



Security Council

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Letter dated 30 September 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the 8864th meeting of the Security Council, convened on 23 September 2021 under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security: climate and security”. The interventions of the briefers and Council members will be published as an official record of the Security Council (S/PV.8864).

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members for the 8864th meeting, the following delegations and entities submitted written statements, copies of which are enclosed: Austria, Bangladesh, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, the European Union, Fiji, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Morocco, Nauru, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates (annexes 1 to 25).

These statements will be issued as an official document of the Security Council in accordance with the procedure set out in the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (S/2020/372), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, and reference to the document will be made in S/PV.8864.

(Signed) Geraldine **Byrne Nason**
President of the Security Council



Annex 1**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations**

We thank Ireland for convening today's open debate.

Since the Security Council open debate on "Addressing climate-related risks to international peace and security through mitigation and resilience building", held on 23 February 2021, and the written statement submitted by Austria on that occasion (S/2021/198, annex 23), discussions on this and related topics have taken place in a number of settings. Moreover, the European Union (EU) is deepening its own understanding of the matter and strengthening its own capabilities in that connection. Austria supports the EU statement prepared for today's open debate (annex 8).

Since February 2021, the understanding of climate change and the measures needed to address its negative consequences have been shaped by the contribution of Working Group I of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to its Sixth Assessment Report, entitled *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*. It is clear that the international community has been off track in its efforts to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The IPCC points to the consequences of emissions, which continue to rise due to human activities. We can see the effects across the climate system as a whole. As the IPCC summary states:

"Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since the Fifth Assessment Report."

With growing stress put on the human environment by climate change, societal strains will also increase. As paragraph 2 of the concept note for this open debate (S/2021/782, annex) also points out, "climate change is a vector which increases the risk of violent conflict in many contexts". In other words, not only is climate action urgent, but the Security Council should also intensify its own activities, both to anticipate and prevent future conflicts as well as to deal with current ones.

Given the importance of the step from early warning to early action, the Security Council can best fulfil its mandate to maintain international peace and security and take timely, informed decisions if all actors are kept aware of climate-related risks, in particular through regular briefings on the security implications of climate change, in general, and on developing crisis situations.

Information, data and analysis are key for timely action. An integrated approach to climate and security that fully leverages the entire United Nations system is needed. That should be accomplished together with other international and regional organizations that are active in the crisis region concerned in order to ensure the synergy of the international community.

The climate crisis alone could push millions of people into poverty, particularly in Africa and Asia. With agriculture badly affected, people are ultimately left without water to drink and soil to grow food. The situation has become even more complex with the spread of the coronavirus disease pandemic. Existing conflicts have become more protracted. All those factors contribute to a cycle of vulnerability.

Against that backdrop, addressing the humanitarian-development-security nexus is key if we are to break the conflict cycle. Achieving the Sustainable

Development Goals and finding lasting solutions to ensure human security is impossible without peace. The aim should be to effectively address the root causes of conflict before it becomes a crisis. Humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and development cooperation that effectively address climate change are all needed. Also critical are efforts to peacefully resolve conflicts that involve increasingly scarce resources.

While this open debate focuses on the Security Council, more well-coordinated efforts by the entire international community will be necessary to achieve peace and a sustainable future for generations to come. Austria is increasing its national capacities and efforts relating to peace and mediation. One of our traditional institutes for mediation is the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution. Among its recent initiatives, the Centre addresses the question of climate and security in the context of an inclusive dialogue between stakeholders from the south of Libya and the Tripoli area with the aim of exploring perspectives around water issues and related conflicts. The project involves the use and training of insider mediators. If successful, this dialogue initiative will effectively constitute a mediation exercise that will also enable the implementation of technical measures to ensure a sustainable supply of drinking water, improve resilience to climate change and prevent further conflict.

At another level, the Vienna-based United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) deals with industrial safety. This important work is directly related to climate and security because UNIDO enables industrial actors to prevent climate-related accidents and disasters and to avoid industrial pollution, which has negative effects on the climate. In that way, UNIDO furthers the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals and targets of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, while simultaneously mitigating climate change as a recognized vector for conflict.

Similarly, all energy-related activities by the organizations headquartered at Energy Hub Vienna have a bearing on the global climate and on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. At the seventh Vienna Energy Forum, organized by Austria, UNIDO and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis from 5 to 7 July 2021 under the motto “Where Action Meets Ambition”, participants sought to spur ambitious action on energy and climate in the lead-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit, the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Energy, co-organized by Vienna-based Sustainable Energy for All on 24 September, and the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in November in Glasgow. The Energy Forum is a regular platform for dialogue and exchange where Austria showcases priority energy- and climate-related topics of global and regional importance.

In 2021, special attention was given to small island developing States (SIDS), a particularly vulnerable group of countries. For a long time, the Austrian Development Agency has been supporting SIDS, as well as UNIDO projects on renewable energy and energy efficiency, including the establishment of regional networks. Energy is of geopolitical importance and is an essential engine for driving development. Addressing climate change also requires an energy transition, which has the potential to cause disruptions and conflict. We need to deal with that challenge in a cautious, inclusive manner.

The above-mentioned activities are important elements of a comprehensive, cooperative approach to peace, climate and security. They contribute to maintaining peace and security while addressing the climate and sustainable development challenges of our times. Mutually supportive international cooperation and diplomacy is needed if we are to achieve our global goals.

Annex 2**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Rabab Fatima**

I thank the Ireland presidency for convening today's high-level open debate of the Security Council on the "Maintenance of international peace and security: climate and security". I also thank the Secretary-General and other briefers for sharing their insights on this important issue.

This open debate is very timely. We just concluded a closed-door round-table meeting, convened by the Secretary-General and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on the margins of the high-level week of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session. In addition, we are now preparing for a high-level climate dialogue in October, led by the President of the General Assembly, in order to build further momentum towards an ambitious outcome to the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in November.

Speaking at the closed-door dialogue, my Prime Minister highlighted the dire consequences facing climate-vulnerable countries due to the double threat of the coronavirus disease pandemic and climate-induced disasters. She called for an ambitious action plan by developed countries for reducing carbon emissions, fulfilling the \$100 billion climate-financing target, fostering technology-transfer and supporting green recovery, among other things.

The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, issued in August, predicts that the global temperature will cross the threshold of 2°C by 2100. That will cause irreversible damage to our planet. As such, climate change is an existential issue for all of us. It could have security implications by putting pressure on shared and scarce resources and induce large-scale displacement, and thus become a source of political instability, tension and conflict.

We recognize the multifaceted risks posed by climate change, yet we feel that an alarmist approach and the over-securitization of climate-change discourse would not be helpful because it would divert attention from the essential interlinkages between climate change and global development.

