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Consensus that climate change brings implications for international security is gathering momentum. The EU has been at the forefront of this process, through the joint report by the High Representative and Commission in March 2007, and in our contacts with key partners and international organisations. Raising awareness is important in itself. But it must also be accompanied by action.

Over the last year, the EU institutions and member states have taken operational steps, including through further analysis and reflecting the climate dimension in our engagement with regions such as Africa and Central

Asia. But a gap still exists between politics and science. To take this issue forward, we need to strengthen collaboration between environmental experts and the foreign policy and security community, so as to establish a better picture of how climate change can contribute to instability, and how we can intervene effectively in response.