REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

LONG-TERM GUIDELINES FOR INCREASING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Ljubljana, January 2024

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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Vojkova cesta 55, 1000 Ljubljana

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FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER

Climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges. It has political, economic, social, and security implications, which can negatively affect a country's stability, security and defence.

Both climate change and environmental degradation are increasingly threatening international peace and security, and are the major challenges of our time. They are significantly shaping the strategic security environment, both in the Euro-Atlantic area and in its wider surroundings. The scale, intensity and impacts of climate change on security and defence are expected to increase significantly in the future.

There is a growing awareness that climate change also has a negative impact on the armed forces. This is because military equipment and weapons are not fully adapted to operation in extreme weather conditions. Resilience, including of military infrastructure, must be increased for new challenges, with additional supply and energy security. At the same time, the armed forces must reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels, without affecting their operational effectiveness. As natural disasters caused by climate change become more severe and frequent, the armed forces will play an increasingly important role in providing humanitarian assistance and support during these disasters and emergencies. Climate change also poses a challenge to the development of the military capabilities of EU Member States and NATO allies.

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia is aware of the new realities, challenges and risks posed by the impacts of climate change. It is therefore committed to achieving its national climate ambition targets in line with EU and NATO commitments, and to taking an active approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation. These measures will contribute to reducing the adverse effects of climate change within the MoD, ensure a more organized response, improve energy efficiency, and put in place a system to manage risks in a changing climate.

The Long-Term Guidelines for Increasing Climate Resilience in the field of defence by 2050 aim to contribute to achieving climate neutrality and improving the energy efficiency of the MoD and the Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) by developing a coherent set of climate measures to keep pace with EU and NATO commitments and objectives. In order to effectively combat climate change, it is necessary to adapt the SAF and the organizational units and bodies within the MoD to energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen energy resilience, and preserve biodiversity. The target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, taking into account the different branches of the SAF. At the same time, the MoD and the SAF will work to strengthen awareness and expertise on climate change in the defence sector, and will cooperate and network with other EU Member States and NATO allies, including through the exchange of good practice and lessons learned.

Given the increasing frequency of natural and other disasters in the Republic of Slovenia, the SAF will also have to adapt and prepare for more frequent military assistance to the system of protection against natural and other disasters, in order to support the civil authorities in the event of natural disasters and other emergencies.

It is important to note that achieving Green Transition objectives or implementing Climate Performance Measures will not compromise the implementation of tasks and the mission of the MoD and the SAF.

Climate change is a highly cross-cutting and inter-ministerial issue, requiring a government-led, integrated and coordinated approach. Ensuring the coordination of efforts at the national level, and appropriate integration with the economic and academic spheres, is crucial for the effective implementation of these measures.

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE DEFENCE SECTOR

The defence ministries and armed forces of the EU Member States and NATO allies must prepare for a situation in which climate change has multiplier effects and is a source of instability, risks and threats.

Given that the armed forces will have to operate in more extreme climate conditions in the future, and will have to cope with new challenges and operational requirements, they must adapt to such a changed operational environment, both in terms of planning and in terms of equipment, weapons, readiness, training, sustainability, and so on. Geostrategic rivalries, broader emerging environmental threats, and competition for natural resources will also affect the future operational engagement of the armed forces and the conduct of international operations and missions. The war in Ukraine has also highlighted the need to find alternative and reliable sources of energy, and in particular to ensure the operational effectiveness of the armed forces.

Extreme weather events, rising temperatures and sea levels, water scarcity, threats to biodiversity, pollution and environmental contamination, and loss of livelihoods threaten the health and well-being of people, and can create the potential for increased migration and displacement, pandemics, social unrest, instability and insecurity.

Climate security is an important part of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), which aims to adapt the armed forces to climate change and to enhance energy and resource efficiency, including the environmental footprint of international operations and missions (IOM). Important steps have also been taken within NATO to adapt to and assess the impacts of climate change on defence and security.

