Climate Security and Energy Dynamics in the Asia Pacific

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Presented at:
Climate Security Challenges in the Asia-Pacific: Securing Energy, Trade and Transition
Co-organised by IGES, ADBI and UNDP
19 March 2025, 13:00 – 16:30 JST

IGES
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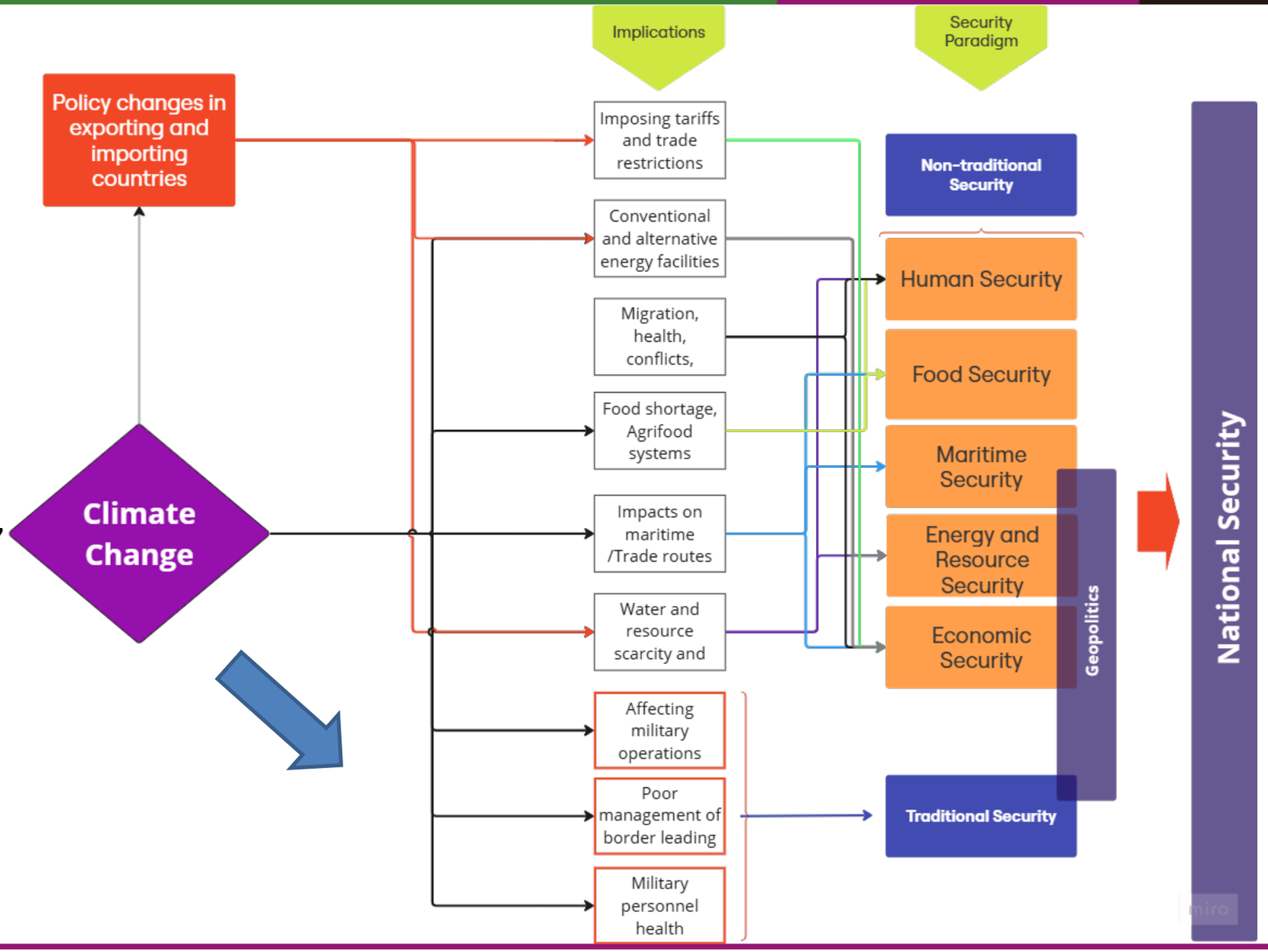
Agenda

