

**COP29 - UNFCCC**

11-22 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

**EVENT CONCEPT NOTE****The climate, peace and security nexus in the Mediterranean: connecting the dots**

15 November 2024

**1. Objectives**

In a historic moment which appears to be dominated by conflict and instability on one hand, and by the increasingly devastating impact of climate change on the other, connecting the dots among the climate, energy and security dimensions is no longer deferrable. Indeed, the effects of climate change on stability and security need to be at the top of the agenda of the international community; in this sense, initiatives like the COP29 Climate Peace Initiative go in the right direction as they highlight the extreme and urgent relevance of the “climate change, security and peace nexus”.

This particularly applies to the Mediterranean region, where the impact of climate change interacts with pre-existing factors of instability, risking to exacerbate old crises and triggering new ones at a local, national and transnational level, with transregional repercussions. As such, integrating the dimension of climate and taking concrete steps towards building resilience stand as a *conditio sine qua non* for the promotion of security, stability and development in this macro-region, as well as for the development of an advanced toolkit to address key issues such as food security and migration flows.

During this policy-oriented panel discussion, a diverse panel of experts from national governments, intergovernmental organisations and scientific expert networks will delve into this matter, sharing insights and proposing solutions.

**2. Panel discussions / Event showflow**

- **Introductory remarks by Giulia Giordano, Director Mediterranean and Global Strategies, ECCO – in person**
- **Panel discussion (10 minutes each) by:**
  - **Marie-Claire Boillot**, Senior Expert on Energy and Climate action, Union for the Mediterranean (in person)
  - **Eda Acara**, Project Coordinator and Researcher, Istanbul Policy Center (IPC); Coordinating Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report on Environmental changes, conflicts, and human migration (remote – will use a PPT presentation)
  - **Valeria Sinisi**, Project Manager for the Mediterranean Dialogue, Friedrich Naumann Foundation (in person – will use a PPT presentation)
  - **Yasmine Seghirate**, Administrator at the General Secretariat, International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) (remote – will use a PPT presentation)
  - **Sylvie Goyet**, Deputy Co-Ordinator, Head of Environmental Activities, OSCE
  - Representative from Italy MFA tbc

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- **Q&A and Interactive Discussion led by the chair**  
Open the floor to questions from the audience and facilitate a discussion with panelists on key takeaways
- **Wrap Up by Giulia Giordano**, Director Mediterranean and Global Strategies, ECCO  
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

15 November 2024 | 12:30 – 2:00 pm

The Mediterranean Pavilion, Blue Zone, F1B - COP 29

### 4. Agenda

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

Time	
12:30 – 12:40	<b>Opening remarks</b> <b>Giulia Giordano</b> , Director Mediterranean and Global Strategies, ECCO (chair, in person)
12:40 – 1:40	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marie-Claire Boillot</b>, Senior Expert on Energy and Climate action, Union for the Mediterranean (in person)</li> <li>• <b>Eda Acara</b>, Project Coordinator and Researcher, Istanbul Policy Center (IPC); Coordinating Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report on Environmental changes, conflicts, and human migration (remote, with presentation)</li> <li>• <b>Valeria Sinisi</b>, Project Manager for the Mediterranean Dialogue at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (in person, with presentation)</li> <li>• <b>Yasmine Seghirate</b>, Administrator at the General Secretariat, International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) (remote, with presentation)</li> <li>• <b>Sylvie Goyet</b>, Deputy Co-Ordinator, Head of Environmental Activities, OSCE (in person)</li> <li>• Representative from Italy MFA</li> </ul>
1:40 – 2:00	<b>Q&amp;A and Interactive Discussion and Wrap up</b>

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### **5. Bios of speakers (alphabetical order)**

**Eda Acara, Project Coordinator and Researcher, Istanbul Policy Center (IPC); Coordinating Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report on Environmental changes, conflicts, and human migration**

Eda Acara is working as a researcher and project coordinator for the Raising Ambition Project. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography and Planning from Queen's University, Canada, a Master's in Gender and Women's Studies from St. Mary's University, Canada, and a Bachelor of Sociology from Middle East Technical University, Turkey. She has published works on the critical geographies of water, environmental justice, environmental and urban policy planning, and feminist urban politics in the Global South. Additionally, she has been affiliated with the Urban Policy Planning and Local Governments Program at Middle East Technical University. Prior to IPC, she worked as a lecturer at METU, Ankara University, and TED University. She also established the social and economic geography curriculum for Bakircay University's Geography program and served as an assistant professor of geography.

