

Original article

## The effect of climate change on future Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations

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### INFORMATION

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### ABSTRACT

Never before in the known history of the world people had such a great impact on climate change as since the beginning of the era of industrialization. Industrial production on a huge, unprecedented scale, apart from its benefits, causes climate change on a global scale through the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. According to the AR5 IPCC report, it is expected that the ever-increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the lack of action to reduce it will increase the average global temperature from the pre-industrial era by up to 4 degrees Celsius to 2100. Such significant climate change can have catastrophic and irreversible consequences for the inhabitants of our planet. Exhausting sources of drinking water, land that cannot be cultivated and depleting natural resources will force people to fight for what will remain. The emergence of military groups will result in both internal armed conflicts and international tensions caused by mass migration of people from countries with the least vulnerability to the effects of climate change, to highly developed regions such as EU countries. Climate change in the context of security is multidimensional and affects almost every sector. EU countries will be forced to counteract the effects of climate change not only through agreements or declarations within the UN, but also by involving their own forces and resources in CSDP missions and operations. The current activities under CSDP will be intensified as well as diversified by implementing support for technological adaptation to new climate conditions in undeveloped countries.

### KEYWORDS

climate change, climate security, CSDP missions and operations



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## Introduction

We live in an era in which world industry does not boast only of the synonyms of development or success, but has gained the reputation of a wrecker and the most industrialized the countries are called the world polluters. This statement finds confirmation in many scientific studies devoted to human impact on climate change. Climate change caused by raising average global temperature is a vector of changes in the existential dimension of humanity,

because they affect any lives sphere. It is anticipated that the world we live in will need to be redefined from the perspective of jeopardy of global warming. According to definition, danger is a lack of security, a loss of unpredictability that creates uncertainty for the future. Its impact on the functioning of states is of fundamental importance for their future, which in practice affects regional and global policy as well as international order. Activities that must be undertaken by countries around the world, among which are also highly developed countries such as EU Member States, are not only to counteract the causes of climate change itself, but also their effects, especially in countries most vulnerable to these changes. Ensuring stability in these regions through crisis management in dealing with the effects of climate change will be a key role of the EU Member States. The multidimensionality of changes and their complex nature will require the involvement of many civilian and military forces and resources, from a larger number of countries than ever before.

## **1. Climate Security**

### **1.1. What is climate security?**

It is hard to find a precise definition of climate security itself. Even among the number of studies and scientific publications, those two words do not appear as an expression, thus it seems to be the necessity to describe climate and security separately. Referring to the Cambridge Dictionary, climate is “the general weather conditions usually found in a particular place” [1] in which word “place” could be interpreted as a globe. According to the same source, security in the context of climate could be defined as “freedom from risk and the threat of change for the worse” [2]. Linking those two definitions together climate security could be understood in general as a global weather conditions that are predictable and will not be a threat to nature nor people. It is undeniable that climate security is dependent on rational management of wastes which of the most harmful is CO<sub>2</sub> emission. The statistics show that even the biggest countries as China or United States do not manage to reduce air pollution, even being pushed by global environmental lobbies. Thus, global security of climate is dependent not only on pressing non-governmental organisations but particularly on legal acts introduced by problem-conscious politicians. To reach this goal it is necessity to countries all-over the world to get united above political divisions and look beyond the domains of traditional security.

### **1.2. Global climate politics**

Globally used expression “climate crisis” puts the pressure on the countries around the world to take on the action and stop neglecting the rising issue. One of the greatest examples that the climate change is considered as a problem worldwide, is that all 193 member states of United Nations put “Climate Action” in one of its Sustainable Development Goals 2030. As a goal 13<sup>th</sup> UNs mission is to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”. This watchword states that “Every country in the world is seeing the drastic effects of climate change, some more than others. [...] It is still possible, with the political will and technological measures, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels – and thus avoid the worst effects of climate change. The Sustainable Development Goals lay out a way for countries to work together to meet this urgent challenge” [3]. Though significant globally decisions on actions lowering human influence on climate change were taken in 2000s, importance of climate change has been measurably perceived in 1988 when Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created both by World

Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme. IPCC mission statement is to supply analysis of impacts on climate change, its risks and ways to reduce those risks [4]. In the latest 2014 fifth IPCC report specialists determine that global warming is undeniable and changes in system since 1950s are unprecedented in last centuries. What is more it is highly confidential (more than 95%) that human has influenced on observed since the second half of 20 century dominantly. They also state that continuation of green gases emission will drive warming to continue and change in every element of climate system, and at the same time increase possibility of common and irreversible consequences to world economy and ecosystems [5].

