

# **Fourth AFES-PRESS Workshop on Reconceptualising Security: "Security Threats, Challenges, Vulnerabilities and Risks"**

at the

**First World International Studies Conference (WISC) at  
Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey, 24- 27 August 2005**

**Thursday, 25 August 2005**

**9.00-10.30: Panel 1: Security Threats, Challenges, Vulnerability and Risks: Perspectives  
from Europe and Latin America**

**Paper 3: Environmental Threats, Challenges, Vulnerabilities and Risks in Latin  
America: A Case Study on Mexico**

Ursula Oswald Spring, CRIM/UNAM and Coltlax

This paper gives general definitions of threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks that have increased due to climatic change and population growth in Latin America and in Mexico. The paper focuses on how threatened people deal with their objective and subjective feelings of security in a socio-environment where life and natural conditions get worse.

Vulnerable groups, such as women, indigenous and urban poor, have been especially affected. However, they often cope with these threats in a preventive way and develop post-trauma behaviour, where their resilience is enhanced and where they implement solid survival strategies in order to reduce risks and to strengthen solidarity and cooperation after disasters.

The paper explores also a possibility to reduce conflictive situations related to scarce resources by increasing the supply of goods through their sustainable management, and by reducing the demand side based on a culture that takes environmental concerns into account. Hydrodiplomacy develops strategies on the geopolitical, organizational and training side, to widen the collaboration among countries, states, social groups and individuals and offers all groups involved human, gender and environmental security (HUGE).