



EVENT REPORT

Climate Change as a Driver of Conflict and Insecurity

A Policy Dialogue on Climate, Peace and Security in Galmudug

**DATE**

8 August 2026

VENUE

Galmudug Hotel, Dhusamareeb

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1 Executive Summary

TOPIC	Climate Change as a Driver of Conflict and Insecurity
DATE	8 August 2026
TIME	3:30 PM – 7:00 PM
VENUE	Galmudug Hotel, Dhusamareeb, Galmudug State, Somalia
ORGANIZERS	Focus Institute and Focus Plus Forum

Focus Institute and Focus Plus Forum organized a policy dialogue on "**Climate Change as a Driver of Conflict and Insecurity**" on 8 August 2026 at Galmudug Hotel in Dhusamareeb, Galmudug State.

The event brought together relevant stakeholders to examine the relationship between climate change, natural-resource competition, livelihoods, displacement, social tensions, and insecurity in Somalia, with particular attention to the Galmudug context.

The discussion highlighted that climate change is not only an environmental and development challenge but also a factor that can increase existing vulnerabilities and contribute to conflict when combined with weak resource governance, poverty, displacement, competition over land and water, and limited livelihood opportunities.

Participants emphasized the importance of strengthening community resilience, climate adaptation, conflict-sensitive development, early-warning mechanisms, natural-resource governance, and cooperation among government institutions, communities, civil society, youth, women, and development partners.

2 Background

Somalia is highly vulnerable to climate-related shocks, including recurrent droughts, floods, unpredictable rainfall, environmental degradation, and rising pressure on natural resources. These challenges have significant consequences for pastoralist communities, farmers, internally displaced persons, and other vulnerable populations.

Climate-related pressures can intensify competition over scarce resources such as water, pasture and agricultural land. Where effective resource-management systems and conflict-resolution mechanisms are weak, such competition can contribute to local disputes and exacerbate existing tensions.

In Galmudug, where pastoralism and natural-resource-based livelihoods remain important, climate variability has direct implications for livelihoods, mobility patterns, community relations, and local security.



Stakeholders at the policy dialogue in Dhusamareeb, Galmudug State.

Against this background, Focus Institute and Focus Plus Forum convened the dialogue to promote informed discussion and identify practical approaches for addressing the links between climate change, conflict, peace and security.

3 Objectives of the Event

The dialogue aimed to:

1. Increase understanding of the relationship between climate change, conflict and insecurity.
2. Examine how drought, floods and environmental degradation affect communities and livelihoods.
3. Discuss competition over land, water and pasture as potential sources of local conflict.
4. Explore climate-related displacement and its implications for peace and security.
5. Identify community-based climate adaptation and conflict-prevention measures.
6. Strengthen dialogue among government, civil society, community leaders, youth, women and other stakeholders.
7. Generate recommendations for integrating climate adaptation into peacebuilding and security programming.



Panel discussion during the dialogue.

4 Key Discussion Areas

4.1 Climate Change and Livelihoods

Participants discussed how climate shocks affect pastoralist and farming communities through loss of livestock, reduced agricultural production, water shortages and declining household income.

The resulting economic pressure can increase vulnerability and encourage competition over increasingly limited natural resources.

4.2 Competition Over Natural Resources

The dialogue identified water, grazing areas and agricultural land as important resources around which tensions can emerge.

Participants stressed that climate change does not automatically cause conflict. Rather, it can **multiply existing risks**, particularly where resource governance, dispute-resolution systems and livelihood opportunities are limited.

4.3 Climate-Induced Displacement

Drought and other climate shocks can force communities to move in search of water, pasture, food and livelihood opportunities.

Such movements may create pressure on host communities and public services and can contribute to disputes if adequate planning, resource-sharing mechanisms and community dialogue are not in place.

4.4 Climate Change and Local Security



Discussion on the links between environmental stress and insecurity.

Participants discussed the potential connection between environmental stress and insecurity. Communities experiencing severe livelihood losses may become more vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups, criminal networks and other destabilizing actors.

The participants therefore emphasized the need to treat climate resilience as part of broader peace and security strategies.

4.5 Role of Youth and Women

The discussion recognized the important role of youth and women in community resilience, peacebuilding, early warning, mediation and climate adaptation.

Participants recommended greater inclusion of women and young people in decision-making processes related to natural-resource management, local peacebuilding and climate policy.

5 Key Findings

The event generated the following key findings:

- 1 Climate change is an important **risk multiplier** for conflict and insecurity.
- 2 Drought and water scarcity can increase competition over natural resources.
- 3 Livelihood losses can increase poverty, displacement and community vulnerability.
- 4 Climate-induced displacement can create additional pressure on host communities.

- 5 Weak natural-resource governance can increase the likelihood of resource-based disputes.
- 6 Local communities possess important traditional knowledge and mechanisms that can support climate adaptation and peacebuilding.
- 7 Early-warning systems can help stakeholders identify emerging climate and conflict risks.
- 8 Climate adaptation programmes should be designed using conflict-sensitive approaches.
- 9 Youth and women should have meaningful roles in climate resilience and peacebuilding initiatives.
- 10 Government, civil society and development partners need stronger coordination around climate, peace and security programming.

6 Recommendations

Based on the discussions, participants recommended:

Government Institutions

1. Strengthen climate adaptation policies and implementation at federal and state levels.
2. Improve management and equitable access to water, pasture and other natural resources.
3. Establish and strengthen local conflict-resolution and natural-resource governance mechanisms.
4. Integrate climate risks into peace and security planning.
5. Strengthen climate and conflict early-warning and early-response systems.

Civil Society and Community Organizations

6. Expand community awareness on climate adaptation and peaceful resource-sharing.
7. Support community-led conflict prevention and mediation mechanisms.
8. Promote dialogue between pastoralist, farming and host communities.
9. Strengthen the participation of women and youth in peace and climate initiatives.

Development Partners

10. Invest in climate-resilient livelihoods and alternative income opportunities.
11. Support water infrastructure and sustainable natural-resource management.
12. Integrate peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity into climate adaptation projects.
13. Support research and evidence generation on climate-security risks in Somalia.

Communities

14. Promote peaceful resource-sharing arrangements.

15. Strengthen traditional mechanisms for resolving resource-related disputes.
16. Participate in early-warning and early-response systems.
17. Promote sustainable management of grazing areas, water sources and other natural resources.

7 Conclusion

The "**Climate Change as a Driver of Conflict and Insecurity**" dialogue provided an important platform for stakeholders in Dhusamareeb to discuss the increasingly complex relationship between climate change, livelihoods, natural-resource competition, displacement, conflict and insecurity.

The discussions demonstrated that climate change should not be viewed solely as an environmental issue. In Somalia, climate-related shocks can interact with existing social, economic and governance vulnerabilities and therefore require integrated responses combining **climate adaptation, peacebuilding, livelihood support, resource governance and conflict prevention**.

Focus Institute and Focus Plus Forum reaffirm their commitment to supporting evidence-based dialogue, research, policy engagement and community-focused initiatives that contribute to climate resilience, peace and sustainable development in Somalia.



Focus Institute & Focus Plus Forum

Dhusamareeb, Galmudug State, Somalia

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