- Climate Security
- ‘Securitising Climate Implications’: Observations
- Climate Security: Asia Pacific
- Climate Security: Triple Challenges
  - Transition Bottleneck
  - Energy Security
  - Industrial Transformation
- Climate Security: Diverse Challenges and Differentiated Capabilities
- Need for a global mechanism

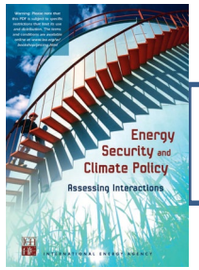
Climate Security

Climate Security

Climate change poses undeniable challenges to national security, as it impacts countries through, **energy security** concerns, **geopolitical tensions**, **migration, health crises**, **food security threats**, **resource scarcity**, **disruptions to military operations, shifting trade policies** etc.



Climate Security in the world: Shades of definitions



Integrated Energy Policy (IEA)

Border clashes / geopolitics

Accelerating resource competition

Threat to military operations and establishments

3 risk dimensions (CSM)
Climate stressor or shock, Exposure, Vulnerability or coping capacity

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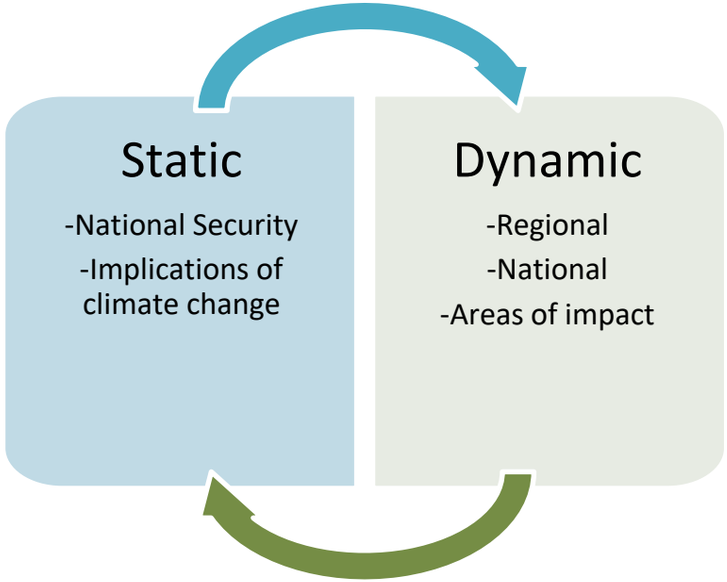
NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

DPPA UNDP UN environment programme UN United Nations Peacekeeping

CLIMATE SECURITY MECHANISM



Variations in definitions -on whether the focus is on national security, human security, environmental stress, energy transitions etc

Securitisation: Opportunities and Challenges

Securitisation: What does it mean?

Security threat is defined as an issue posing an 'existential threat' to a designated referent object.

*The special nature of security threats **justifies** the **use of extraordinary measures** to handle them.*

*The invocation of security has been the key to legitimizing the **use of force**, but more generally it has opened the way for the state to **mobilize**, or to **take special powers**, to **handle/existential threats**.*

*Traditionally, by saying "security," a state representative declares an emergency condition, thus claiming a **right to use whatever means** are necessary to block a threatening development*

Source: Buzan, B., Wæver, O. and De Wilde, J., 1998. *Security: A new framework for analysis*. Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Climate and Security: Global Perspectives

