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Climate Changes & Environmental Issues
Climate Change & Military Issues

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ABSTRACT

It was really a turning point in the global awareness on the huge threats coming from climate change impacts and the necessity to face it globally when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change "IPCC" has published at Dec. 2007 in Bali, its Fourth Assessment Report on climate change. Climate change plays a significant role in shaping the future security, as it provides several challenges, such as energy security, and economic stability. Thus many actions have to be taken now to respond effectively to these challenges in the near term and in the future. A warming world also raises the possibility of more geopolitical conflict by making worse existing problems like poverty, environmental degradation and food and water security. While climate change alone does not cause conflict, it may act as an accelerant of instability or conflict, placing a burden to respond on civilian institutions and militaries around the world. In addition, extreme weather events may lead to increased demands for defense support to civil authorities for humanitarian assistance or disaster response. In some nations, the military is the only institution with the capacity to respond to a large -scale natural disaster. Climate change will also have a direct impact on military facilities and capabilities, due its impacts like sea level rise, drought, increasing temperature, disease transmission by faster growth rates of pathogens in the environment and more efficient and abundant vectors (such as insects). Thus it will be needed to boost abilities to work on improving communications, search-and-rescue capabilities and forecasting techniques and ways to adapt with these impacts and to mitigate it. As energy security, is the opposite side of the climate -change coin it is needed to adopt a variety of measures aimed at reducing dependence on fossil fuel and carbon emissions: investing in renewable sources like solar, wind, geothermal and biomass energy installations; switching to vehicles powered by alternative fuels; and exploring the potential for new technologies like better batteries. In fact, such programmes are not only good for the environment, but also for reducing the risks and expenses created by the military's heavy reliance on fossil fuels.

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