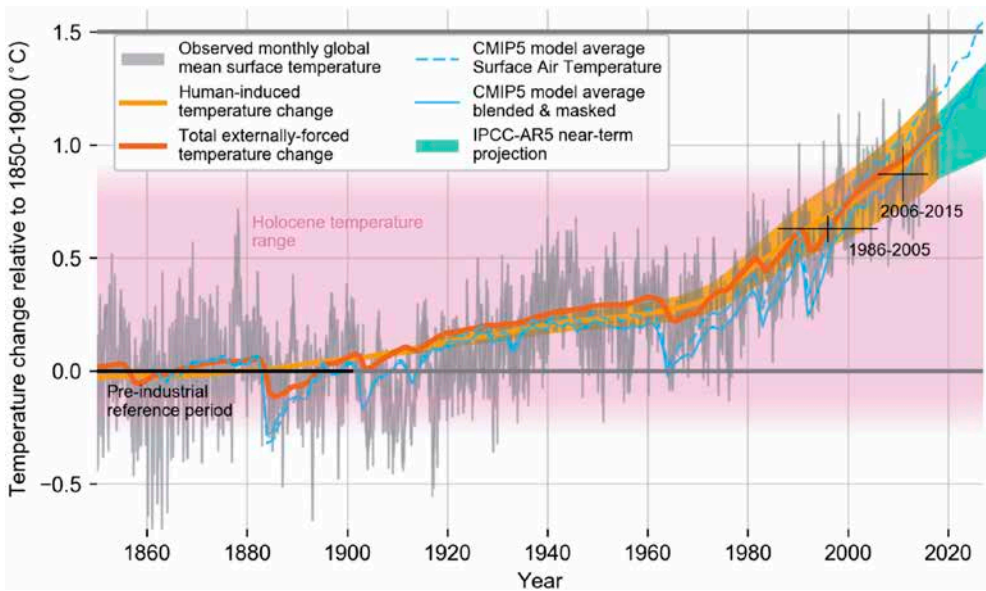
In the year of 2015, on the COP21 summit in Paris, first time in the history of the world 195 countries come to the agreement in the filed of climate and signed Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) – non-binding plans for climate change actions. The agreement determine worlds action plan which is to secure mankind from the threat of risky climate change by limiting global warming much lower than 2°C [6]. In year 2018 in Katowice at the COP24, 196 countries has implemented guidelines of Paris Agreement and accepted the challenge to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emission by around 45% by 2030 [7]. This goal is considered as achievable for instance by: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate impacts, financial support to developing countries, developing technologies and built trust that all countries are performing to reach global effort. First Kyoto, then Paris and finally Katowice Agreement after COP24 prove that the prophecy from the Cairo Compact 1989 that “All nations... will have to cooperate on an unprecedented scale. They will have to make difficult commitments without delay to address this crisis” [8] is effective and step by step accomplished.

Change in climate by eliminating pollution is undeniable long-term process that is demanding involvement of many sources and finances within. Thus it is important for countries to understand that not only climate at itself needs to be improved but also quality of its citizens life which is more urgent and translate directly to national security. That thesis has been directly pointed out in 2015 by former US Secretary of State John Kerry in conference dedicated to glaciers thawing in Anchorage, Alaska. He said to European citizens that “You think migration is a challenge to Europe today because of extremism, wait until you see what happens when there’s an absence of water, an absence of food, or one tribe fighting against another for mere survival” [9]. From the other point of view it is clear that even climate changes contributing to instability, tensions or even armed conflicts are not the only war breakout factor. This matter is much more complex and is concerning major sector of human existing. Factors that EU security will face are demonstrations and strikes on mass scale dictate by public mood if countries will not fulfill their obligations and its citizens demanding. Climate change is multidimensional threat and would directly affect different security sectors. Newest changes in geopolitics – election of a ‘climate change sceptical’ president in the USA or grown influence of actors like China or India in arena of international politics, forces Europe to accomplish its regional responsibility of climate change and its protecting stability.

## **2. Current State of Research**

### **2.1. Climate change statistics**

The major determinant of climate change is the value of the global mean temperature (GAT), the increase of which is increasingly dangerous. Regarding to IPCC researches global temperature is rising rapidly since beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century and risen by nearly 1 degree Celsius on the global basis and continue to rise, as shown in Figure 1.