Dr. Acara is a contributing lead author for the "Environmental Change, Conflict, and Human Migration" report for The Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC). She has extensive consultancy experience as a social and gender expert, particularly in risk assessment and policy crafting for green infrastructure projects financed by the World Bank and EBRD. Notable projects include her role as a gender and economic inclusion expert for EBRD's Green City Action Plans in Istanbul and Ankara, in conjunction with the World Bank's Turkish Irrigation Modernization Project (TIMP). She also has experience in developing interactive and digital capacity-building modules for government institutions, UN organizations, and local governments on issues such as climate justice, urban resilience, and social inequalities.

In the past, Dr. Acara has been honored with the Canada Research Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and a dissertation scholarship from the Association of American Geographers. She has received the Şirin Tekeli Research Award from Sabancı University and the Emerging Scholar Award from the Gender, Place, and Culture Journal. Her articles have been published in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers and Urban Geography.

**Giulia Giordano, Director Mediterranean & Global Strategy, ECCO.**

Giulia is an Italian researcher and practitioner with extensive experience in the Middle East. She joined the creation of ECCO at its early stage of conception as the Head of Strategy and Development. She is now leading the International Programmes.

Before joining ECCO, she was the Director of International Programs at EcoPeace Middle East, a trilateral organization based in Israel, Jordan and Palestine. In her previous capacity she was responsible for leading the organization's international advocacy and outreach programmes vis-à-vis foreign governments, diplomatic representatives and international organizations, while frequently representing the organization by speaking at international public events.

Formerly she was a visiting researcher at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a fellow lecturer at Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem, where she taught two courses in Human Rights and International Environmental Law. She has worked with several organizations of the civil society and academic institutions, and has written extensively about water security and environmental diplomacy. She received her PhD in Cooperation for Peace and Development from the University 'Stranieri' of Perugia. Her research interests include environmental diplomacy, transboundary water cooperation and Middle Eastern politics. She is an alumna of the Water Diplomacy Initiative, a joint programme by the MIT, Harvard Negotiation Program and Tuft University, a founding member of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association, and a member of the Bosch Alumni Network.

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**Sylvie Goyet, Deputy Co-Ordinator, Head of Environmental Activities, OSCE**

Sylvie has been working on environmental protection, climate change and sustainable development for over 20 years, serving UN agencies, international NGOs and private foundations in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Before joining the OSCE, she was Advisor to the CEO and Vice President, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. Prior to that, she notably served as Director, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability programme at the Pacific Community, based in New Caledonia, and acted as Director General of Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin, working in West Africa on coastal and marine protection. Her past assignments also included positions of Regional Coordinator of the UNOPS/UNDP/GEF MedWetCoast project and Programme Manager at WWF International, UNDP Black Sea, UNEP Caspian Sea, and UNDP Fiji.

Particularly committed to environmental protection and conservation finance, she serves on the boards of Wild Touch Association, Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA), BioGuine Foundation, BaCoMab Foundation, Tour du Valat, Rewilding Europe, and Edinburgh Ocean Leaders.

Sylvie is a French and Swiss citizen, holds a Master degree in Environmental Management from the University of London, an MBA in Finance from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master in International Business from the Lyon Business School.

**Yasmine Seghirate, Administrator at the General Secretariat, International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)**

Yasmine Seghirate is currently an administrator at the General Secretariat of CIHEAM based in Paris, where she oversees publications and policies related to the empowerment of women and youth in Mediterranean agricultural and food systems. A graduate of Sciences Po Aix-en-Provence with a specialization in political sociology of the Arab and Muslim world, Yasmine previously led sustainable development and CSR projects in the Maghreb for ORSE (French Observatory for Corporate Social Responsibility). She was also a project officer for the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Innovative Financing for Development (UNITAID) and worked as a consultant for the French Development Agency (AFD).

**Valeria Sinisi, Project Manager for the Mediterranean Dialogue, Friedrich Naumann Foundation**

Valeria Sinisi García is Project Manager for the Mediterranean Dialogue at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. Holding a BA in International Relations from King's College London, her specialisation includes human rights, diplomacy, and conflict studies. Valeria's primary interests lie in the intersection of climate change and human rights, migration and forced displacement, and international human rights law. At FNF's Madrid office, she coordinates projects across the Mediterranean and West Africa on climate change as a cause for flight, women's rights, as well as crisis and conflict-driven displacement, among others. In addition to her role as a project manager, she is a passionate writer and researcher, contributing articles to prominent publications such as eKathimerini, which is published alongside The New York Times International. She is also currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action at Sciences Po Paris.