The nexus between climate change and development is well established. Agenda 21, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework have all recognized those interlinkages. However, no conclusive evidence-based connection has been established between climate change and international security. We therefore believe that international development cooperation is the most effective way to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change. Big emitters must pursue the rapid mitigation of greenhouse gases. In addition, we should ensure adequate support — in the form of resources and technology — to the most vulnerable countries so that they can address these challenges. Let me share a few specific thoughts in that regard.

First, we see climate change as a risk multiplier that may affect various dimensions of human security in climate-vulnerable countries. It may create new risks or exacerbate existing ones by undermining food, water, energy and livelihood security, for example. It is imperative to create opportunities for alternative livelihoods and encourage localized solutions to such pressing problems, especially to prevent or minimize population displacement.

Secondly, we need to consider the impacts of climate change on sustained livelihoods, population displacement and socioeconomic shocks through the lens of development and human security. In order to take appropriate action, the

United Nations must take an evidence-based approach, drawing on national and subnational sources.

Thirdly, a high number of conflict-affected countries are also climate vulnerable. As such, peacekeeping operations on the ground must be as climate-friendly as possible. Their operational activities should place the do-no-harm principle high on their agenda in the context of climate change.

As one of the top troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations, Bangladesh is now leading the Group of Friends for leading on environmental management in the field, which aims to raise awareness on reducing the environmental footprint of United Nations peace operations in the field.

However, we see limited scope for peacekeeping operations to contribute to climate-change issues. The security risks emanating from climate change are primarily non-traditional in nature, and those can best be tackled by enhancing global development cooperation.

Fourthly, the impacts of climate change may interact with other drivers of fragility in a conflict situation to further exacerbate human-security challenges. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), with its mandate for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, can play a crucial role in such contexts. Prevention at the source is key, and we recognize the important role that the PBC is playing in supporting national efforts in that regard.

Finally, it is important to leverage the synergies among peace and development actors. The twin resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (General Assembly resolution 75/201 and Security Council resolution 2558 (2020)) stress the importance of such a cross-cutting approach. In order to support climate-vulnerable countries, we must ensure adequate resources for climate action.

Annex 3**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations**

Chile welcomes this opportunity to provide its views on the issue of climate change and security.

As has been clearly established, climate change and environmental degradation can aggravate international conflicts and affect peace and stability. Climate disruption, both through extreme weather events and slow-onset events, represent clear threats to the livelihoods of communities and can disrupt food security.

As President of the twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Chile led international efforts to advance the international climate change agenda. That task is becoming increasingly urgent in the light of the recent evidence provided by science, especially as detailed in the Sixth Report of Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published in August. In that document, the international community of scientists provides clear indications that climate change is accelerating in processes that are unequivocally caused by humans and, in many cases, with consequences that are irreversible.

Those consequences can also take many different forms, depending on specific vulnerabilities, such as food insecurity and disruption of agricultural production, competition for water resources, migration due to sea-level rise and economic damage due to environmental degradation, among many others.

Given those trends, the impact on security issues is also expected to increase. Climate change is a multidimensional phenomenon, and its connection with security is particularly complex and multifaceted. It is therefore important that it be addressed as a cross-cutting issue that needs to be included across the United Nations agencies.

Chile calls for more ongoing Security Council work in that regard, bearing in mind that increased resilience and adaptation capacities are critical to preventing dire situations and possible conflicts. In addition, climate-change considerations should be integrated across the United Nations system and, in particular, in peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions.

All those efforts must be consistent with the immediate needs and priorities, as set by countries, and should be a complement to other processes, such as discussions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which remains the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Chile believes that having better data and greater observation is key to increasing our ability to respond to the climate crisis. That data should be open and accessible to all decision-making processes at the national level.

In that regard, Chile welcomes the proposal to request the Secretary-General to regularly report on security and climate change, particularly pointing to knowledge gaps and priorities to strengthen adaptation, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable regions and groups.

Chile would like to underline its ongoing interest in contributing to that effort, especially through ambitious targets and national policies that can provide local and global benefits. Chile was one of the first countries to present a new and enhanced nationally determined contribution (NDC), which sets out a peak in emissions in 2025 and a budget of emissions for the 2020-2030 period. The trajectory reported aims at an absolute reduction of emissions of 16 per cent, as compared to the 2016 levels. The new NDC also includes specific goals for adaptation, with specific plans for the relevant sectors of Chile's economy.

The link between security and climate change has been addressed in Chile's 2017 National Defence Book and 2020 National Defence Policy, developed by the Ministry of Defence. Both documents include the security and climate connection, especially through the reduction of available resources, as well as due to mitigation measures in the use of fossil fuels and access to new technologies.

Likewise, any initiative linking climate change and security must be implemented with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders.

Finally, it is important to highlight that the risks and security threats connected with climate processes can vary significantly according to national and regional circumstances. Different degrees of development can also be conducive to different approaches, such as those that middle-income countries can take. In that regard, local partnerships and public-private initiatives should be considered, making use of local capabilities for more effective policies and conflict-prevention efforts.

Annex 4**Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations**

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statements submitted on behalf of the European Union (annex 8) and the Group of Friends on Climate and Security (annex 17).

The Czech Republic thanks Ireland for convening this open debate. We highly appreciate the inclusion of debates related to the implications of climate change for international peace and security on the regular agenda of the Security Council. The Council's close attention to this topic will surely enhance international efforts for successful climate action.

We echo the call of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security that the United Nations system needs to further strengthen its capacities in order to minimize the security risks from climate change. We share the view that efforts must be increased across the whole United Nations system to address the peace and security aspects of climate change, including through the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Indeed, climate change is undoubtedly one of the key security issues for the international community in the twenty-first century.

We welcome that a number of Security Council resolutions already acknowledge the link between climate change and a specific conflict. In fragile and conflict-affected countries in particular, climate security implications can cause negative feedback loops and slow down, or even hinder, peacebuilding.

Therefore, systematic integration of climate-related security risks into the work of the Security Council is needed, including in its mandates, strategies and actions in the areas of peacekeeping, conflict prevention and mediation.

We are convinced that the periodic presentation of a global climate risk assessment report by the Secretary-General to the Security Council, based on scientific analysis and predictions and with concrete recommendations for further action, would be another milestone in the building of a United Nations system that effectively responds to the security impacts of climate change.

The guidance provided by the Climate Security Mechanism is valuable. The next step that should follow is the appointment of a United Nations Special Representative for climate and security, who would help to improve coordination among United Nations entities.