**Fig. 1.** Evolution of global mean surface temperature (GMST) over the period of instrumental observations

Source: [10, p. 57].

Growth of near 1 degree global average temperature in 115 years and more than 1.5 degree to 2030 could be underestimated and it is hard to predict what influence would it have on global economy, ecosystems or societies. Nevertheless, taking historical changes under consideration, it could be seen that for the last 10000 years GAT has risen by only 4 degrees Celsius. Comparingly GAT is expected to reach another 4 degrees Celsius more than before pre-industrial value to 2100. Comparing this two periods of time it is predictable that if the global temperature continue to grow, it could be taken for granted that consequences will be serious.

It is undeniable that CO<sub>2</sub> emission on the industrial scale is the biggest component of global warming phenomenon by directly triggering global temperature increase as shown in Figure 2. Greenhouse gases chiefly arise from fossil fuels burning. The same gases absorbs and emits thermal radiation transferring to greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide at itself is essential to the Earth to keep it habitability but its increasing emission led by fossil fuels consumption is disorganising environmental order and catalyse global warming.

According to the INDC CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are to decrease if signing countries will follow the agreement and settle its own emission target. Worryingly, there are any of consequences for those countries that would fail to meet obligations. According to experts from World Pensions Council, the key to success is to convince US and Chinese policymakers as if they will not focus their political asset on introducing carbo dioxide emission target, admirable efforts of other G20 governments will stay in the sphere of pious wishes [11]. This words have full justification when it comes to statistics of fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by country as in China is responsible for 29.34% global CO<sub>2</sub> emission which is 353.8% increase comparing to 1990 emission and US are producing 13.77 global CO<sub>2</sub> are remaining close to 1990 emission (0.4% increase) but decrease by -14.4% compare to 2005 level. Despite those two, there are more countries which emission is noticeable (1% globally) and has at least doubled since 1990, these countries in

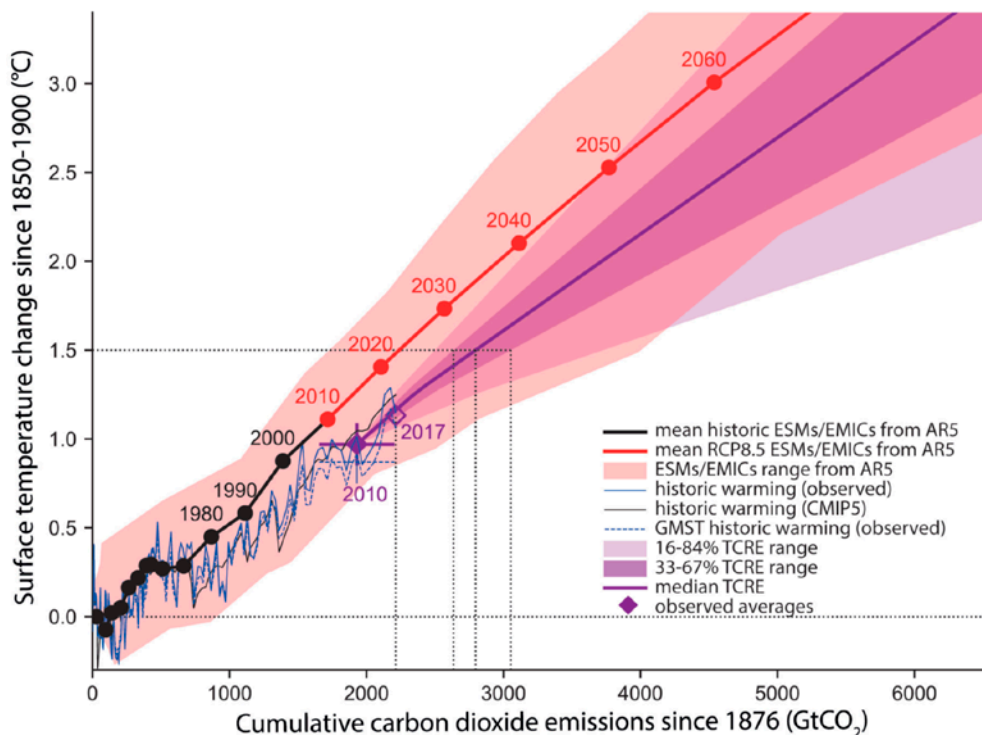


Fig. 2. 1850-1900 temperature changes versus CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1876  
 Source: [10, p. 105].

order are: India (305.1%), South Korea (149.3%), Iran (224.7%), Saudi Arabia (284.4%), Indonesia (215.6%), Brazil (115.6%) and Turkey (186.6%). From the other side, there are also countries that successively and significantly decreased level of emission. Among them there is European Union countries which reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emission by 19.5% comparing to 1990 or Russia with 25.8% reduction [12].