Individual countries and international organizations such as the EU, NATO and the UN are working to strengthen activities to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change in a number of areas, including defence and security. The EU is a leader on climate change and has a long-standing commitment to strengthening climate security and becoming the first climate-neutral continent and climate-resilient society. The transition to climate neutrality is an urgent challenge in reducing the EU's energy dependence. The European Commission's first priority, the European Green Deal, stresses that climate and environmental change have multiplier effects and are a source of instability. As long ago as 2015, the international community committed to limiting global warming,

building resilience, and reducing the impacts of climate change through the first universal and legally binding document, the Paris Agreement.

The Ministry of Defence is working to achieve the objectives of the EU's climate ambitions in integrating climate change considerations into the development of military capabilities. It is also carrying out activities and implementing solutions in the areas of climate change and enhancing biodiversity. The MoD's activities include energy efficiency, energy rehabilitation of infrastructure capacities, reducing dependence on external energy sources, reducing its carbon footprint, integrating sustainable mobility and digitalization, integrating climate change themes into planning and education programmes, engaging in circular economy projects, and investing in R&D and innovation projects in energy efficiency and environmental protection. The MoD works closely with research and business organizations to achieve a strategic and integrated approach to environmental and energy challenges. The Slovenian Energy and Environment Partnership in Defence (SiEnE), launched in 2020, represents a strategic and comprehensive approach to addressing the green transition, energy, and environmental challenges in the defence sector. In this area, the MoD is also involved in a number of international initiatives and alliances.

NORMATIVE BASIS

In preparing the long-term guidelines for increasing climate resilience in the field of defence, we have taken into account the guidelines of the Resolution on the Long-Term Climate Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia up to 2050, deriving from the needs and capabilities of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of defence.

Climate change adaptation measures often coincide with policies on climate change mitigation, sustainable energy, transport, and environmental quality. Only joint action, therefore, can help facilitate the transition to sustainable energy and increase investment in the green transition of the defence system, which are high on the list of priorities of international and national actors, including the MoD.

The Republic of Slovenia recognizes that climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges, with the potential to become a threat. It is therefore developing policies and implementing certain measures to adapt to climate change and mitigate its negative effects. It will limit and reduce the adverse impacts, ensure an organized response to them, and put in place a system to manage the risks in a changing climate. The Resolution on the Long-Term Climate Strategy 2050 (ReDPS50), adopted in 2021, sets clear targets and includes commitments and tasks for all the ministries and the country as a whole to implement the policies and measures already in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Ministry of Defence is already implementing the guidelines set out in this Resolution, taking into account the guidelines of the Comprehensive National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Slovenia (NEPN).

The strategic and planning documents in the field of security and defence in the Republic of Slovenia which address the impact of and response to climate change are the Resolution on the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia (2019), the Resolution on the General Long-Term Development and Equipping Programme of the Slovenian Armed Forces until 2040 (2023), and the Medium-Term Defence Programme of the Republic of Slovenia 2023-2028 (2023).

The Resolution on the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia, in addition to identifying climate change as one of the threats and risks to national security with multiplier effects, places great emphasis on responding to climate change. The exacerbation of climate change can only be limited by decisive global

and universal action. The Resolution therefore foresees the preparation and implementation of policies to adapt to climate change, which will help the Republic of Slovenia limit and mitigate the adverse effects and ensure the management of risks in a changing climate. Slovenia must give high priority to upgrading its early warning systems for extreme weather events.

In drafting the document, we have followed the objectives and commitments of the Strategic Compass, endorsed by the European Council in March 2022, which, as a key document in the field of security and defence in the context of the EU, guides Member States in developing national strategies to prepare their armed forces and defence sectors for climate change. The document stresses that climate change and environmental deterioration increase the risk of conflict due to their impact on land degradation and water and food scarcity, and consequently increased migration. It also stresses that managing the risks associated with climate change is crucial for Europe's security and prosperity.