The upcoming twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) will be the most important climate meeting since the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building should stay high on its agenda, as they contribute to reducing risks, including climate-related security risks.

Attention to preparedness and capacity-building in the area of climate and security, as well as climatology expertise at the local and regional levels in the framework of development cooperation, is important. We need to enhance our ability to integrate climate-related security risks into our analysis and involve local partners. We also need to strengthen the ownership of climate-related risk management and prevention at the local and regional levels. Local actors and women must be included in mediation efforts.

Strengthening the resilience of communities and countries against climate change-induced security risks through adaptation tools and practices constitutes a crucial part of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The Sendai Framework

for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is particularly relevant in that context. The Framework's recommended approaches are included within the official development assistance of the Czech Republic. Their implementation enhances the social cohesion of communities and supports peacebuilding activities on the ground.

The Czech Republic supports global cooperation and action targeting climate change and its impacts on security. The time is ripe to advance that agenda in the Security Council and to translate that debate into concrete action, for which the upcoming COP26 will be an ideal opportunity.

Annex 5**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations**

I have the pleasure of submitting this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries — Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

I thank Ireland for hosting today's debate. I also thank the Secretary-General and Ms. Ilwad Elman for their briefings.

We welcome today's timely debate on climate and security. Addressing climate-related security risks is key to sustaining peace and avoiding humanitarian disasters. We fully support the Security Council's strengthened focus on the issue. Today's open debate presents a great opportunity to discuss how we can move from talk to action. We need to act now to tackle climate change-related security risks.

The research paints a clear picture. Climate change is a risk multiplier. That is especially true in fragile States and for vulnerable populations, which already bear the brunt of the adverse effects of climate change. While fragile States often suffer the worst consequences, it is incumbent upon us all to counter climate change. That requires global action and a renewed collective commitment to multilateral solutions. That is the only way in which we can address complex transnational challenges such as pandemics and climate change and mitigate their potential impact on conflict and insecurity. Allow me to share four additional observations.

First, a context-specific analysis will be a key part of the answer as we move ahead. Climate change affects countries and regions in different ways in various parts of the world. Changes in rainfall are disrupting food production, either through drought or flooding. Small island States face an existential threat of drowning. Societies and regions also differ in their resources, capacities and readiness to respond to these challenges. It is therefore imperative that we have a comprehensive understanding of the situation on the ground. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. Strengthened cooperation with civil society, weather services and regional and subregional actors on climate-sensitive analysis and early-warning systems are therefore required. In short, we must improve our understanding of the specific situation on the ground, including through improved climate scenarios for the medium term and the long term, with the help of partners, to anticipate and mitigate climate-related security threats.

Secondly, finding solutions to climate-related security risks is complex and requires a whole-of-society approach. We need to draw on all tools, capacities and expertise at our disposal. To do so, we need a networked and inclusive multilateralism in which the entire United Nations family, regional organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector work together. Climate change must be taken seriously, and it must be addressed as a security issue. It must also be fully integrated into the work of United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions on the ground. The Nordic countries are exploring the possibility of funding climate-security advisors to United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions, which we hope will strengthen the capacity to address climate-related security risks in such missions, and that that will allow the Security Council and the wider United Nations family to better understand the implications of climate change on security and conflict. To this end, we will also continue to support the important work of the climate security mechanism as well as research carried out on the topic, such as that being undertaken in the newly established Nordic-Baltic expert network.

Thirdly, to succeed, solutions to tackle climate-related security risks must take a bottom-up approach. We must engage civil society, women and youth in the process

of finding and implementing solutions. We know that societies are more resilient when human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. Advancing implementation of the women and peace and security agenda must be a priority. Whether in analysis or policy frameworks, funding modalities or political negotiations, we should always strive for approaches and processes that are comprehensive, inclusive and just. When addressing climate change as a risk multiplier, it is therefore important for the Security Council to listen to and more deeply engage with civil society, not least women's and girls' organizations. Applying a gender-transformative approach to climate and security interventions is crucial.

Lastly, but not least, protecting, restoring and sustainably managing the environment is fundamental. Environmental degradation and biodiversity loss are important drivers of insecurity and conflict around the world, and rising rates of degradation and loss are increasingly affecting global peace and security. Moreover, climate- and nature-related risks to global peace and security overlap and are mutually reinforcing. As they cannot be fully addressed independently from one another, solutions are equally interconnected: climate-related security risks can be reduced by actions to protect, restore and sustainably manage ecosystems that allow them to keep providing vulnerable populations with food, water and energy, enabling climate adaptation and disaster-risk reduction.

How we systematically act upon the risks of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation today will not only build the resilience of fragile societies but determine the prospects for peaceful societies and human security for millions of people in the coming decades. Fragile regions and vulnerable communities suffer the severest impacts but addressing the problem and finding the solution is a collective responsibility. It requires cooperation, renewed multilateralism and solidarity. As we continue to respond to the crises that unfold across the world, this is our opportunity to build back better and greener for a sustainable, climate resilient and peaceful future in full support of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Decade of Action.

Annex 6**Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility
of the Republic of Ecuador, Mauricio Montalvo Samaniego**

[Original: Spanish]

I would first like to highlight Ireland's work as President of the Security Council during this month of September, as well as its substantive contributions as a non-permanent member of the Council since 1 January 2021. I am also grateful for its convening of today's open debate on climate and security as part of the peacekeeping agenda.

As early as 17 years ago, the report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, established by then-Secretary-General Kofi Annan, noted that infectious diseases, environmental degradation and war are mutually reinforcing. Over the past two decades, the international community has repeatedly found that the adverse effects of climate change are undermining the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. This fact is all the more worrisome, given the risk that global warming of 1.5°C may become irreversible.

Desertification and drought, the loss of biodiversity and the rise in sea level generate such socioeconomic problems as food insecurity, problems in health systems, unemployment and lack of livelihoods, inter alia. Similarly, the impact on ecosystems and biodiversity increases the transmission of infectious and zoonotic diseases. This situation is exacerbated by the illicit trade in wildlife.

Ecuador also recognizes the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of climate change. The loss of millions of lives, population displacement and the weakening of the social fabric have a disproportionate impact on women, girls and the most vulnerable groups. With socioeconomic deterioration and marginalization, the conditions for the spread of violent extremism and organized crime are amplified.

The density and severity of catastrophes resulting from climate change add an additional source of security risk. For that reason, Ecuador promotes prevention and capacity-building as essential components of disaster-risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework, together with climate-related early-warning mechanisms. Adequate financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer for developing countries are key.