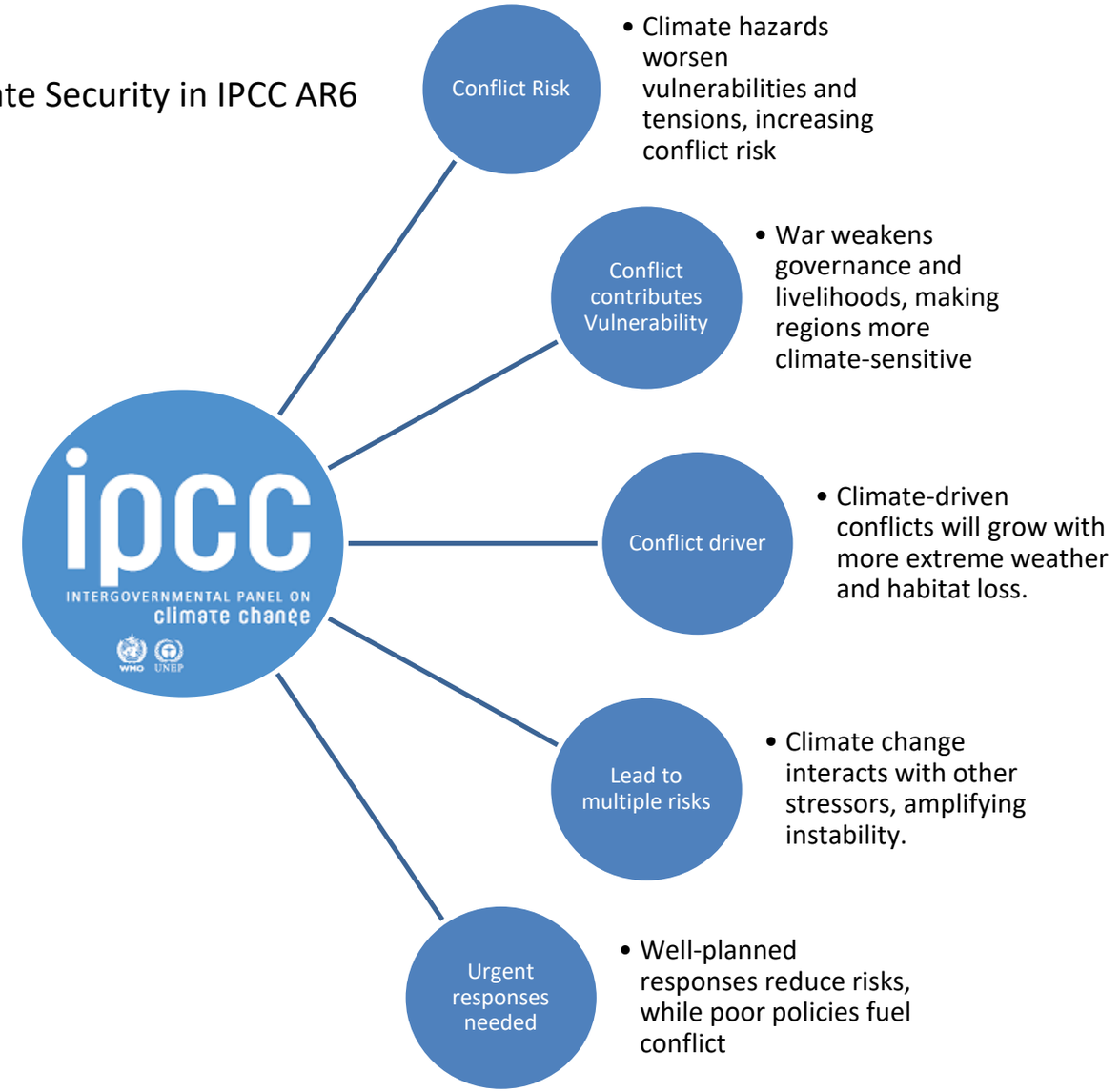
UN Security Council

13 December 2021, the Security Council draft resolution on the security implications of climate change

Major concerns are questions:

- No clear linkage between climate and security (?)
- Can a UNSC resolution support action against country(ies) not adhering to a certain expectations?
- Issues of immediate focus should be to increase climate financing

Climate Security in IPCC AR6



Source: https://theglobalobservatory.org/2023/06/security-council-climate-change-scientific-evidence/

Securitisation of Climate Implications on Energy: Observations

Opportunities

- ‘Securitsing’ may help present a threat more closer and immediate to a country
- May help scale-down larger challenges to actionable policy threats to governments
- May help identify sectors and sub-sectors that needs local level and national level actions
- May help mobilise resources and governance machinery to support actionable policies

Challenges

- May lead to bring in more authoritative actions at global levels?
- Transboundary climate issues may reflect in regional politics leading to geopolitical tensions
- At national levels- may lead to judicial activism

Climate Security: Asia Pacific

The project examines the implications of climate security the Asia Pacific region's energy sector

East Asia
Japan
South Korea
China

South East Asia
Brunei
Cambodia
Timor-Leste
Indonesia
Laos
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

South Asia
Bangladesh
Bhutan
India
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

Pacific Islands
Papua New Guinea
Fiji
Solomon Islands
Vanuatu
Samoa
Tonga
Cook Islands
Tuvalu
Niue
Micronesia
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Palau
Nauru

In Japan the discourse on climate security showcases four approaches—human security, national security, geopolitical risks, and military security—while highlighting gaps in policy discussions on migration, geopolitical tensions, and military vulnerabilities.