We have also taken into account the recommendations and proposals of the NATO Action Plan on Climate Change and Security, which includes measures to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on the security of the Alliance, identifying the need for clear mitigation and adaptation measures, and measures to ensure the smooth implementation of its mission and core tasks. The Action Plan also includes an evaluation of the impact of climate change on the strategic environment, and seeks to maintain key capabilities for operations and missions, both for the Alliance as a whole and for individual allies, to meet new and increasingly complex operational challenges in increasingly extreme climate conditions.

In line with the climate goals of Slovenia, the EU and NATO, we are pursuing the 2050 climate neutrality targets of the European Green Deal without compromising the operational effectiveness of the Slovenian defence system. To this end, we will strengthen the role of sustainable technologies and digitalization in the defence forces, and more broadly in the field of defence.

In preparing the document, we followed the socio-economic and financial guidelines of the Republic of Slovenia within the EU, in particular the European Recovery Plan – Next Generation EU, according to which one third of the financial resources from the Recovery Plan and the EU's seven-year long-term budget (2020-2027) are earmarked for combating climate change and supporting green projects. The capacities for conflict prevention and peace-building to help build national resilience, link humanitarian aid and development action, and address foreign policy needs and priorities, climate, environmental objectives, and building resilience will also be funded through the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI).

SITUATION ASSESSMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA AND THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON DEFENCE

As elsewhere in the world, we are witnessing major climate change in Slovenia. The assessment of these changes in Slovenia by the end of the 21st century, prepared by the Slovenian Environment Agency for 2021, shows that the climate in Slovenia will continue to change in the future, and adaptation will be required. Adaptation to climate change is inextricably linked to success in its mitigation. The more successful people are in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the lower the impacts of climate change will be, and the less adaptation will be required. The impacts of climate change can no longer be avoided, so it is vital to adapt to them in order to manage the risks they bring and intensify. Extreme weather events (droughts, heavy rain, heat waves, etc.) are already more frequent in Slovenia, and non-native species are present, showing that the environment around us is changing. Only through joint action on climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (measures and policies to systematically reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to the perceived or expected climate change impacts) can we create a society that is more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

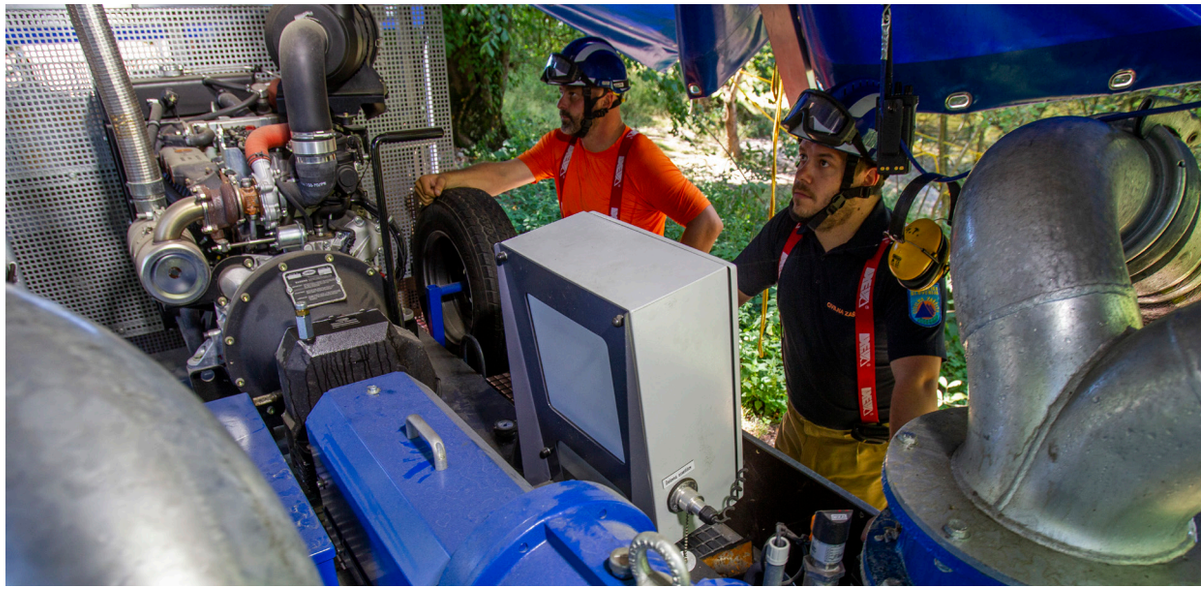
The key factors in the fight against climate change are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving nature and its terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and protecting and improving critical infrastructure.

