developed states (a subset of Annex I states, listed in Annex II) agreed to provide financial assistance to help less-developed states reduce their emissions. [12]

The rationale for expecting different levels of commitment from states at different levels of development was that "economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country Parties" and, therefore, that they could not be expected to fulfill their commitments under the UNFCCC without assistance from developed countries. [13] In addition, in 1992, when the UNFCCC was drafted and signed, the US and other developed countries were the largest national and per capita (per person) emitters of greenhouse gases (GHGs). It was not until 2006 that China passed the US to become the single largest emitter. Yet the US continues to emit more GHGs per capita than any other country in the world, even when both GHGs and changes in land use patterns (such as deforestation) are considered. [14]

The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today 196 countries, including the US, have ratified the Convention. [15] This is an usually high level of support for an international treaty. But the nearly universal ratification is not a good indicator of state commitment to the UNFCCC, which is vague and non-binding.

In 1995, the IPCC issued its second report and concluded that humans were having an effect on climate change. Since then, the evidence for this has become stronger and stronger, and the speed with which climate change is unfolding has exceeded even the most pessimistic scientists' predictions. [16]

In 1997, in response to the failure of UNFCCC signatories to meet the Convention's non-binding standards, a protocol or extension of the UNFCCC was signed by over 150 states. States that signed this agreement, known as the Kyoto Protocol, agreed to adopt specific national emission targets. Only developed state signatories promised to reduce their GHG emissions to 95 percent of 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012. They also agreed to establish a permit market for carbon dioxide emissions. This would enable developed countries that exceed their own emissions targets to purchase the right to emit additional GHGs from developed states emitting less than their targets. [17]

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[12] "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change," Article 4.

[13] "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change," Article 4.

[14] Several excellent maps of national and per capita emissions patterns, based on National Resource Institute data, are available on Wikipedia Commons. This map of GHG emissions by country in 2000 shows total *national* emissions, including land use change, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:GHG_intensity_2000.svg By contrast, this map of GHG *per capita* by country in 2000 shows total emissions per person, including land use change, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:GHG_per_capita_2000.svg Finally, here is map showing per capita contributions to total carbon dioxide emissions from 1950-2000, including effects of land use change, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:CO2_responsibility_1950-2000.svg For additional facts on international emissions, see Pew Center for Global Climate Change, "Global Warming Facts and Figures," available at http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-basics/facts_and_figures/

[15] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, "Status of Ratification," 22 August 2007, available at http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/status_of_ratification/items/2631.php

[16] IPCC, "IPPC Fourth Assessment Report: Working Group I, Physical Science Basis."

[17] "Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change," 1998, Article 3 and Article 6, available at http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf

The Kyoto Protocol entered into force in February 2005 with an expiration date of December 31, 2012. Like other international treaties, it bound only states that ratified it. As of June 2013, 192 states had signed and ratified the Protocol. Of the permanent-five members of the Security Council, only the US has not ratified it.[18] Canada announced its withdrawl from the Protocol in 2011. [19]

Efforts to negotiate a post-Kyoto agreement on climate change began in earnest following the IPPC's Fourth Assesment Report (AR4) but ultmately failed. AR4 called the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol the foundation for future international cooperation on climate change but warned that "the scale of such measures … has not yet been large enough to counteract the global growth in emissions." [20] At the 2007 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, partcipants agreeed to the Bali Road Map process to enable long-term implementation of the UNFCCC and to negotiate a replacement for the Kyoto Protocol by 2009.[21] After failing to meet this deadline, state parties struggled to find agreeement on new climate policy at several climate conferences before several developed states agreed to voluntarially extend their Kyoto commitment to 2020 at the 2012 conference in Doha.[22]

In its most recent assessment report, IPCC has increased its confidence in both the risks of climate change and the role of humans in causing it, saying that the latter is "extremely likely."[23] Despite this pessimistic outlook, the bulk of the lastest IPCC report offers suggestions to further reduce emissions and deal with the anticipated effects of global warming, including desertification, drought, severe weather patterns, and rising sea levels. The IPCC's data on adaptive challenges and capabilities indicate that most parts of the world will be negatively affected by climate change. They also emphasize that developing countries will face many of the gravest challenges although they have the least capability to adapt. In a 2012 report, the IPCC suggested several practices for adapting to climate change, including:

(1) Building a culture of safety, which means that states educate their citizens on climate change and how it will affect their people, as well as creating early warning systems and channels for such systems to reach the public.

