

COP29 - UNFCCC

11-22 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

EVENT CONCEPT NOTE**Title: Inclusive Diplomacy Lounge - The Peace and Climate Nexus: An Inclusive Approach to Global Diplomacy**

16 November 2024

Organized by Global Diplomacy Lab, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Bled Strategic Form, Union for the Mediterranean

The Inclusive Diplomacy Lounge at COP29 will bring together formal and informal diplomats to explore how inclusive diplomacy can serve as a tool for preventing climate-induced conflicts and fostering peace in vulnerable regions. Distinguished keynote speakers with expertise in environmental cooperation, sustainable development, and diplomacy will set the stage with insights on cross-border collaboration, resilience, and social stability. Their perspectives will frame a rich discussion on diplomatic strategies that bridge climate resilience and peacebuilding, creating a unique space for participants to engage in meaningful dialogue on these critical, interconnected issues.

1. Objectives

Foster Collaborative Dialogue: Facilitate open discussions among diverse participants to explore the intersection of peacebuilding and climate action through inclusive diplomacy.

Highlight Strategic Insights: Present key perspectives from high-level speakers on addressing climate-related challenges as integral to conflict prevention and peace promotion.

Promote Innovative Solutions: Engage participants in dialogue to brainstorm actionable and creative approaches to global climate and peace challenges within a limited timeframe.

Encourage Multi-Stakeholder Perspectives: Gather viewpoints from formal and informal diplomats to build a more holistic understanding of inclusive diplomacy's role in addressing the climate-peace nexus.

2. Panel discussions / Event showflow

- **Key note addresses by**
- Ambassador Smiljana Knez,

Follow up contribution by:

- Director of EcoPeace Gidon Bromberg (online presence)
- Director CEB Tanja Faller

- **Q&A and Interactive Discussion**

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Inclusive Diplomacy Lounge is designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas on how inclusive diplomacy can address climate-related challenges and promote peace, IDL aims to provide a structured yet flexible environment for meaningful engagement in a short timeframe. Therefore we want to open the floor for any questions, reactions and intervention from the attendees that will represent diverse perspectives, regions and backgrounds.

To keep the conversations going the moderator may refer to the below questions:

1. The Azerbaijani government is insisting very much on highlighting the nexus between peace and climate. Indeed the joint fight against climate-related challenges could bring about many peace dividends but what we see in many contexts such as the Mediterranean is rather competition for scarce resources, with climate-related challenges becoming a risk-multiplier in fragile contexts. What concrete steps could we take to change this paradigm?
2. A 2023 poll reveals that people with more education are more likely to see climate change as a major threat, highlighting the key role of education in shaping conscious environmental attitudes. Are there any best practices that should be shared to help governments boost the role of education in fighting climate change?
3. With their air, land, and seas warming up 20% faster than the global average, the Mediterranean countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change. What tools and structures do they have to act together to counter climate related threats and achieve climate justice?

- **Wrap Up by**

Closing remarks summarising the main insights discussed during the event, encourage continued dialogue and collaboration and a clear call for climate action.

3. Date and Venue

16 November 2024 | 15:30 – 16:30

The Mediterranean Pavilion, Blue Zone, F1B - COP 29

4. Agenda

Important to flag who will be online and/or using PPTs /Videos

| Time | |
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| 15:30– 15:35 | Opening remarks Katarzyna Hanula-Bobbitt- Global Diplomacy Lab |
| 15:35 – 15:45 | Key note address Smiljana Knez- Ambassador-at-Large for Climate Diplomacy |
| 15:45 – 16:05 | Follow up interventions on peace-climate nexus Gidon Bromberg, Israel Director Eco-Peace (ONLINE) Tanja Faller- Director of Technical Assessment and Monitoring |
| 16:05 – 16:30 | Q&A and Interactive Discussion and Wrap up Moderator: Eleonora Tafuro- Global Diplomacy Lab |

5. Bios of speakers

Smiljana Knez- Ambassador-at-Large for Climate Diplomacy

Smiljana Knez is a Slovenian diplomat. Since December 2022 she holds a position of Ambassador-at-Large for Climate Diplomacy.

From August 2019 to December 2022, she served as a Foreign Policy Advisor of the President of the Republic of Slovenia. Previously to that, she was posted as the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Croatia (2016 - 2019) and to the Czech Republic (2011 - 2015). She joined Slovenia's MFA in 1992 and since then held a number of different roles. From 2006 - 2011 and again in 2015, she held a position of Human Rights Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Slovenia. In 2008, during the Slovenia's first Presidency to the Council of the European Union, she chaired EU Working Group on Human Rights.

In her current position, she focuses on climate security ("climate, peace and security" is one of four thematic priorities of Slovenia's UN Security Council membership 2024/2025), human rights, gender, nexus of climate security and migration, but also on science and technology. Smiljana Knez graduated from sociology at Ljubljana University in 1985, obtained her MA in International Relations at King's College London in 2006, and PhD in International Relations at Ljubljana University in 2013.

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Gidon Bromberg-Israeli Director

Gidon Bromberg co-founded EcoPeace Middle East in 1994 and has served as its Israeli Director for three decades. Mr. Bromberg, an attorney by profession, is an alumni of Monash University in Australia, Washington College of Law at American University, and Yale University's World Fellows program. Mr. Bromberg has been immersed in the environmental peacebuilding work for over 30 years and has written extensively on the relationship between water issues and Middle East peace. He has presented on these issues before the UN Climate Summit, UN Security Council, US Congress, European Parliament, and in other local and international forums. Gidon is a member of the jury of the prestigious Goldman Environmental Award.

Tanja Faller- Director Technical Assessment and Monitoring CEB