## 2.2. Climate as dimension of security

While climate change at itself do not drive directly to armed conflicts, it has impact on social, political and economic dimensions what can have adverse influence to security and international peace. The way in which these threats manifest themselves are highly determined by the location of interactions between climate threats, vulnerability to them and most importantly the ability to cope with them by countries and societies. Although the problems are not new, the connections are still not well understood and the solutions are not well documented. Dimensions of security that climate change will concern are entwined with human existence at its very roots.

Undeveloped countries are the most vulnerable to climate change effects due to lack of critical infrastructure and incapable administration. One of the examples is death of about 1300 people that were killed by heatwave in 2015 in Karachi, the biggest Pakistan city. Answer to this precedent on a globe scale is not clear but the public opinion point out the weakness of local administration: "More than the tyranny of the weather, it was the callous attitude of an inept provincial administration that was responsible for the death and suffering in

Karachi” [13]. According to researches, in a world warmer of 1.5°C precedencies similar to this will take place every 3.6 year average [14]. In current state of climate average African country is touched by 1 to 3 heatwaves, but in world warmer of 1.5°C this numbers would double [15]. According to considered by IPCC emissions in RCP8.5 and RCP6.0 scenario, if CO<sub>2</sub> emission increase will not slow, the world is likely to be warmer of 4°C to 2100. If that happen, intense heatwaves that normally would occur once on 740 years, will appear annually on 85% of land [13, p. 26]. Three forth of human beings will experienced by potentially lethal temperatures for at least 20 days a year. In 4°C warmer world habitants of Karachi will be touched by extreme heatwaves (like this in 2015) for 40 days a year [16]. In the Middle East and North Africa, land inhabited for hundreds of millions of people will experience increase of summer temperatures above 5°C what will render land uninhabitable and lead to mass migrations [17].

Extreme heatwaves, lack of water, loos of coral reef, decrease of food production, increase of sea levels, mass animal extinctions, droughts conflict over resources, border disputes, migrations, energy supply tensions, radicalization or pressure on governance – these are only examples of what is possible to happen if countries would not take action to stop Earth pollution. Lack of actions would drive the world to mass demonstrations and terrorism in developed countries. Nevertheless the greatest impact of climate change will concern developing and undeveloped countries.

### **3. Research Gap**

Researchers and politicians all-over the world eventually came to the conclusion when human contribution on climate change is not a matter of disputes but is perceived as a certainty. Climate change at itself is still prospective phenomenon and scenarios for its impact on global security should be consequently updated and adapted to current geopolitics. Recent studies offer data on what impact climate change would have on global security and politics but do not deliver data on concrete scenarios what EU security would be threaten with. Despite the fact that big amount of data is available, it should be noted that the quantity and multidimensionality of climate change variables often do not allow to take an accurate prediction of its impact on particular security sector. For that reason scenarios drafts should consider at least general information about the most important sectors for EU security as well as scenarios of humanitarian and civil protection in poverty-stricken countries. The greatest part of CSDP activities are concerning missions and operations abroad but very few on them establish that character of this missions and operations could bring necessity to be conducted within EU borders.

### **4. Research Questions**

1. What impact on EU security would have failed states?
2. Which are the most important EU internal threats?
3. What kind of missions and operations would CSDP conduct to prevent EU from jeopardy?

### **5. Methodology**

The method of inductive inference allowed the use of knowledge of detailed information to create a full picture of the situation, which in relation to this work is invaluable due to

the complexity and multidimensionality of the topic being discussed and the lack of specific situational scenarios.

The key method was the analysis of the literature, thanks to which the analysis of someone else's publications (including research) provided a lot of precise information in relation to the research problems undertaken. What's more, the use of expert literature has significantly contributed to the enrichment of the content of the work, influencing its merits with undoubted benefit.

A detailed analysis of IPCC reports was an extremely valuable research method in the development of detailed information. Knowledge gained through the use of this method allowed to specify the conclusions supported by numbers.