We recognize that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary intergovernmental forum with the expertise and capacities necessary for negotiating the global response to climate change. These discussions in the Security Council allow for a complementary but valuable approach to climate-and-security linkages. In addition to promoting complementarity and synergies within the United Nations, this approach contributes to national conflict-prevention and peacebuilding efforts. The conflict-prevention approach promoted by the Secretary-General and the outcome of the 2020 United Nations peacebuilding architecture review both call for joint efforts by the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole to include the issue of climate in strategies to strengthen sustainable peace.

Finally, we call for providing peacekeeping operations with technical capabilities and mandates to assess climate-related security risks, in accordance with their specific contexts. Should Ecuador be elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2023-2024, we will continue to support this agenda and efforts aimed at deepening the analysis of the linkages between climate and security.

Annex 7

Statement by the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations

Allow us at the outset to express our appreciation to Ireland, President of the Security Council for the month of September 2021, for its initiative to hold an open debate on climate and security in relation to the maintenance of international peace and security.

We are steadfast in our commitment to addressing challenges posed by climate change and believe that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the relevant international conventions, especially the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, remain the platforms with the original mandate and constitute the heralds of the solutions that are needed to address the climate crisis in all its manifestations. Nevertheless, since climate change should be considered a driver of conflict, affecting the peace and stability of several regions globally, it is important to address the growing connection between climate change and security.

Egypt is fully cognizant of the severe impacts that climate change poses for human livelihood and for our planet. It is worth noting that economic vulnerability and resource dependency are key elements in the link between climate change and sustainable livelihoods in developing countries, as well as peace and security. The impacts of climate change are crystal clear; they are seen in extreme weather events, water scarcity, rising sea levels, desertification and biodiversity loss.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), despite contributing the least to the global emissions, Africa is the continent that is most affected by climate change. Data have shown that climate change is having a growing impact on the continent, contributing to food insecurity and stressed water resources; it even acts as a driver of conflict over resources. Moreover, the situation has been further aggravated by the complications brought by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

In this vein, it is worth noting that Egypt is the most heavily populated water-scarce country in the world. Currently, water scarcity affects 2.5 billion people around the globe, and it is expected that climate change will result in putting half of the world population under severe water stress by 2050. Moreover, by 2030, water scarcity could displace 700 million people. These figures are clear proof of the negative impacts of water scarcity on peace and security, the achievement of sustainable development and the fulfilment of human rights. In this context, we eagerly urge the international community to address the needs of the most vulnerable water-scarce countries and promote transboundary cooperation in accordance with applicable international law, so as to preserve water for peace and security.

We remain fully committed to the global efforts aimed at addressing the implications of climate change. We have worked hard on formulating the African Adaptation Initiative to represent the African contribution to global adaptation efforts. Also, Egypt and the United Kingdom co-chaired the adaptation and resilience track of the Climate Action Summit 2019. Moreover, as President of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in 2022, Egypt looks forward to continuing our global work in reaching concrete outcomes in relation to climate change.

Addressing the adaptation needs of developing countries will enable badly needed preventive actions against climate risks that will safeguard development gains. The international community has an important responsibility to bear in addressing the risks posed by climate change. A main avenue through which the

international community can support addressing related risks is the provision of sufficient means of implementation support to developing countries. In addition to being an obligation for developed countries under the UNFCCC, such support is critical to ensuring that developing countries are able to achieve adaptation and mitigation. Without international support for means of implementation, including financial means, threats from climate change, including those related to peace and security, will continue to multiply.

In conclusion, we would like to stress the urgency of comprehensively addressing the challenges of climate change, with an approach that aims at its core to achieve the sustainable development of developing countries while ensuring their peace, security, stability and prosperity.

Annex 8**Statement by the Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Olof Skoog**

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

We thank the Irish presidency for organizing today's important and timely open debate on climate and security.

The EU was one of the first to identify climate change as a security issue. For more than a decade, we have considered climate change and environmental degradation to be an existential threat multiplier that needs to be put at the heart of EU security policy and the global agenda.

A world beyond 2.0°C can hardly be a secure one. As the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states, with global warming already at 2.0°C, heat extremes would reach critical tolerance thresholds for health and agriculture more frequently, contributing to both food and human insecurity. The more intense rainfall and flooding and the more intense drought that the IPCC report predicts will accelerate and deepen ongoing or latent vulnerabilities and instability. These developments could become new conflict drivers, particularly in areas where they are coupled with demographic challenges, where there will be heightened competition over scarce natural resources and where food systems will be disrupted. These developments will have severe consequences on the climate-and-security nexus, representing different types of challenges to human and State security and undermining global peace, which underlines the importance of enabling the Security Council to deal more comprehensively with the interlinkages between climate change and security.

In the Sahel, we are already seeing how the impacts of climate change can undermine security and aggravate conflict. In the Lake Chad region, fluctuating water levels caused by climate change are contributing to serious water scarcity, food insecurity and resources competition, fuelling grievances and heightening levels of instability, conflict and terrorism influence in the region.

In Central Asia, climate change has been identified as a potential exacerbating factor of conflict, due to it influencing water flows into and around the Aral Sea. As final examples, in Iraq and Afghanistan, rising temperatures and extreme weather are putting pressure on natural resources and undermining livelihoods, causing tensions and displacement and opening up opportunities for illegal trade and terrorism.

The Security Council has recognized the climate and security risks and has mainstreamed the adverse impacts of climate change into country and regional peacekeeping mandates in the Lake Chad basin, Somalia, Mali, Darfur, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Cyprus and Iraq. The EU warmly welcomes such inclusions and believes that should be done on a more structured and systematic basis.

On the EU's side, under the European Green Deal, we will strive to ensure our own climate resilience in a shifting geopolitical security landscape. The foreign and security policy of the EU and its member States will systematically consider climate and environmental factors and risks. We will also work with partners, including the United Nations, to develop conflict prevention measures such as early-warning

systems and support relevant international instruments such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In the framework of EU-United Nations partnership crisis management and peace operations, the nexus between security and climate change and environmental degradation will be addressed as part of the next set of joint EU-United Nations priorities for 2022-2024, which is to be adopted by the end of the year. Together, we are planning to foster strategic foresight and situational awareness to better anticipate, prevent and prepare for the effects of climate change and environmental degradation on the security environment, as well as to reduce the footprint of our missions and operations.

The Security Council should continue working on climate and security, building upon previous debates and the Climate Security Mechanism, towards the recognition of the link between climate change and security. It should aim to go beyond the holding of thematic debates to systematically integrating climate-related security issues, where appropriate, in its resolutions. It should also consider adopting a resolution on climate change and security, as first initiated by Germany in 2020 and a like-minded group encompassing Belgium, Estonia and France, among others. To that end, we reiterate the need to work with the Security Council's Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security, which Ireland is co-chairing in 2021.