Human Security

How climate change impact individuals, communities, food security, health risks, and displacement.

National Security

How climate change affects national stability, infrastructure, and critical resources.

Geopolitics and Security Risk

How climate change exacerbates tensions between countries, such as conflicts over resources

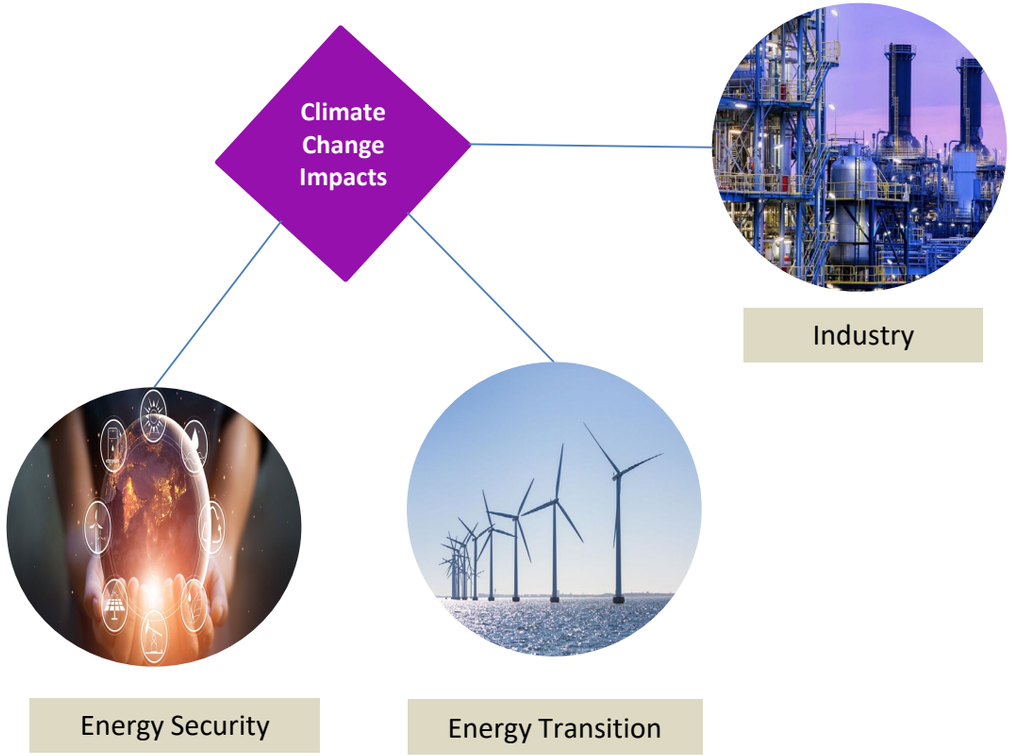
Military Security

How climate change impacts military readiness and operations.

Source: Kameyama&Ono, https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-020-00863-1

Climate Security and Energy: Triple Challenges

Climate Impacts: Energy and Economic Security



- Intensifying Energy Security Challenges
- Energy Transition Bottlenecks
- Challenges to Industry

Climate Security: Challenges to accessibility, affordability and adaptability

Energy Security

- Extreme weather and changing climate patterns reduce renewable energy output, making power supply less stable and lead to efficiency losses
- Slow transition due to climate vulnerabilities forces reliance on fossil fuels, increasing energy security risks.

Climate Security Challenges: Transition Bottleneck

ENERGY TRANSITION & NET-ZERO TARGETS

Transition Bottlenecks

- Climate-induced policies and disruptions affect critical mineral value chain and hinder the expansion of alternative energy sector.
- Extreme weather impacts damage and delay the clean energy transition.
- Cross-border energy trade and investment gaps, compounded by climate risks, slow the shift to renewables.