## **6. Research and Results**

### **6.1. External Threats**

One of the greatest challenges for EU will be external social-politic effects of climate change in other parts of the world. Due to the size of potential and unpredictable changes, global warming will be a serious challenge for the socio-economic systems of individual countries. This issue concern especially developing countries where these systems are at the construction stage. Additional burdens due to the effects of climate change – such as lack of access to water or a reduction in acreage – can lead to a crisis or even a collapse of systems. As a consequence, the inability of the authorities to meet the basic existential needs of the population and guarantee a complacency, may push the societies of these countries towards political extremism or a long civil war (Sudan civil war for instance). According to the researches, there are 2.7 billion people in 46 countries with in the effects on climate change and existing social, economic and political problems can lead to armed conflicts [18, p. 62]. Analysing climate change impact on international security, the crucial fact is that changes will not be perceived by all countries and societies in the same way. Africa is a region whose security can be particularly affected by climate change. However, dependent of the region of the continent, the scale of effect may vary. In North Africa, in conditions of increased interaction between droughts, water scarcity, population growth, declining food production and limited options for resolving political conflicts, the number and intensity of conflicts will increase. In Sahel region, climate change can further burden the natural environment, which is distinguished by the functioning of many failing countries. As a consequence, it is possible that further changes will deepen the destabilization of social life, bring migration processes and conflicts forward. On the other hand, in South Africa, climate change may further reduce the economic potential of the world's poorest countries [19, p. 3].

The result of these changes are mass and unprecedented. One of the major challenge for European countries are migrations of millions of people from unstable regions of Africa and Asia. Uncontrolled migrations contribute to the destabilization of the state's security system, and which directly affect security of its own citizens. If European countries desire to avoid the problem of large-scale uncontrolled migration, they must tackle the effects of climate change by maintaining stability in conflict regions over raw materials, as well as technological support to ensure self-sufficiency and restore capacity to deal with the increasing effects of climate change.

## 6.2. Demonstrations as internal challenge for EU

In recent times social dissatisfaction from global climate politic is manifesting by strikes, pickets or demonstrations which among majority is young people. Public mood is important factor, especially in democratic countries which in the citizens are shaping law by postulates and finally by electing ruling party.

People are becoming more fragile and keen on populism and empty words of politicians. Wave of dissatisfaction is also connected with planned on 2-13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 UN Climate Change Conference that was moved from Chile to Madrid as this Latin American country is plunge in chaos of demonstrations due to instable economic and inequality reasons in which at least 18 human beings has been killed by police and army.

Chilean COP 25 is said to be a sign of global politic heading blind alley – many words with no actions, and even more marketing and PR, young people on the journal covers but any global effects (decreasing global emission) instead. Great ideology do not follow real need but is becoming ‘climate business’ for those who shape this politics [20]. Despite the fact that the time to reduce greenhouse gas emission is running out, international negotiations slow down and got worsen as American president Donald Trump decided to contract out from Paris agreement as well as challenged Brazil withdrawal from organizing COP 25 in 2019.

A significant indicator revealing people’s attitude to the problem is the number of actions taken to improve the situation. Despite strikes, demonstrations or pickets that are just disposable events, there is existing global Climate Action Network that consociates over 1300 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from more than 120 nations to promote hinder human impact to global warming [21] or 350 organization that “is an international movement of ordinary people working to end the age of fossil fuels and build a world of community-led renewable energy for all” [22]. NGOs are independent and were set up by citizens to broaden social awareness of climate change and insist on governmental and international organizations to take action. One of the examples of grassroots movements is organized by 350 Global Climate Strike which in 3024 businesses, 7.6 million people, 8583 websites and 820 organizations took part in and that was held 20-27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in 185 countries [22]. That numbers are significantly showing that public mood is the factor that cannot be ignored.

It should also be noted that EU internal changes aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions, require consideration of the interests of every member country. In the near future, not only the society of the ecological movement will become a striking party. Opponents of economic changes also can go out to the street to protest, especially in countries where energy is obtained from the coal-firing. Changing energy infrastructure will be definitely easier for countries that base their industry on nuclear energy, and the technologies they use are sold under license to other countries. The volume of expenditure related to changes and their disproportion between EU Member States may cause disputes and interstate tensions, which in turn will have a negative impact on the Union’s internal security relations. It is therefore of utmost importance to keep the EU motto “united in diversity” up to date.