Moreover, in its capacity as a member of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, the EU wishes to stress the importance of building capacity in the United Nations system to address climate-related security risks.

Finally, let us not forget the broader environmental dimension of the issue, with climate change often exacerbating environmental degradation, water scarcity and desertification. That is particularly relevant for least developed countries, many of them in Africa, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, and for other regions such as the Mediterranean.

The European Union and its member States express their readiness to contribute further to this important topic.

Annex 9

Statement by the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum and Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Fiji, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 States member of the Pacific Islands Forum with a presence here at the United Nations, namely, Australia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, Fiji.

At the outset, let me extend our deep appreciation to the President of the Security Council and Taoiseach of Ireland, His Excellency Mr. Micheál Martin, for presiding over this high-level open debate. I also thank Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres for his briefing, and the members of the Security Council for ensuring that the dialogue on climate and security continues to remain a part of this very important organ.

Urgent action on climate change and security is needed to ensure the survival of the Pacific island peoples that our Forum serves and represents here today. That was reaffirmed last month in the fifty-first Pacific Islands Forum communiqué of 6 August, in which climate change was recognized by our leaders as the single-greatest threat facing our Blue Pacific region. We count ourselves among other regional organizations, including the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, in recognizing the grave implications of climate-related security risks for peace.

While the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response and recovery efforts remain the immediate focus across the world, the climate crisis facing Pacific island countries continues. There is increasing concern from our region that COVID-19 might be used to delay the immediate and urgent need for ambitious actions to curb the continual rise in greenhouse-gas emissions, which, according to the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, could result in irreversible changes in the Earth's climate system.

What that means for our Blue Pacific continent, which is home to many populations living on atolls and low-lying coastlines barely a few metres above sea level, is that climate change impacts present the single-greatest security threat to our very survival as peoples, communities and nations. I cannot stress enough that time is of the essence, with climate change being the ultimate threat multiplier, aggravating already fragile situations and potentially contributing to further social tensions and upheaval.

To promote durable and sustainable development, human security and peace, we must address and act on the interaction of climate change with socioeconomic, political and demographic factors. A failure to do so will come at a high cost, particularly for our island-dwelling peoples, whose livelihoods, security and well-being are at risk.

Our Pacific leaders are leading the way in that context. We are defining the collective future we want for our children through the development of our 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. That collective vision will put climate change at the centre of our development plans, and together we will take ownership of, and collectively respond to, the pressing challenges ahead.

Our leaders also endorsed the 2018 Boe Declaration on Regional Security, which promotes an expanded concept of security, elevating climate security as the

greatest single threat to security for the peoples of our region. We appreciate the recognition of that important Declaration for our region and its alignment with the Security Council's recent discussion on maritime security (see S/2021/722).

Our efforts have been further elevated through the recently endorsed declaration on preserving maritime zones in the face of climate change-related sea-level rise of 6 August. That declaration recognizes that, in order to promote a peaceful, secure and sustainable future for our region, our maritime zones, as established and notified to the Secretary-General in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the rights and entitlements that flow from them shall continue to apply without reduction, notwithstanding any physical changes connected to climate change-related sea-level rise. We also welcome the work of the International Law Commission on sea-level rise in relation to international law.

Those endeavours, while crucial for our security, do not alter the fact that Pacific island nations are facing a crisis that can be averted if we come together as a global community to generate urgent action. We cannot leave our collective future to chance by turning a blind eye to the catastrophic climate events taking place around the globe, with the most recent — Hurricane Ida — impacting the very place where the United Nations Headquarters stands as a symbol for world peace and security and where this organ meets.

The Security Council has a central role to play in mainstreaming the security dimensions of climate change within the United Nations and in facilitating action to mitigate climate-related instability before it leads to conflict. We believe that to be in alignment with the spirit of preventive security enshrined in Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations.

We welcome the Security Council's recognition of the women and peace and security agenda as a cross-cutting subject and further emphasize the gendered nature of climate-related security risks, which affect women, girls and the most vulnerable disproportionately.

We also recognize the work of the inter-agency Climate Security Mechanism and the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, which continues to grow and now counts 59 members from around the world, including 12 members of the Pacific Islands Forum. We join other Member States and civil society actors in calling for the United Nations response to be coordinated by a newly appointed special rapporteur on climate and security.

The Security Council can — and should — add its weight to calls to ensure that all efforts towards a just and lasting peace are in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. While climate mitigation remains the most effective way to reduce climate impacts, more investment is also needed to ensure that vulnerable States can effectively adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already occurring. Building resilience, disaster risk reduction and adaptive capacity allows countries to better cope with climate-related events before they become security challenges.

Finally, we call on the global community to uphold, with a united voice, the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Katowice Rulebook must be finalized at the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Paris Agreement is not just a political tool. We cannot overstate the urgency of taking the actions necessary to make net-zero emissions achievable by all countries in order to keep the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement within reach and to protect the collective peace and security and well-being of present and future generations.

Annex 10**Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, Mohammad Kurniadi Koba**

I wish to express my appreciation to Ireland for convening today's meeting, as well as thank the Secretary-General and all the briefers for their briefings.

The coronavirus disease pandemic has been one of the most devastating events for our planet. At the same time, the threat of climate change remains unabated with increasing urgency and presents the greatest challenge of this century.

While we are still coping with the pandemic, extreme weather events have compounded the challenges we face, affecting our resilience and creating conditions that could further escalate conflicts. We have witnessed rainfall lead to deadly flooding, while others are enduring water scarcity and suffering from fires due to extreme drought and a prolonged dry season.

We should not ignore those warnings. It befalls on us all to respond within our common yet differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. On that note, allow me to highlight the following points.

First, the linkage between climate change and security risks is highly context-specific. The recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change entitled *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*, elaborated at length how the impact of climate change is wide-ranging and projects varied challenges across regions and countries. While climate change was never the sole driver of conflict, we have been observing cases in which it has multiplied existing risks and insecurity that could further escalate conflict situations.

That linkage depends on many other factors, including the availability of resources and the capacity to adapt, which varies from one conflict area to another. Therefore, the Security Council needs to devise its response accordingly through informed analysis that takes into account local contexts and up-to-date climate information.

Secondly, we need concrete applicable actions. While raising awareness through Security Council meetings is important, Indonesia believes that the Council needs to take concrete, applicable actions to respond to the emerging threat. The Council's efforts need to go beyond injecting climate-related lexicons in outcome documents.