(2) Reducing climate-related disaster risk by ensuring that states take measures like protecting ecosystems, ensuring safe infrastructure and building codes, and reducing vulnerabilities through development and poverty reduction.

(3) Transferring and sharing risk, via methods like establishing insurance programs for buildings, property, and crops.

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[18] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), "Kyoto Protocol: Status of Ratification," 13 May 2008, available at
http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/status_of_ratification/application/pdf/kp_ratification.pdf

[19] "Canada Pulls out of Kyoto Accord," *BBC*, December 13, 2011, sec. US & Canada, http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-16151310.

[20] IPCC, "IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Working Group III, Mitigation of Climate Change," 2007, pp. 3-4, available at http://www.ipcc.ch/

[21] "Bali Road Map," *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, accessed August 6, 2014, https://unfccc.int/key_documents/bali_road_map/items/6447.php.

[22] "Nations Take 'Essential' next Step in Climate Change Fight," *United Nations Climate Change Conference*, December 8, 2012, http://www.cop18.qa/news/singlestory.aspx?id=297.

[23] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), "12ᵗʰ Session of Working Group 1: Approved Summary for Policy Makers," 27 September 2013, available at http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/uploads/WGIAR5-SPM_Approved27Sep2013.pdf.

(4) Managing the impacts of climate change, such as creating mechanisms to respond to disasters.[24]

Although most international discussion of climate change continues to take place in the context of cooperaiton on  economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues, there is a growing consensus about the secureity dimensions of climate change. The American Security Project, a think tank in Washington, D.C., summarized this growing view:

> In the past century, the primary security discourse has been state-centric, aiming to protect the nation's territorial integrity from an outside military threat … Today, the state-centric security paradigm is too narrow to prevent against all external threats to states. "Security" is too interdependent an issue to be defined purely in military terms … Climate change, food security, water security and communicable diseases are examples of such non-traditional threats that require non-traditional responses …

> In an age of great change, combining the traditional notions of security with aspects of collective security allows the U.S. and other countries at risk of the effects of climate change to limit vulnerability and remain flexible for the wide range of contingencies that lie ahead … Security is not one-dimensional but multifaceted, and climate change must be incorporated into the security dialogue in order to prepare for the multifarious threats we face …[25]

### *Previous Committee Work on This Topic*

On April 17, 2007, the Security Council held a one-day discussion on climate change. Representatives from more than 50 UN member states spoke at the meeting. According to the official summary of the session, "While some speakers praised the initiative, there were reservations from developing countries, which saw climate change as a socio-economic development issue to be dealt with by the more widely representative General Assembly. Many delegations also called for the United Nations to urgently consider convening a global summit on the issue."[26]

Among those objecting to Security Council consideration of the issue were the Nonaligned Movement and the Group of 77, two groups that represent developing countries. Each of these groups wrote a letter "accusing the Security Council of 'ever-increasing encroachment' on the role and responsibility of other UN entities" and arguing that "climate change and energy are issues for the General Assembly, where all 192 UN member states are represented, and the Economic and Social Council, not the Security Council."[27]

In June 2009, at the request of the small-island developing states of the Pacific Ocean, the General Assembly held a debate on the possible security implications of climate change and passed a resolution calling for all relevant UN committees to discuss the matter, and for the UN Secretary-General to issue a report. In September 2009, Secretary-General Ban presented his report to the General Assembly. The report:

> identified climate change as a "threat multiplier" that exacerbates existing threats, such as persistent poverty, weak institutions for resource management and mistrust between communities. It identified five further ways in which climate change might affect security:

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[24] IPCC, *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), pp. 362-75; available at http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/special-reports/srex/SREX_Full_Report.pdf

[25] American Security Project, *Climate Security Report* (Washington, D.C.: American Security Project, October 2012), 7–9, http://www.americansecurityproject.org/climate-security-report/.

[26] United Nations Department of Public Information, "Security Council Holds First-Ever Debate on Impact of Climate Change on Peace, Security, Hearing over 50 Speakers," Security Council 5663rd Meeting, April 17,2007, available at http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/sc9000.doc.htm

[27] Associated Press, "UN Attacks Climate Change as Threat to Peace," April 17, 2007, available at http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/envronmt/climate/2007/0417climatethreat.htm

- climate change could threaten food security and human health and increase exposure to extreme events;
- it could undermine the stability of states by slowing or reversing development;
- it could increase the likelihood of domestic conflict due to migration and depleting resources, with possible international ramifications;
- disappearance of territory might raise issues of sovereignty, rights and security; and
- international conflict might be a result of climate change's impact on shared or demarcated international resources.[28]