Natural and other disasters are becoming more frequent in the Republic of Slovenia, damaging the economy, civil society and civilian and military infrastructure every year. Climate-related disasters such as floods and ice storms have caused the greatest damage and brought the worst consequences in Slovenia over the past three decades. Climate-related disasters are becoming more frequent and their traditional area of occurrence is expanding, as is very evident in the case of wildfires. Experts predict that the trend of climate-related disasters in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia is expected to continue to increase in the coming years and decades, as the atmosphere over land and the northern parts of the Earth (north of the equator) warms more strongly. The air in Slovenia is warming faster than the global average, with the rugged terrain, which hinders air flow, contributing to more frequent and more devastating climate-related disasters. Climate change affects both people's daily lives

(the consequences of natural disasters, water and food shortages, infectious diseases, etc.) and society, where different sectors are affected (agriculture, forestry, water management, civil engineering, the energy industry, healthcare, etc.).

The consequences of climate and environmental change can have both direct and indirect effects on the security and stability of the Republic of Slovenia, in particular by reducing access to natural resources and by worsening living conditions in certain living environments.

The negative effects of climate change have also been reflected in recent years in a mass displacement of people and increased migration. This is not only the result of climate change, but is also influenced by political, ideological, religious, and other factors which affect the level of stability and security in a given environment (country or region) in various ways. The result is both direct effects and threats, such as the presence and activities of members of terrorist and criminal groups in the crowds of migrants, and acts of violence between migrants and the local population, and indirect negative effects, which are the result of the excessive burden on security structures in the course of controlling migration and dealing with acts of violence by or against migrants. Over the past few years, Slovenia has mainly dealt with indirect negative effects of illegal migration, while direct negative effects on security and stability have been much less pronounced. Nevertheless, we cannot rule out the possibility that with the likely increase in illegal migration towards the western EU countries violent acts will also take place, increasing the level of risk to the overall security and stability of the country. This will require a more responsive, adaptable and resilient defence and security system to cope with all the potential impacts that climate change could have on national security, in both the broader and the narrower senses.



OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR ADAPTING THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Ministry of Defence will work to implement measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change. The actions guiding the implementation of the climate action packages within the scope and competence of the Ministry of Defence are as follows:

- Taking into account the impact of climate change on the stability, security and defence of the country;
- Monitoring external crises with a major impact on national and European security, and anticipating possible developments; carrying out strategic foresight and risk analyses;
- Adapting military planning, operations, equipment, capabilities, personnel, education and training, and infrastructure to climate change;
- Strengthening military support to the system of protection against natural and other disasters, and to the civilian authorities in disaster recovery;
- Reducing dependence on fossil fuels, diversifying energy sources, and anticipating the strategic benefits;
- Planning a phased introduction of energy efficiency improvements in military infrastructure and MoD-owned real estate in line with the EU regulations;
- Protecting, strengthening the resilience of, and improving military and MoD-owned infrastructure;
- Taking into account the specific risks associated with water scarcity, as well as the links with hybrid and cyber threats and disinformation in the implementation of the activities of the MoD and the SAF;
- Strengthening the energy resilience, self-sufficiency, carbon footprint reduction, and energy autonomy of units and infrastructure both in the Republic of Slovenia and in international operations and missions;
- Complying with national, EU, NATO and other legislation, regulations and standards related to climate, environment and energy;
- Preparing appropriate action plans in the MoD, involving all the MoD's organizational units, for the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, with a focus on reducing overall energy and fossil fuel emissions, and increasing resilience to achieve climate neutrality objectives;
- Strengthening awareness and expertise on climate change in the MoD's organizational units and bodies.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE PRIORITIES FOR TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