Indonesia firmly believes that we need to start by addressing the needs of impacted local communities, especially with regard to the increased risk of intercommunal violence in resource-scarce areas. That could be done by strengthening community engagement through peacekeeping missions. Moreover, we need to enhance the capacity of affected countries to adapt and mitigate the impact of climate-related security risks.

The Climate Security Mechanism has also been established to provide an assessment of climate-related security risks and their management strategy. All stakeholders need to enhance their support for the Mechanism.

Thirdly, we need coordinated actions. The solution to climate change needs to be rooted in a multilateral approach, with the full and impartial implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, including support for its means of implementation. The Security Council must contribute to its success. The Council's work in that area needs to be mutually reinforcing, while avoiding any duplications within the existing stream of work on climate in the United Nations system.

To that end, Indonesia calls for continued cooperation and synergy within the United Nations system, including United Nations peacekeeping missions and country teams on the ground, as well as national Governments and regional organizations. The ultimate goal is to support stability and build resilience in countries and regions that face increasing climate-related security risks.

Annex 11

Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, Majid Takht Ravanchi

I would like to begin by making a reference to the former Secretary-General, who said,

“Climate change is one of the most complex, multifaceted and serious threats the world faces. The response to this threat is fundamentally linked to pressing concerns of sustainable development and global fairness ... of economy, poverty reduction and society” (*A/62/511, annex I, para. 1*).

Accordingly, we share the view that climate change is essentially an issue related to sustainable development rather than a matter of international peace and security, since the direct correlation between climate change and security has not been proved. Therefore, the negative impacts of climate change must be addressed in a proper, holistic, coordinated and action-oriented manner based on a multilateral approach.

In practice, to date the international community has made significant efforts at the global level aimed at addressing climate-related challenges.

Such efforts have led to the development of landmark international legally binding instruments, namely, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Convention is therefore the primary international mechanism for dealing with climate-related risks.

Addressing the risks and challenges posed by climate change should be considered a collective responsibility, and, accordingly, all States must fully fulfil their respective obligations under that Convention.

We strongly call for the strict observance of the principle of the common but differentiated responsibility of States, according to which, while all States must cooperate in the spirit of global partnership to address the adverse impacts of climate change, developed countries, owing to their substantial contributions to climate change and the technologies and financial resources they command, have greater responsibility in addressing such challenges.

The developed countries must therefore fully implement all their respective obligations under the Convention. They must take the lead in reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and provide adequate, predictable and timely support, including in the area of finance, technology transfers and capacity-building to developing countries.

Similarly, while developing countries must also fulfil their respective commitments, of course commensurate with their capabilities and national development circumstances, the international community must assist developing countries by removing all obstacles to the effective implementation of the commitments of developing States.

In that context, unilateral sanctions are among the main barriers that seriously impede the capabilities of a number of developing countries such as Iran to positively contribute to addressing climate-change challenges.

Despite those pressing challenges, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken the measures necessary to face the challenges posed by climate change and has developed plans and programmes to move towards a low-carbon economy.

Nevertheless, the unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran primarily by the United States have not only prevented our access to necessary financial resources and technological means but have also adversely affected the effective use of our

national capacities to carry out our respective undertakings. Such unlawful and inhumane sanctions, which are in flagrant violation of international law, must come to an immediate end.

Despite existing differences among States on certain aspects of climate change, there is a clear-cut consensus at the international level that new and climate-friendly technologies can play a significant role in mitigating the risks associated with the challenge.

However, owing to a host of barriers, the transfer of climate-friendly technologies to developing countries is far short of what is needed. That alarming trend is inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, one of which, according to Article 1, paragraph 3, of its Charter, is

“To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character”.

Accordingly, we call for removing all barriers to and the facilitating of the transfer of climate-friendly technologies, including knowledge and operating skills, to developing countries.

We also support the arguments that climate-related issues must be considered in their own relevant forums, namely, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the UNFCCC.

Yet given that the Security Council obviously lacks the requisite expertise or tools to effectively respond to possible climate-related security risks, its engagement in such issues, which, due to their socioeconomic nature, do not fall within the mandate of the Council, also constitutes an encroachment on the prerogatives of other principal organs of the Organization. That is in contradiction with the spirit of the Charter and must therefore be avoided.

Instead of placing climate-change security risks on the agenda of the Council, we must call for the full and effective implementation of the relevant commitments by all, particularly developed States, in a responsible manner, and allow the relevant platforms to continue considering and properly addressing issues related to climate change. For its part, Iran stands ready to contribute to related efforts in such forums.

Annex 12**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Ishikane Kimihiro**

I welcome today's open debate on climate and security organized by the Irish presidency during the high-level week of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, less than 40 days before the opening of the long-awaited twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow. I also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

Climate change has multidimensional negative impacts on the survival, livelihoods and dignity of peoples. Water scarcity, drought, desertification, land degradation and food insecurity are affecting people severely in the Sahel and other arid regions. Sea-level rise and the erosion of coastlines pose an existential threat to small island developing States (SIDS) and their people. While the victims of hurricanes, torrential rains, and heat waves are everywhere, the most devastating and widespread impacts on human security are imposed on the most vulnerable people and communities.

The linkage between climate change and conflict is certainly indirect. However, there is no doubt that human insecurity, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, becomes a multiplier of risk, not only in terms of humanitarian crises but also peace and security, particularly in conflict-prone areas. Japan therefore joins Ireland in recognizing climate change as a vector that increases the risk of violent conflict.

As we place people at the centre of our security paradigm, climate change is undoubtedly one of the priority issues for the maintenance of peace and security. However, whether or not the Security Council, the principal organ in that area, can effectively engage in efforts to mitigate climate change or adapt to its negative impacts is another issue. Beyond raising public awareness about the climate-related risks of violent conflict, is there a clear role the Security Council could and should play? Should the issue of climate-related security risks be dealt with separately from other drivers of conflict, including various socioeconomic root causes, in the context of peacekeeping operations, conflict prevention or mediation?

The answers to those questions need thorough consideration. But one thing is clear: climate change is linked to violent conflict through its impact on human security; that is to say, on the survival, livelihoods and dignity of people. It is vital that the international community focus on people when analysing the impacts of climate change on conflict. By placing people at the centre of our response to climate-related security risks, it becomes evident that United Nations system should break silos and respond in a comprehensive and seamless manner, building on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Japan remains steadfast in addressing climate change and contributing to maintaining international peace and security. In such efforts, Japan places great importance on carrying out immediate actions to enhance resilience to the negative impacts of climate change and to build institutional capacities to strengthen the national ownership of countries facing climate-related challenges.