On 20 July 2011, when Germany was serving as president of the Security Council, the Council once again held a meeting on climate change. This time, it was a high-level meeting attended by each state's foreign minister or ambassador to the UN. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the impact of climate change on the maintenance of international peace and security. Among the issues considered was developing a new group of UN "green helmet" peacekeeping forces to help countries deal with environmental crises such as rising sea levels and food insecurity so they do not fall into conflict with one another. According to the *Guardian* newspaper, "In an official 'Concept Note' ahead of the meeting, Germany said the [S]ecurity [C]ouncil needed to draw up scenarios for dealing with the [e]ffects of extreme temperatures and rising seas. How would the UN deal with climate refugees? How would it prevent conflicts in those parts of Africa and Asia which could face food shortages?"[29]

According to Security Council Report, a non-governmental organization affiliated with Columbia University that monitors the Security Council, the 2011 meeting was better received then the one in 2007 because "more scientific evidence has been produced on the long-term ramifications of climate change and some have linked recent conflicts to the rising prices of basic foodstuffs and diminishing water resources."[30]

Secretary-General Ban addressed the meeting and called for an end to "gamesmanship" and a serious attempt for developed and emerging countries to take the lead.[31] The head of the UNDP and the President of Tuvalu, which is threatened with extinction as seawaters rise, also made impassioned pleas for cooperation and foresight. Yet the meeting was marked by strong disagreements between the US, UK, and France, on the one hand, which wish to use the Council as a forum to discuss climate change, and Russia and China, on the other, which continue to insist that the matter should be dealt with by the entire membership of the UN through the annual UNFCCC negotiations. No resolution was passed.[32]

In response to resistance from some members to the discussion of climate change as a security issue, the Council held a high-level briefing under Portugal's presidency in November 2011 on several inter-related issues under the theme "New Challenges to International Peace and Security."[33] The main topics of discussion were

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[28] Security Council Report, "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Impact of Climate Change," July 2011, available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/pp.aspx?c=glKWLeMTIsG&b=7535735&printmode=1

[29] Suzanne Goldenberg, "UN security council to consider climate change peacekeeping," *Guardian*, 20 July 2011, available at http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jul/20/un-climate-change-peacekeeping

[30] Security Council Report, "Maintenance of International Peace and Security."

[31] "Warning of climate change's threat to global security, Ban urges concerted action," UN News Centre, 20 July 2011, available at http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39093

[32] Neil MacFarquhar, "U.N. Deadlock on Addressing Climate Shift," *New York Times*, July 20, 2011, available at http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/21/world/21nations.html

[33] Security Council Report, "Council Briefing on 'New Challenges to International Peace and Security,'" *What's In Blue*, November 21, 2011, http://www.whatsinblue.org/2011/11/council-briefing-on-new-challenges-to-international-peace-and-security.php#.

pandemics including HIV/AIDS, climate change, and the dangers of transnational organized crime.[34] In addressing the meeting, Secretary-General Ban justified the link between these issues:

> Some have seen their life expectancy cut in half by HIV/AIDS — a horrible toll not only on families and loved ones, but also on the labour force, businesses, the civil service and the armed forces. Organized crime groups use corruption and violence to hollow out weak institutions from the inside. In addition, the extreme weather and other consequences associated with climate change are exacerbating already difficult struggles with desertification, drought, floods and volatility in food prices. By undermining State capacity and State institutions, these threats have clear and increasing implications for peace and security.[35]

In Februay 2013, Pakistan and the United Kingdom hosted an Arria formula meeting on the security dimensions of climate change.[36] Arria formula meetings enable Security Council members to invite other SC members to an informal meeting, held outside of the Council and chaired by the host, for a briefing given by experts on matters of concern to the Council. There is no formal record kept of what is discussed at these meetings, but Tony deBrum, Minister in Assistance to the President of the Marshall Islands, held a press conference after the meeting to raise his nation's concerns about lack of attention to climate change as a threat to international peace and security for low-lying nations such as his whose "very existence" was threatened. He told the press, "It seems ironic that the very same agency whose approval was needed for my country to become a country again would consider my coming back to ask for help […] is not relevant to their work."[37]

The IPCC will adopt the final version of its Fifth Assesment Report in October 2014.[38] The next round of UNFCCC negotiations will be held in Lima, Peru in December 2014.[39]

***Conclusion***

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the IPCC are not alone in seeing climate change as a threat to international peace and security. In its 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review, the US Departmetn of Defense warns:

> As greenhouse gas emissions increase, sea levels are rising, average global temperatures are increasing, and severe weather patterns are accelerating. These changes, coupled with other global dynamics, including growing, urbanizing, more affluent populations, and substantial economic growth in India, China, Brazil, and other nations, will devastate homes, land, and infrastructure. Climate change may exacerbate water scarcity and lead to sharp increases in food costs. The pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world. These effects are threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions – conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence.[40]

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[34] Security Council, *New Challenges to International Peace and Security and Conflict Prevention* (New York: United Nations, November 23, 2011), http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/PV.6668.

