

Nexus²⁵ Memo

“That’s When Things Got Complicated:

Addressing the Security-Climate-Migration Nexus in Today’s World.”

MSC Event – Friday, February 18th, from 11.30 am to 1:00 pm CET

On February 18th, Nexus²⁵ hosted its first high-level policy conversation during a side event at the Munich Security Conference: “That’s When Things Got Complicated: Addressing the Security-Climate-Migration Nexus in Today’s World.” We launched two research papers and brought together a group of speakers and participants that represented a wide range of different perspectives: from diplomacy and defense to climate change, migration, and food security. (For more information and our papers see: www.nexus25.org)



Nexus²⁵ lead **Nathalie Tocci** presented two complex crisis scenario research papers on the Sahel and Mediterranean, and South-Asia. A few hours earlier, U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry spoke about the same challenges and emphasized the need to move forward with a new multilateral agenda. Speakers at the Nexus²⁵ round table included **Niels Annen**, German State Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, CEO New America; **Benedetta Berti-Alberti**, NATO Head of Policy Planning; **Ertharin Cousin**, CEO of Food Systems for the Future, and **Meghan L. O’Sullivan**, Professor at Harvard’s Kennedy School and Director of the Geopolitics of Energy Project. Here are some of the key takeaways from our conversation:

- The nexus perspective needs to be a crucial reference point for governments, and the discussion has come a long way: A prominent conversation on these issues would have been hard to imagine at the Munich Security Conference only a few years ago.
- At the same time, only limited progress has been made in past decades. Just now, food security has made it to the table of such interconnected policy conversations.
- Nexus issues are more complex than first meets the eye: They cover more than the classic climate-security-migration nexus – policymakers and analysts need to recognize food scarcity, the ongoing energy transition, and questions on how to interface these discussions with defense requirements and strategies.
- Furthermore, nexus issues cannot be analyzed or addressed top-down (through action in the United States, the European Union, or multilateral organizations). On the one hand, a bottom-up structure with regional representatives is needed and may be more challenging to achieve. On the other, the debate must also recognize and consider the domestic connections in industrialized countries.
- In short: The task ahead is to develop ideas on how to go beyond an abstract understanding of the nexus and think of policy practice – as a mission-oriented approach.



Attendees: **Senator Chris Murphy**, U.S. Senate, Connecticut, **Jason Bordoff**, Dean of the Columbia Climate School, New York, **Tom Middendorp**, Chairman International Military Council on Climate and Security, Special Envoy on European Defense Cooperation, **Alexander Carius**, Managing Director adelphi, **Achim Steiner**, UNDP Administrator, **Ngairé Woods**, Dean School of Government, University of Oxford, **Karin von Hippel**, Director-General, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), **Alexander Carius**, Managing Director, adelphi, **David Deissner**, CEO Atlantik-Brücke, **Steven Erlanger**, New York Times, **Espen Barth Eide**, Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, **Ken Gude**, Executive Director, Trusted Future, **Michael Keating**, Executive Director, European Institute of Peace, **Andrew Moravcsik**, Professor, Princeton University, **Majda Ruge**, Senior Fellow, ECFR, **Matthias Berninger**, SVP Public Affairs & Sustainability, Bayer AG, **Reinhard Bütikofer**, Member of the European Parliament, **Elsa Barron**, The Center for Climate and Security, **Karin von Hippel**, Director-General, Royal United Services Institute.

