

21000 Security Concepts and Threat Assessment

It is generally agreed that the concept of security has widened and deepened and that new military threats as well as environmental challenges, manifold vulnerabilities and risks have gradually evolved since the fall of the Berlin wall. However, there is no consensus as to what exactly we mean by security or which threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks are most imminent, most probable or most destructive.

In order to answer some of these questions the GMOSS partners are working in two main directions. Firstly defining how long-time scale changes – globalisation, climate change, desertification, water scarcity, population changes, urbanisation and food needs, as well as disasters and migration – affect Europe’s security and secondly developing a hierarchy of both hard military threats from malicious attacks, and soft non-military security threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks (e.g. related with migration issues).

Since the end of the Cold War, in most EU and NATO countries a wide security concept has emerged that has included besides the narrow military and diplomatic also economic, societal and environmental dimensions. GMES will deal specifically with the environmental security dimension by focusing on environment and security linkages. A consensus exists among many UN institutions (UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, UNU) and many EU countries (especially those who participate in the Human Security Network) that security has not any longer only the nation state as a referent but that it is also "human-centred" (Kofi Annan). Security focuses on both “freedom from fear” (national, regional security) and “freedom from want” (human security), as suggested by Ogata and Sen for the Human Security Commission (see table 1).

Table 1: Vertical Levels and Horizontal Dimensions of Security in North and South

<u>Security dimension</u> ⇒	Military	Political	Economic	Environmental	Social
Level of interaction (reference point) ↓				↓	
Human →			energy, food	food, health, livelihood	
Societal/Community	U.S. and MENA focus European focus (NATO, EU countries)				
National					
International/Regional					
Global/Planetary →			energy	food	health

However, there is no global consensus as to what exactly we mean by security or which (military, political, economic, societal and environmental) security threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks are most imminent, most probable or most destructive or which rapid-onset (drought, floods, storms) or slow-onset (due to global environmental change, abrupt climate change) hazards and disasters may also become security issues. These security perceptions differ because they are influenced by the worldviews of the analysts and the mindsets of policymakers. Both the security reality and the knowledge thereof are socially constructed.

The study of long-term challenges in the 21st century aims to link the environmental and security dimensions of GMES and is being tackled through a major publication edited by an AFES-PRESS editorial team and divided into two volumes “Globalisation and Environmental Challenges: Reconceptualising Security in the 21st Century” and “Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts”. It will include contributions from other GMOSS partners.

AFES-PRESS organised two workshops in the framework of major international conferences:

- **45th Annual ISA Convention Montreal, Quebec, Canada, March 17-20, 2004** with two panels on environmental and human security [all ten papers presented have been posted at: http://www.afes-press.de/html/download_isa.html]

- **20th IPRA Conference in Sopron (Hungary), 5-9 July 2004** with two panels on water and economic security [all ten social science papers presented have been posted at: http://www.afes-press.de/html/download_sopron.html]

AFES-PRESS prepared a third workshop on reconceptualising security

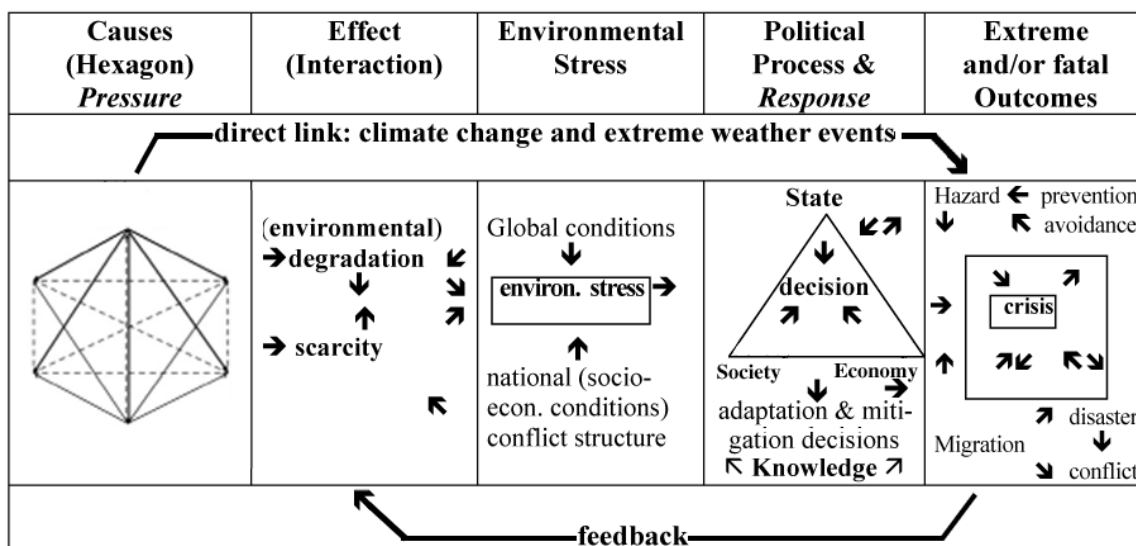
- **5th Pan-European Conference on International Relations**, Netherlands Congress Centre, The Hague, 9-11 September 2004 with ten sessions and three evening sessions and dinners [All papers are posted at: http://www.afes-press.de/html/the_hague.html]

Besides the organisation of these three workshops effort in the first six months has concentrated on

- a) presentation of papers on security conceptualisation in Washington, D.C. and
- b) drawing up a table of contents and list of contributors as well as
- c) committing some 200 authors from all part of the globe,
- d) looking for a publisher and negotiating a publication contract with a major scientific publisher.
- e) Setting up an AFES-PRESS GMOSS website section where more than 50 papers have been posted

In August 2004 two publication agreements were signed with the prestigious science publisher Springer. The design of both volumes is influenced by the following model (figure 1):

Figure: Global Environmental Change, Fatal Outcomes and Societal Consequences



A preliminary classification of post-cold-war malicious military threats to security by FOI has begun. Preliminary results indicate a shift of the “old threats” – nuclear attack, border conflict – from Europe to Asia. In post-modern Europe the most probable hard military security threats are from proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and organized crime. Future work will aim to map these threats more precisely in order to focus a part of the research effort in the work packages aimed at monitoring or mitigating these threats.