Supply lines- Energy Transition Minerals

Critical Infrastructure

Alternative energy installations

Climate Impacts and need for Industrial Transformation

- Physical risks
  - Extreme weather impacts, water scarcity, heat stress
- Supply chain risks
  - Disrupted logistics, resource scarcity etc
- Transition risks
  - Stricter emission standards, demand for sustainable practices

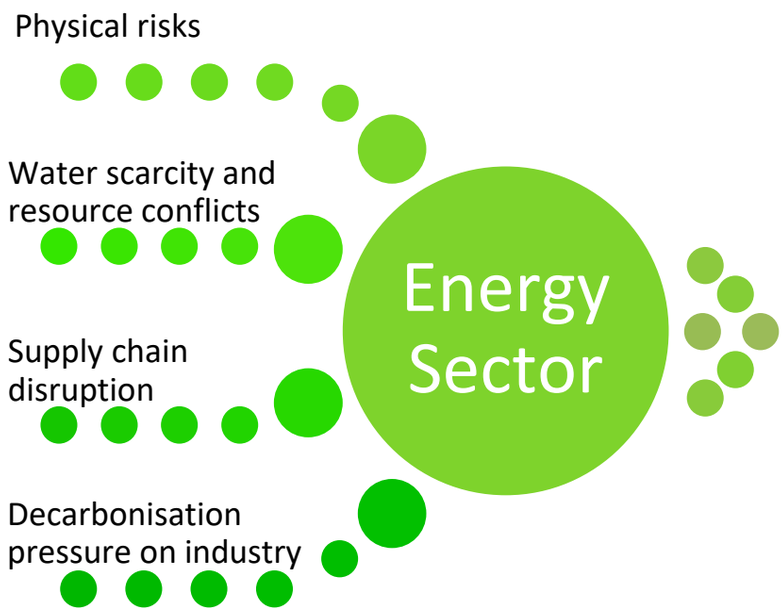
Opportunities for industrial transformation:

- Reduce Industrial Emissions
- Enhance Resource Efficiency through the Circular Economy
- Build Climate-Resilient Industrial Systems
- Improve Energy Efficiency and Integrate advanced technology
- Strengthen Human Capacity and Skills Development
- Climate resilience for human health

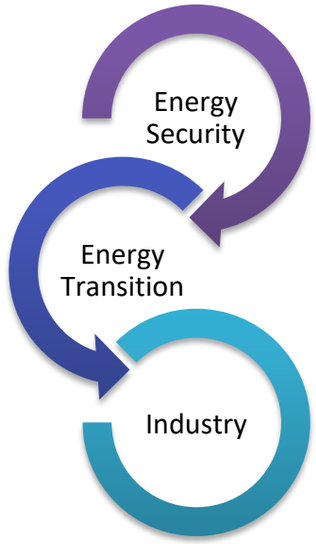
Climate Security and Energy: Strategy for Asia Pacific

Climate security impacts on energy pose diverse challenges in the Asia-Pacific, but unequal capabilities limit efficient responses

Climate Security Implications



Energy Sector Impacts



Country/region specific climate-energy challenges

East Asia: Challenges to supply line, industries, access to resources/critical minerals, implications on energy transition

South and Southeast Asia: Access to resources, climate implications aggravating energy security challenges, need for industrial transformation, pressure on energy demand due to weather changes

Pacific Islands: Efforts to transition shadowed by existential threats due to sea level rise

