



CENTRO STUDI
INTERNAZIONALI

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THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON GLOBAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY DYNAMICS

22 October 2019

4.00 pm

Centro Studi Americani

Via Michelangelo Caetani, 32, Roma

SUMMARY

Climate change is one of the most important phenomena of our time, capable of appreciably modifying the natural balance of our planet and, consequently, the very structure of economic, political and security interactions among human beings.

The impact of climate change on geopolitical dynamics is already evident and could worsen in future years. Increased desertification and drought, alteration of food security and melting of glaciers are all phenomena capable of heightening conflict between states or human political agendas of all governments, including the Italian one.

BACKGROUND

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), if the current level of emissions of so-called greenhouse gases continue to remain constant, the average temperature of our planet will increase by around 1.5 degrees Celsius between 2030 and 2050. The effects of global warming and climate change would be devastating, especially if we observe what happened to our planet due to the raising of average temperatures by 1 degree Celsius in the pre-industrial era (19th century). Global warming and climate change are responsible for breaking the planetary biological balance and originating phenomena such as the melting of perennial glaciers, rising seas and oceans, increasing desertification and droughts, changing in the cycle and in the intensity of monsoons and sea

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currents. Overall, climate change, afflicting the place where humanity lives, inevitably changes its behavior, interactions, relationships and activities.

In doing this, climate change has had significant impacts on the economy, on the political relations and on security of human communities, contributing to exacerbating the factors of conflict, the underlying causes of poverty, malnutrition and migration or creating opportunities in former territories inhospitable or characterized by inaccessible resources.

The global scenario offers numerous examples of these impacts. As far as opportunities are concerned, the most symptomatic case concerns the melting of the Arctic ice sheet and perennial ice that now is gradually allowing access to the hydrocarbon resources of the Arctic Ocean and is changing the geography of the trade routes between the West and East of the world, triggering what has been defined as a real "Scramble for Arctic", borrowing the most famous "Scramble for Africa" from the era of nineteenth-century colonial imperialism.

On the other hand, as regards the vulnerabilities exacerbated by climate change, just think of the Sahel region, the Middle East and Asia, where the decrease in arable land and availability of water increases tensions between States and between tribal groups, placing the bases for the increase of violent conflicts and opening spaces for manoeuvre for extremist movements ready to exploit, thanks to their propaganda and logistic capabilities, the discontent and vulnerability of weaker subjects and communities.

In order to demonstrate the relevance and gravity of this last phenomenon, during the conference Ce.S.I. will present the report "Food and Security: the role of natural resources exploitation and management in jihadist quest for social legitimation", realized thanks to the support of FAO.



Debate

- Luca Russo, Senior Food Crises Analyst, Strategic Program on Resilience (FAO)
- Marco Di Liddo, Senior Analyst Ce.S.I., Head of Africa Desk – Centro Studi Internazionali
- Leone Gianturco, Head, planning and general affairs, Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development AICS*
- Raffaella Luglini, Chief Stakeholder Officer, Leonardo*
- Massimo Zaurrini, Director, Africa e Affari
- Amb. Filippo Scammacca del Murgio, General Direction Cooperation and Development, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Moderator

- Gabriele Iacovino, Director, Ce.S.I. – Centro Studi Internazionali

*To be confirmed