The Ministry of Defence will focus on the following priority areas, based on the good practice and climate policies of the EU Member States and NATO allies, as well as the MoD's existing practices and activities in the field of energy efficiency and environmental protection:

Energy efficiency and resilience

The Ministry of Defence will implement measures to increase energy efficiency, resilience, and self-sufficiency, reduce the carbon footprint, and strengthen the energy autonomy of units and infrastructure.
Particular emphasis will be placed on developing a roadmap for climate action, focusing on reducing overall emissions related to energy and fossil fuels, and increasing resilience to meet the climate neutrality targets. The MoD will continue to progressively carry out activities related to the renovation, rehabilitation, and energy improvements of the military infrastructure and MoD-owned real estate in accordance with EU regulations.

Particular attention will be paid to protecting and improving the energy resilience of military infrastructure, and to establishing a central data collection system for energy consumption in the MoD in accordance with international standards (ISO 50001).

Renewable energy and the phased introduction of alternative energy sources

The Ministry of Defence will endeavour to include measures in its operational planning which will take into account the sustainability of military and civilian equipment and materials. In the future, the phased introduction of alternative sources of energy for non-combat and combat systems on land, at sea and in the air, and their impact on the relevant supply chains, is envisaged. The Ministry will pay more attention to activities which are already underway within the framework of renewable energy projects, and which enable self-sufficiency and sustainability, e.g. the use of electric vehicles, the construction of smart camps, the use of solar energy, and sustainable mobility.

It will strive to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and introduce renewable sources into the areas of responsibility of the MoD and the SAF, where new opportunities are opening up to promote hydrogen technology. The Ministry has already identified hydrogen as a potential alternative solution, and research

and development in hydrogen technology is already an important part of its investments.

Adaptation to new and advanced technologies should take into account the interoperability of capabilities within NATO and the EU as an integral part of the green transition to a low-carbon energy system.

Operational activities in international operations and missions, and military support to the system of protection against natural and other disasters

Destabilization of the geostrategic environment is expected to lead to an increase in international crisis management missions and operations in the future. The SAF must prepare and adapt its existing forces and capabilities to operate more effectively in extreme weather conditions in the context of international operations and missions and in the context of national need. It must also develop a training programme for environmental advisers who can be deployed on international operations and missions. Alongside this, staffing and training must be adapted to the resilient ability to operate in unpredictable climate conditions.

Given the increasing frequency of natural and other disasters, the SAF will have to prepare for more frequent military assistance to the system of protection against natural and other disasters, and for supporting the civil authorities in the event of natural disasters and other emergencies.

Participation in international fora (the EU, NATO and the UN) and in the Western Balkans region

Representatives of the Ministry of Defence and the Slovenian Armed Forces will participate and engage in international fora and expert centres (of excellence) for the exchange of research, experience and good practice.

They will strengthen cooperation within the EU, NATO and the UN, and use international platforms, scientific organizations, and centres of excellence to support national research and development into relevant technologies and capabilities. The Ministry of Defence already participates in EU (EDA, PESCO and EDF) and NATO fora. It will also pay special attention to the defence industry, in particular to the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are the drivers of innovation and new technologies.

The Ministry supports deeper and more systematic cooperation between the EU and NATO, because in the future it will be important to identify synergies in the implementation of the NATO Action Plan and the EU's Climate Change and Defence Roadmap.

The Ministry of Defence will provide technical support in the form of training and exchange of good practice with the Western Balkan countries, particularly within the framework of energy efficiency and resilience projects.

Promoting climate risk analysis, and increasing awareness and expertise on climate change

The MoD will begin to produce and update regular annual analyses of the risks and security implications of the effects of climate change. It will pay more attention to upgrading the communication systems for early warning and early action. To promote the green transition, the SAF and, more broadly, the MoD will also strengthen the digitalization process.