Differentiated Capacities to address climate related energy risks

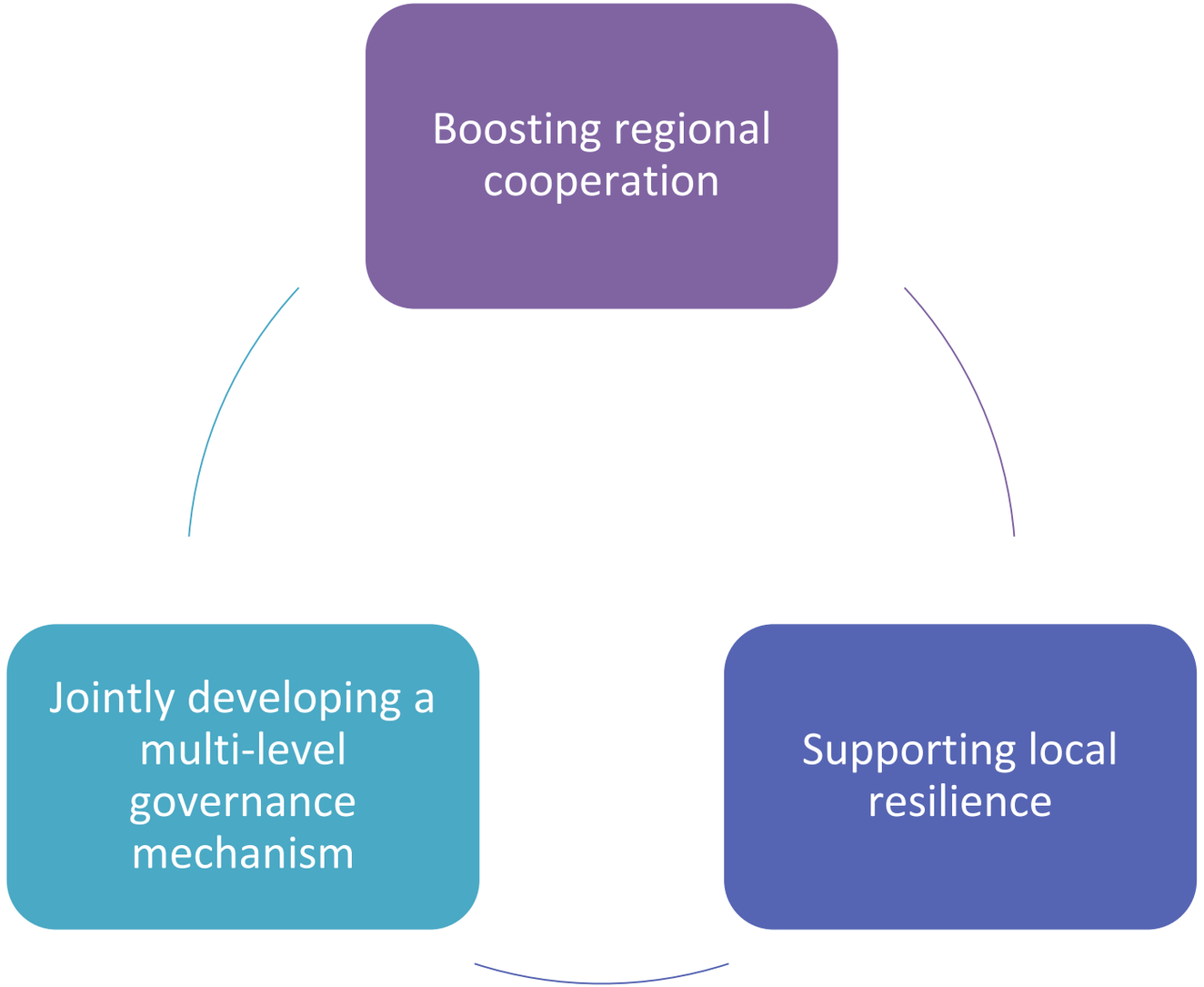
Advanced economies: Have stronger infrastructure resilience, R&D capabilities, financial resources

Middle income countries: Dual challenges of maintaining economic growth, while transitioning to clean energy

Vulnerable Nations: Lack of financial and tech prowess. Facing existential threat