## Conclusion

The multidimensionality of the effects of climate change will force CSDP to carry out missions and operations in various regions of the world, where the threat from the EU point of view will be uttermost or humanitarian aid will be necessary. International activities will cover the scope defined in four priority areas – policing, civil administration, civil protection and Rule



of Law. To some extent it is obvious but it is worth remembering of importance that global climate change will have an impact on both CSDP missions and operations diversity. When considering global warming in terms of its regional impact, it can be seen that the most severe effects of climate change will be affected by residents of eastern North America, central and southern Europe, the Mediterranean including southern Europe, northern Africa and the Near East, western and central Asia, and southern Africa. It is expected that the increase of the average global temperature will exacerbate poverty in Africa and make poor people even poorer. It is estimated that climate change at itself could push from 3 million to even 16 million people into deep poverty mainly through its impact on agriculture and food prices.

Considering how climate change will exacerbate poverty by reducing access to food and drinking water, it can be expected that humanitarian actions carried out in cooperation with the UN will be the predominant form of CSDP's activities. However, limiting access to raw materials can significantly contribute to the creation of battle groups that will claim their rights, which may result in armed conflicts, mainly in ethnically divided countries.

The conclusion to be drawn from the above assumptions the author opinion is that CSDP will rely on humanitarian operations supported by preventive armed forces. In addition, there is another area of activity that can be identified in which missions and operations will be able to contribute to improving the existence in poverty-stricken regions. This area, apart from the supply of food and drinking water, will be technological support in the scope of obtaining drinking water and agricultural cultivation to the extent that the climate will allow. In regions where the land will be overcrop and will no longer be habitable, as well as in regions of conflict, mass population migration is to be expected. The challenge that the EU will have to take is to work in this direction so that migrations will have the opposite effects to those expected (improvement of existence). The motto that should guide decision makers in this type of action is "primum non nocere" – first do not harm. The EU, in cooperation with international organizations such as the UN or African Union may attempt to manage migration through agreements between states using diplomacy to archive this goal and to soften tensions or resolve new conflicts caused by ethnic mixing. It is therefore expected that EU crisis management activities will expand, as well as countries involved will need to increase financial outlays, technological support and in the end – number of deployed forces.

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### **Conflict of interests**

The author declared no conflict of interests.

### **Author contributions**

The author contributed to the interpretation of results and writing of the paper. The author read and approved the final manuscript.

### **Ethical statement**

The research complies with all national and international ethical requirements.

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## Biographical note

**Radosław Turczyński** – Bachelor's degree in Management. Military student in the rank sergeant cadet. Interested in global issues and multidimensionality of national security

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### Wpływ zmian klimatycznych na przyszłe misje i operacje w ramach wspólnej polityki bezpieczeństwa i obrony

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#### STRESZCZENIE

Nigdy wcześniej w znanej historii świata ludzie nie wywarli tak wielkiego wpływu na zmiany klimatyczne, jak od początku ery industrializacji. Produkcja przemysłowa na ogromną, niespotykaną dotąd skalę, oprócz korzyści, powoduje zmiany klimatyczne w skali globalnej poprzez emisję gazów cieplarnianych do atmosfery. Zgodnie z raportem AR5 IPCC szacuje się, że stale rosnąca emisja CO<sub>2</sub> i brak działań w celu jej ograniczenia spowodują wzrost średniej globalnej temperatury z epoki przedindustrialnej nawet o 4 stopnie Celsjusza do 2100 roku. Tak znaczące zmiany klimatyczne mogą mieć katastrofalne i nieodwracalne konsekwencje dla mieszkańców naszej planety. Wyczerpujące się źródła wody pitnej, ziemia, której nie można uprawiać i wyczerpujące się zasoby naturalne zmuszą ludzi do walki o to, co pozostanie. Powstawanie ugrupowań wojskowych będzie skutkowało zarówno wewnętrznymi konfliktami zbrojnymi, jak i międzynarodowymi napięciami wywołanymi masową migracją ludności z krajów najmniej narażonych na skutki zmian klimatycznych do regionów wysoko rozwiniętych, takich jak kraje UE. Zmiany klimatyczne w kontekście bezpieczeństwa są wielowymiarowe i dotyczą niemal każdego sektora. Kraje UE będą zmuszone przeciwdziałać skutkom zmian klimatycznych nie tylko poprzez porozumienia czy deklaracje w ramach ONZ, ale także angażując własne siły i zasoby w misje i operacje Wspólnej Polityki Bezpieczeństwa i Obrony (WPBiO). Bieżące działania w ramach WPBiO zostaną zintensyfikowane i zróżnicowane poprzez wdrożenie wsparcia adaptacji technologicznej do nowych warunków klimatycznych w krajach nierozwiniętych.

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**SŁOWA KLUCZOWE** zmiana klimatu, bezpieczeństwo klimatyczne, misje i operacje w ramach WPBiO

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