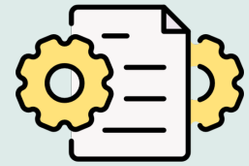
They will work to integrate climate change and energy efficiency themes and topics into the SAF's training curricula and exercises at the national level. The goal is to increase the awareness and understanding of climate change in the SAF and the civilian part of the MoD.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ACTION PACKAGES TO TACKLE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The following are the seven action packages foreseen by the Ministry of Defence to adapt to and mitigate climate change. Each package includes a performance target which will be pursued through the implementation of key and complementary actions. The action packages are derived from the general objectives and applied to the priority areas as outlined in the previous section.

Data collection and measurement methodology

Performance target: Establish permanent procedures to measure and collect both energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions data, and to create baselines which allow the monitoring of progress.



Key actions:

- Set up a system to analyse and report on the carbon footprint of all the constituent bodies and internal organizational units of the MoD;
- Establish a central data collection system, and develop a coherent database (SIST ISO 50001) in the MoD, based on standardized methodology which is used in the international context (the collection of data on the carbon footprint of all the stakeholders in the MoD, and the consumption of water, energy, and other resources);
- Obtain a certificate of excellence in accordance with the international standard for establishing, implementing, maintaining and improving an energy management system (SIST ISO 50001);
- Establish an environmental footprint reporting system for CSDP missions and operations for the European External Action Service (EEAS);
- Establish appropriate digital support for data collection, analysis, and forecasting of energy consumption for operational planning with the use of advanced algorithms (digital twins, artificial intelligence, etc.);
- Cooperate and make the best use of the EDA's areas of work to identify the energy profile of Member States' armed forces, relying on a methodology which is consistent with EU regulations.

Complementary actions

- Develop and define the indicators to monitor progress in order to ensure the implementation and delivery of the objectives;
- Identify the use of resources (energy, water, waste, etc.) in the mission or deployment area through a qualitative survey of the deployed contingents, in order to identify possible measures to reduce the impact on the local environment;
- Evaluate the results of energy-efficient solutions for future investment.

Climate planning, information and decision-making

Performance target: Integrate climate and environmental considerations into risk assessments, operational analyses, procurement procedures, etc., and develop climate risk analyses to inform the Minister of Defence and the heads of the constituent bodies and internal organizational units at the first level of the MoD management.

Key actions:

- Integrate climate and applicable environmental standards into defence planning processes and the MoD's strategic and planning documents and military concepts;
- Develop climate forecasting and modelling capabilities at HQ level, building on the existing national capabilities and relevant EU and NATO tools and instruments (e.g. Copernicus, EU Satellite Centre, NATO CoE, EDA, etc.);
- Participate in EU and NATO fora and competence centres for the exchange of studies, research, expertise, know-how and information;
- Regularly update climate risk analyses to review and update the short, medium and long-term assessments of the security implications of climate change and associated vulnerabilities, in line with regular review of the EU Joint Threats Analysis (EU JTA) foreseen in the EU Strategic Compass;
- Develop and deploy digital tools to support planning and decision-making.

Building awareness and expertise ("Climate and Energy Awareness")

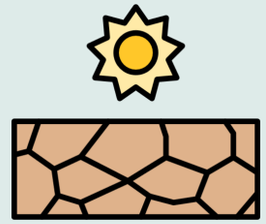
Performance target: Raise awareness and develop the necessary expertise on climate change in the constituent bodies and internal organizational units of the MoD, both for officials and technical and professional staff.

Key actions:

- Incorporate climate change and energy efficiency topics and themes into the education and training curricula of the SAF at various levels, preferably through the use of standardized training modules;
- Include these topics in the individual and collective training of the MoD staff in the form of thematic lectures and conferences, and be actively involved in international and national thematic conferences;
- Adapt national and international training, exercises and simulations to more extreme climate and environmental conditions.

Operational activity

Performance target: Adapt the manner in which the SAF carries out its military tasks to the changing conditions in the operational environment resulting from climate change and environmental degradation.



