

VII Atlantic Centre Seminar

“Climate Change and Security Challenges in the Atlantic”

30 October 2025

Barge Pavilion, Navy Museum, Lisbon

CONCEPT NOTE

Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events pose a significant threat to global maritime security, creating considerable harm to multiple domains, impacting both wildlife and its ecosystems while also affecting the livelihoods of vulnerable coastal communities.

Climate Change is both a security as a social problem that produces negative effects which are interconnected, affecting nations across the Atlantic in complex and uneven ways. In that respect, while underlining Climate Change as a *Whole-of-Atlantic* concern, it becomes clear that this issue creates an avoidable regional divide for Atlantic communities and States in a matter that ought to be addressed collectively and cooperatively.

Recognizing this shared challenge, the Atlantic Centre and the Atlantic community will thus contribute to readdress and discuss this issue. The Atlantic Centre alongside its partners, is coordinating the Climate Change and Security Challenges research project which aims to examine the current multidisciplinary challenges of Climate Change and explore the multifaceted nature of climate-related threats and their intersection with other critical areas, including, international law, maritime security, food security, humanitarian response, disaster risk management, and so on.

The resulting report aims to offer a comprehensive and policy-oriented analysis of how climate change is reshaping the Atlantic geopolitical and social landscape. It will highlight regional nuances and reflect the perspectives of diverse Atlantic countries, while underscoring its transnational nature in the Atlantic Geopolitical theatre.

Through this initiative, the Atlantic Centre aims to foster a deeper understanding of climate security dynamics while promoting actionable recommendations for collective resilience. It is the shared belief of the Centre and its signatory states that addressing the climate crisis becomes only a matter of environmental urgency, but also a critical step toward ensuring a secure, stable, and prosperous Atlantic community.

PROGRAMME

08:30 - 09:00 - Guests' arrival

09:00 - Welcome Remarks

- Isabel Ferreira Nunes, Director-General of the National Defence Institute
- Rear Admiral Nuno de Noronha Bragança, Atlantic Centre Coordinator

09:20 - Opening Remarks

- HIS excellency Dr. Nuno Pinheiro Torres, Secretary of State Assistant for National Defence Policy

09:30 - Keynote address:

Mr. Dhesigen Naidoo, Senior Research Associate, ISS Africa

09:55 - Presentation of the Atlantic Centre's report "Climate Change and Security Challenges in the Atlantic" (session 1)

- **Chair:** Prof. Sandra Balão, Associate Professor at School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lisbon

Speakers:

- Fahd Azaroual | Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)
- Ms. Juliet Obeng | Gulf of Guinea Maritime Institute (Ghana)

10:35 - Coffee break

10:55 - Presentation of the Atlantic Centre's report "Climate Change and Security Challenges in the Atlantic" (session 2)

Speakers:

- Col. (Ret) William F. Lyons | Norwich University (United States)
- Eléonore Duffau | French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (France)
- Navy Capt. Julian Quintero | Naval Academy of Strategic Studies (Colombia)
- Prof. Dr. Edouard Yogo | Bureau des Etudes Strategiques (Cameroon)

12:00 - Atlantic Security Award

- Chair: Mrs. Leonor Barroso, Transatlantic Relations Coordinator at FLAD

Speakers:

- João Reis, Assistant Professor w/Habilitation at Lusófona University
- Caio Cesar-Ribeiro, Assistant Researcher at CCMAR - Centre of Marine Sciences of the Algarve

12:50 - Closing Remarks

- Ambassador Ana Paula Zacarias, Director of the Diplomatic Institute

13:00 - End of Seminar