Japan has been supporting the efforts of African countries to strengthen climate resilience through the processes of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). We support projects for sustainable forest management, integrated water resource management and measures to fight desertification and enhance agricultural productivity under the African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn

of Africa, launched at TICAD VI in Nairobi in 2016. In addition, Japan supports the African countries' efforts at institution-building under the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa, launched at TICAD VII in Yokohama in 2019, in order to overcome vulnerabilities while addressing the root causes of conflicts.

Climate-related risks go beyond borders, and therefore regional cooperation is indispensable. Japan has promoted such regional cooperation through the Japan-Caribbean Community framework and the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM). At PALM 9, co-chaired by the Prime Ministers of Japan and Tuvalu in July 2021, leaders affirmed their commitment to cooperating closely in strengthening resilience against disasters. In June 2021, Japan announced that it would provide climate finance, both public and private, totalling approximately \$60 billion over the next five years from 2021 to 2025 and that it would further enhance its assistance for adaptation.

In closing, Japan believes that the United Nations is the primary player for deepening international cooperation for action against climate-related risks. Japan will be an active partner in that endeavour.

Annex 13

Statement by the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations

Latvia thanks the Irish presidency of the Security Council for having organized this important open debate at this crucial time for increasing climate ambition and commitment to action.

Latvia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union (annex 8).

Unequivocally, climate change is one of the most critical global challenges that the world faces today, with profound consequences for international peace and security. For many countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing States, it is an existential threat. It is important that the Security Council fully embrace that reality and ensure that the impact of climate change is considered in a cross-cutting manner in the Council's work and the activities it mandates.

Extreme weather and the climate events of 2021 have provided many reminders of the fact that climate change is already a reality on the ground in many parts of the world. The recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change show that climate change is human-induced and that its resolution therefore also depends on human action. Success of our actions depends on multilateral cooperation; only by working together can we overcome this global challenge.

To limit the threat of climate change to international security, an ambitious and urgent climate action is needed. Latvia is committed to reaching the collective European Union emission reduction target of at least 55 per cent by 2030 and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Latvia encourages all countries to commit to more ambitious climate targets in their new and updated nationally determined contributions before the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

However, some climate-change impacts are already locked in, and further uncertainties remain. Urgent attention must be paid to climate adaptation measures. The adaptation agenda at the national and international levels can be part of the peacebuilding process and the conflict-prevention agenda, especially in applying the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. Strengthening preparedness and adaptation can help communities in contexts of fragility to manage the threat multiplier effect of climate change. Building awareness and adapting lives and livelihoods to the realities of a warming climate can strengthen their overall resilience.

Latvia believes that it is important for all United Nations actors that operate in such environments to work jointly and seek integrated solutions. The Security Council can promote that through its mandates for peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities.

We welcome the fact that climate aspects are already included in the mandates of several United Nations peacekeeping missions, including the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, in which Latvia participates. Equally, it is important to continue comprehensive efforts to implement the environment strategy of the United Nations Department of Field Support, which has set out goals in five areas to reduce the environmental footprint of United Nations field activities by 2023.

While regional tensions and conflicts stem from diverging interests and perceptions, the adverse effects of climate change can actually offer opportunities for building a common understanding and consensus in the light of a common challenge. The climate angle should not be left out of peacebuilding and mediation activities.

Latvia therefore welcomes the call by the Secretary-General in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda” to consider an expansion of the role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) by focusing also on cross-cutting issues such as climate change. We stand ready to contribute to those deliberations as a member of the PBC in 2022.

Annex 14**Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport of Liechtenstein, Dominique Hasler**

Thank you, Mr. President, for bringing the key systemic security issue of our time to our attention today. Over the course of multiple open debates on the nexus of climate change and security, Member States have increasingly acknowledged the fact that climate change is not only an aggravating factor and a threat multiplier for conflict but itself a cause of mass insecurity. Addressing this issue in a human-centred manner is thus a prerequisite if the Council is to fulfil its mandate to maintain peace and security.

As laid out in this year's Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is increasingly likely that the next 20 years will see the world reach 1.5°C of warming — a threshold deemed the point of no return during the Paris negotiations and a frightening portent for our fragile world. It is clear that climate impacts such as life-threatening heatwaves, dwindling water resources and the extinction of species and fisheries increase existing violent conflict and involuntary migration, poverty and social tensions. Many States fear the major disasters caused by extreme weather events, of which global warming has dramatically increased the probability, or sea-level rise, which according to current projections is likely to inundate entire territories within our lifetimes.

Those impacts demonstrate how climate change is not just an intensifying factor but the most significant threat to our common security itself. Accordingly, the Council's engagement on climate and security would be significantly strengthened by moving beyond a "hard security" paradigm framed in terms of causes of and solutions to armed conflict. Attempts to restrict the Council's work in this way would result in a myopic focus on militarized causes of and solutions to conflict, instead of sustainable and comprehensive conflict prevention and resolution. Instead, the Council should embrace a human security paradigm, which allows for a perspective in which climate change itself is a cause of insecurity.

Liechtenstein continues to advocate for a Security Council resolution on climate and security as a standalone topic and that establishes a reporting mechanism. In its day-to-day work, it is crucial that the Council include more systematic references to the impact of global warming in country situations, in particular those outside the African continent. In doing so, the Council should draw from the wide range of expertise across the United Nations system, including the important innovation of the Informal Expert Group of Members of the Security Council on Climate and Security as well as the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs-United Nations Development Programme-United Nations Environment Programme Climate Security Mechanism, and ensure regular briefings on the climate and security nexus.

According to our common but differentiated responsibility, all States, collectively and individually, must significantly increase their ambitions and follow through with implementation. Council members, of course, have a special responsibility in that regard given the mandate conferred on them by the General Assembly to uphold peace and security. When climate change is itself the security threat, that implies an additional impetus for Council members to curb their emissions. For our part, Liechtenstein recognizes the need to improve adaptation measures and take early action to reduce vulnerability to the massive effects of climate change. Liechtenstein contributes to those efforts through the provision of climate finance of approximately SwF 2.5 million per year to climate-related projects in developing countries.

Annex 15**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations**

Malta thanks Ireland for having organized this timely discussion on climate-related risks in peacekeeping, conflict mediation and conflict prevention.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union (EU) (annex 8) and by Germany on behalf of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security (annex 17) and would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

Climate change is the most serious existential threat facing our planet. As we continue to battle a pandemic and instability across the globe, climate action cannot wait for us to find the right time to deal with it, when all our global crises are over. Unless climate action responds to what science is urging us to do to avoid irreparable harm, the anthropogenic increase in greenhouse-gas emissions will inevitably intensify global security threats, with dire physical and economic consequences. The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms what is already widely recognized: climate change has direct and indirect implications for international security and stability.