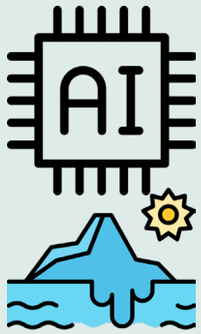
Key actions:

- Integrate climate considerations into the planning and implementation of operational tasks, based on a climate-informed threat assessment and situational awareness of the area of operations (e.g. integrating climate/environmental considerations into the training and advisory tasks for international military operations and missions);
- Ensure an integrated approach with relevant development and other actors on the ground to address the link between climate and the security dynamics of conflict (the Climate-Security Nexus);
- Adopt a training programme by 2025 and identify and train environmental advisers who can be deployed on international missions and operations;
- Systematize the post (or designate formation posts) of Environmental Adviser in battalion-level and higher commands;

- Implement the operational advantage by adapting and improving the existing facilities to operate more efficiently in a challenging environment (e.g. smart camps, logistical improvements, technological innovations, etc.);
- Prepare the SAF for increased military assistance to the system of protection against natural and other disasters, and support to civil authorities;
- Ensure that the requirements arising from green technologies and applied to strategic enablers (in particular the growing need for electricity for electric vehicles, etc.) are integrated into the logistical planning and the implementation of tasks.

Capabilities, technologies, infrastructure and resilience

Performance target: Strengthen the efforts of the defence sector to adapt to and mitigate climate change with a view to contributing to the overall climate objective and improving the operational effectiveness of the SAF and its climate resilience. Different approaches must be considered, as technological solutions vary considerably between systems and platforms.



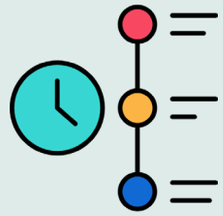
Key actions:

- Plan for the phased introduction of alternative sources of energy for non-combat and combat systems on land, at sea and in the air, and their impact on the relevant supply chains;
- Plan for the phased introduction of energy efficiency improvements in buildings and military infrastructure in line with the EU rules, also taking into account the EU guidelines for renovation and new construction;
- Renovate, rehabilitate and improve the energy efficiency of 3% of the total floor area of the buildings owned and used by public sector entities on an annual basis;
- Reduce purchased energy consumption by 1.9% per year and by 19% compared to the average energy consumption in 2017-2019;
- Reduce direct and indirect emissions by 3.5% per year to reach the 2050 carbon neutrality target (based on the 2022 carbon footprint);
- Follow the EU guidelines for new construction, which require new buildings to be constructed in a virtually zero-emission manner, so that the infrastructure and capabilities do not impact the operation of core military and other defence platforms;

- Improve the climate, security and energy resilience of key military infrastructure and isolated areas, and the MoD-owned infrastructure;
- Systematically implement the principles of green public procurement in all public procurement processes and supply chains, addressing the potential bottlenecks and challenges in this respect using the relevant EDA tools;
- Use the EU framework to support research and development of relevant technologies and capabilities (EDA CapTech; PESCO, EDF projects);
- Participate in national and international research, development and technology programmes and projects with science and industry at the national and international level, including green and innovative technologies to increase energy efficiency and military production of alternative energy sources (solar energy, wind turbines, biomass, etc.);
- Strengthen cooperation with the defence industry (SMEs) in green and innovative technologies for the development of military equipment and capabilities in general;
- Test potential energy-efficient solutions among deployed contingents to determine the maximum energy independence;
- Strengthen cooperation with science and industry in the development and improvement of energy-efficient solutions for the MoD and SAF operations, both in Slovenia and in the international environment;
- Improve the approach to biodiversity on the land owned by the MoD, in partnership with the local and regional communities, and following the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-MOP15);
- Strengthen sustainable digitalization in the SAF and the MoD.

Process adjustments in the Ministry of Defence

Performance target: Make the necessary process adjustments to implement climate action, and monitor the achievement of targets and their measurability.