[35] Ibid., 2.

[36] Security Council Report, "Arria Formula Meeting on Climate Change," *What's in Blue*, February 14, 2013, http://www.whatsinblue.org/2013/02/arria-formula-meeting-on-climate-change.php.

[37] United Nations Department of Public Information, "Press Conference on Impact of Climate Change on Marshall Islands," February 15, 2013, http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2013/130215_MI.doc.htm.

[38] See http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm.

[39] See http://www.cop20.pe/en/ .

[40] United States Department of Defense, *Quadrennial Defense Review 2014*, March 4, 2014, pg. 8, http://www.defense.gov/pubs/2014_Quadrennial_Defense_Review.pdf.

Responses to climate change and the security threats it represents can be divided into two types: reactive and preventative. Reactive measures respond to the disasters spawned by climate change. For example, in September 2008, the UN "appealed for nearly $108 million for an estimated 800,000 people in Haiti in need of humanitarian aid, to deal with a series of devastating tropical storms and hurricanes."[41] Preventative measures include the UN's work to negotiate and implement the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. To date, according to the IPCC, these have had some effect but the climate is likely to continue to warm for many decades, especially if a new, binding UNFCCC is not negotiated, ratified, and adhered to by the major GHG emitters.

In considering your country's position on this issue, consider the following questions:

- Is your state a developed country or a developing country?
- What are its current and historical greenhouse gas emissions?
- Has your state signed and ratified the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol? Why or why not? If so, has it met its emissions targets? What is your country's position on the current UNFCCC talks?
- Is your country suffering from problems related to climate change? How has it dealt with these problems? Has it received any international assistance?
- Is climate change a threat to international peace and security? If so, what can and should your country do to reduce the threat?
- What can and should the UN and the Security Council do to mitigate climate change and/or adapt to its effects? Should their actions be primarily reactive or preventative?

### *Recommended Reading*

American Security Project. *Climate Security Report*. Washington, D.C.: American Security Project, October 2012. http://www.americansecurityproject.org/climate-security-report/.

This report aims to move the debate about climate change towards an informed discussion about its domestic and global security implications. Although it is somewhat U.S.-centric, it provides an excellent introduction to the geopolitics of climate change and new security threats associated with climate change.

Security Council Report. "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Impact of Climate Change." July 2011. Available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/pp.aspx?c=glKWLeMTIsG&b=7535735

Security Council Report is a think tank that monitors and publishes analyses of Security Council debates and resolutions. This article lays out the short and contentious history of Security Council work on the issue of climate and security. It is an excellent place to begin your research.

United Nations Department of Public Information, "Security Council Holds First-Ever Debate on Impact of Climate Change on Peace, Security, Hearing over 50 Speakers," Security Council 5663rd Meeting, April 17, 2007, available at http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/sc9000.doc.htm

This article provides a detailed summary of member state remarks at the 2007 Security Council session on climate change. Over 50 member states addressed the Council.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. "Background on the UNFCCC: The international response to climate change" Website. Available at http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/2877.php

This website provides access to background information and the texts of the FCCC and Kyoto Protocol, as well as lists of signatory states. It includes a timeline of international climate negotiations.

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[41] "UN seeks almost $108 million for Haiti floods," *USA Today*, September 11, 2008

United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "IPPC Fifth Assessment Report 2014." Available at
http://www.ipcc.ch/.

This is the most detailed, documented, and up-to-date statement of the climate change problem and possible policy responses available. It includes discussion of the science behind climate change, its impacts, and different ways to mitigate its effects.

"Warning of climate change's threat to global security, Ban urges concerted action." UN News Centre. 20 July
2011. Available at http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39093

This article summarizes Secretary Ban's speech to the Security Council in 2011 on the question of climate change and security. According to him, the situation is so serious that states can no longer afford to engage in "gamesmanship" and he laid out goals for the Durban UNFCCC conference.