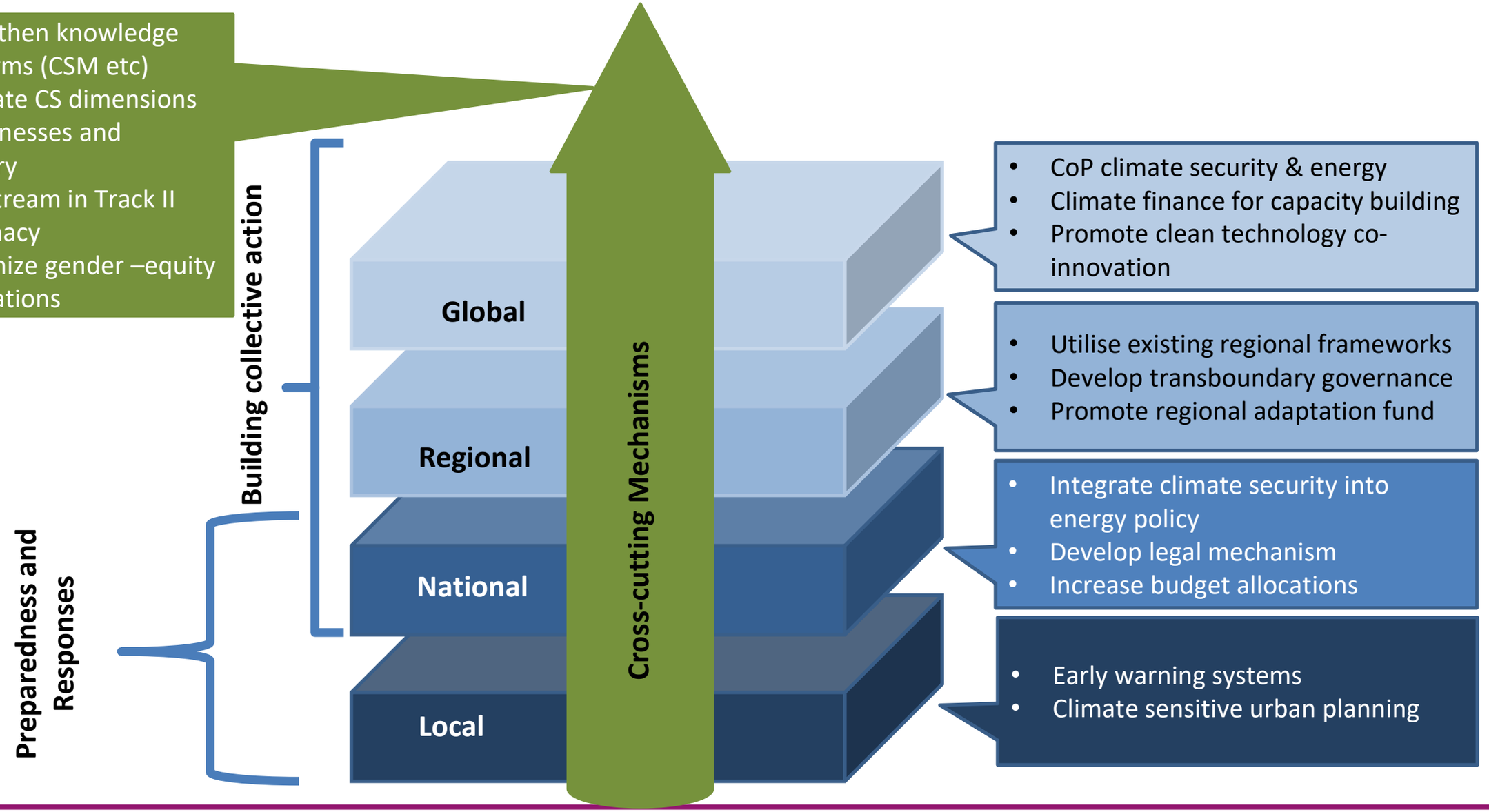
Addressing climate security implications on energy sector in Asia Pacific

- Supporting disaster preparedness and infrastructure at local and national level.
- Aligning policies and investments for shared energy security.
- Coordinating policies, funding, and technology for a just transition.



How to address climate security implications on energy sector within the region, how that can be scaled up?

- Strengthen knowledge platforms (CSM etc)
- Integrate CS dimensions in Businesses and Industry
- Mainstream in Track II diplomacy
- Recognize gender –equity implications



Way Forward

Leveraging global expertise through learning and collaboration

- Engaging with policy, industry and civil society stakeholders to understand regional and sectoral differences for inclusive policy recommendations.
- Building partnerships for joint initiatives and knowledge sharing.
- Aligning with international networks to develop innovative, evidence-based solutions.

Questions for further research

- Most effective strategies for the region **to address common challenges**, taking into account the **varying intensity** of implications on energy sector, and the **differentiated capacity** of countries?
- In the context of **geopolitical uncertainties** and energy crises, how can **industries** adopt cleaner and **more resilient energy systems**?
- How can Japan **leverage its technological expertise**, **financial resources**, and **regional partnerships** to **bridge the gap** in differentiated capacities and enhance **climate-resilient energy security** across the Asia-Pacific region?

Thank You

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