Key actions:

- Identify points of contact (POCs) or coordinators to cover climate change and energy efficiency. Coordinators are also foreseen at the appropriate level of commands in the SAF;
- Systematically address climate change in the MoD, with a focus on energy efficiency and a green transition;

- Outline and identify the need to amend or restructure climate change legislation, and develop relevant national documents and other legal acts as key tools for implementing climate action;
- Strengthen inter-ministerial cooperation to ensure a coordinated approach and the integration of different areas and policies.

Reporting, monitoring and communicating

Performance target: Ensure a robust reporting mechanism in the national environment, and a continuous interaction and coordinated approach between Member States in the context of the implementation of the Strategic Compass and the further development of ambitious proposals at the EU level.

Key actions:

- The Logistics Directorate prepares an action plan by mid-2024, and by the end of the calendar year produces an annual report for the current year (in cooperation with the Defence Policy Directorate) on the implementation of the strategy, focusing on the activities of the SAF and other topics within the MoD's areas of responsibility, with an expected annual report to the Minister of Defence;
- The Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR) prepares an action plan by mid-2024, and by the end of the calendar year produces an annual report for the current year on coping with the effects of climate change within the framework of the system of protection against natural and other disasters. This will enable synchronous and coordinated action between the defence system and the system of protection, rescue and relief. The ACPDR is expected to report to the Minister of Defence annually;
- The Defence Policy Directorate provides regular feedback to the EU and NATO Member States and other international organizations, as appropriate, on the progress and challenges in the implementation process;
- All Directorates participate in meetings, training, exercises, and the exchange of experience and good practice of the Climate and Defence Network (a network of national and international defence experts);
- The Strategic Communication Service carries out promotion and strategic communication with the public in the national environment.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Ministry of Defence will encourage national participation in relevant international fora and centres of expertise for the exchange of research, studies, information, expertise and experience. It will strengthen its cooperation within the international organizations (the EU, NATO and UN) and in the Western Balkans region.

Key actions:

- Cooperate with experts at the national level (research organizations, industry, ministries);
- Cooperate with the international experts of the UN, the EU and NATO or other international fora working on climate change and environmental aspects to share knowledge and experience and explore opportunities for cooperation;
- Promote the integration of national and international actors in consortia and other relevant expert bodies, including innovative companies and experts in different fields;
- Lead and participate in practical training, national and international exercises, forums, projects, practical training, events and workshops to share experience and good practice;
- Ensure coordination with NATO, and explore the possibility of joining the NATO Centre of Excellence for Climate Change and Security, which is in the process of being established by Canada;
- Cooperate with the Western Balkan countries (awareness-raising, training, exchange of experience and good practice, and support for the inclusion of the Western Balkan countries in EU energy efficiency projects).

CONCLUSION

Climate change is a factor which increases the risks, security challenges and threats to stability and has a negative impact on the defence sector and the armed forces, which need to adapt accordingly to new operational requirements. The long-term guidelines for increasing climate resilience in the field of defence set the framework and guide the SAF and the other organizational units of the Ministry of Defence in adapting to climate change. These guidelines systematically regulate climate issues and guide the implementation of the MoD's climate actions.

The Ministry of Defence will strive to achieve its climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives and actions, focusing on improving energy efficiency, reducing the overall energy consumption and fossil fuel emissions, and increasing energy resilience to achieve climate neutrality targets. This will contribute to the national climate ambitions.

The Ministry will promote climate risk analysis and strengthen international cooperation with partners (the EU, NATO, the UN) and partner countries in the Western Balkans region to share experience and good practice.

It will pay special attention to participation in national and international programmes and projects for the research and development of green and innovative technologies to increase energy efficiency and military production of alternative energy sources. It will strengthen cooperation with the defence industry on green and innovative technologies for the development of military equipment and capabilities.

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Publisher: Ministry of Defence, Republic of Slovenia
Technical implementation: Ministry of Defence, Strategic Communication Service
Photo: Bruno Toič, Ministry of Defence
Year of publication: Ljubljana, January 2024