The effects of climate change on global and regional security are already being felt in several parts of the world. In the Mediterranean region, that will result in numerous challenges, including water shortages, food insecurity and sea-level rise, as well as destabilization and increased vulnerability, exacerbated by unpreparedness for the global shift away from fossil fuels.

We welcome the increased focus on the security implications of climate change at the international level, particularly within the United Nations. As a State member of the EU, Malta is pleased that the EU has set an example by leading in terms of climate ambition.

We consider it important for the United Nations to adopt a comprehensive approach to climate action, including through the international community's efforts towards the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council has a central role to play in that regard.

Peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts take place in challenging environments, and climate change further exacerbates the existing problems in those scenarios. An interdisciplinary approach to peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts needs to include climate change as an integral part of the strategy towards supporting recovery in the short and medium term, and ensuring stability and resilience in the longer term, especially in view of the required preparedness adaptation to climate change.

We need to aim to advance peace and tackle climate-related security risks through comprehensive, multidimensional security and peace-oriented approaches. The creation of the Climate Security Mechanism is an important development in that respect, and we call for a more integrated approach across all bodies of the United Nations, including the Security Council. To ensure lasting peace and stability, we must incorporate climate considerations into the actions mandated by the Security Council.

Malta is appreciative of the work undertaken by several members of the Council, including efforts spearheaded by Ireland and the Niger as co-Chairs of the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security.

As an island State, we are very much aware of the threat that climate change poses, and for that reason we will put the spotlight on climate and security issues if entrusted to serve on the Council in 2023-2024. The time is ripe to intensify our work to better understand the nexus between climate change and security.

Annex 16

Statement by the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations

[Original: French]

Morocco thanks Ireland for having organized this high-level public debate in the Security Council on the crucial issue of climate and security. This debate is the perfect opportunity to deliver our messages to the United Nations and to the world in order to raise awareness of the security consequences of climate change and to remind people that climate change is not only a question of environmental and economic policy but also a major challenge for international peace and security.

Morocco joins the declaration of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, in which we recall that the Security Council has a particularly central role to play in terms of that nexus. We believe that the Security Council should consider the link between climate and security in its decisions before conflicts erupt or escalate. The issue of climate migrants is also important and must be taken into account in a more sustained manner, as the worsening effects of climate change throughout the world could push more than 216 million migrants to relocate by 2050 owing to drought, poor harvests, rising sea levels and worsening desertification.

Morocco attaches particular importance to climate action at the national, African and international levels. Nationally, Morocco has adopted an ambitious policy to combat climate change and develop renewable energy sources. Morocco revised its voluntary national contribution on 22 June, aiming to reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions by 45.5 per cent, and set itself the objective of meeting 52 per cent of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2030.

However, the African continent, to which Morocco belongs, is being unduly and disproportionately penalized by the consequences of global warming, to which it barely contributes. A low emitter of greenhouse gases with less than 4 per cent of global emissions, Africa is unfairly suffering the drastic effects of climate change. That situation should be of concern to the whole world.

Based on that observation, Morocco is fully committed to continuing the momentum that began at the first African Action Summit, held in Marrakech on the side-lines of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in favour of continental co-emergence and focused on ambitious, concrete transnational projects.

As such, and in accordance with the very high instructions of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Morocco provides significant financial and technical support, within the framework of South-South cooperation, for the operationalization of the Congo Basin Climate Commission, chaired by the Republic of the Congo; the Climate Commission for the Sahel region, chaired by the Republic of the Niger; and the Island States Climate Commission, chaired by the Republic of Seychelles.

Morocco welcomes the commitment made by international partners during the first Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region, held in Niamey in February 2019, to provide approximately \$3.41 billion in financing for the implementation of the Commission's regional priority programme. That is an important step that should continue to provide the Commission with the support needed to carry out the Climate Investment Plan in its entirety.

Moreover, the Kingdom of Morocco, as a founding partner country, and especially as a supportive African member of the region, is firmly committed to supporting the actions of the Sahel Commission by undertaking the feasibility studies

to finalize its Climate Investment Plan. With a view to supporting the Republic of the Niger in order to strengthen climate action in the Sahel region, a memorandum of understanding between the Climate Change Competence Center and the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region was signed in October 2020 in Rabat.

Climate change is a risk multiplier. It occurs particularly in regions that are already fragile and threatens the stability of States and societies. Seemingly stable regions can also face climate change-related turbulence.

In Africa, disruptions in water availability are a driver of internal climate migration. They drive people out of coastal and inland regions where water is scarce and into urban centres that are often ill-prepared to accommodate additional migrants.

In that regard, climate adaptation measures are very important for climate-sensitive sectors, including agriculture, given its importance to livelihoods and employment in Africa. It is in that spirit that Morocco has launched the Adaptation of African Agriculture initiative and the African Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security, which aim to reduce the vulnerability of Africa and its agriculture to climate change. The objective is to place the adaptation of African agriculture at the heart of climate debates and negotiations and to channel a substantial share of climate funds to the continent.

Lastly, Morocco calls on the international community to start planning today for orderly and well-managed climate migration. Since the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, States have been called upon to strengthen their efforts to maximize the overall benefits of migration, while mitigating its risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Annex 17

Statement on behalf of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security

It is my distinct honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, a broad and diverse group of now almost 60 countries and the European Union from all regions of the world. We are delighted that our membership continues to grow as more countries are showing interest in joining our ranks, evidence that the wider United Nations membership takes a very keen interest in the issue before the Security Council today. The common concern of the members of the Group of Friends is the threat posed by climate change to peace and security, to stability and prosperity, to the effective enjoyment of human rights and, in some cases, possibly even to the existence of States.

Let me thank Ireland, as President of the Security Council, for convening this very important open debate on one of the most pressing challenges of today. It could not be timely.

As Secretary-General Guterres rightly pointed out: climate change is one of the defining security issues of our time. After decades of inaction and delay, many dangerous impacts are now unavoidable. In small island developing States and other climate-vulnerable regions of the world — such as the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Caribbean — many of those effects have already arrived. More intense and more frequent extreme weather events, sea level rise, droughts and ocean acidification and salinization are already contributing to greater food and water insecurity, economic volatility, societal stress, human displacement and migration around the world. That is especially evident in vulnerable countries and regions, particularly those that are often least responsible for climate change. But no country is immune. Developed countries have suffered unprecedented floods, heat waves, drought, desertification and fires in recent months, and will continue to do so.

The cover of *The Economist* in July read “No Safe Place”, in reference to a world shaped by the devastating impact of climate change. We have a narrow window of opportunity to prevent the worst impacts, but we must significantly strengthen our efforts to address the root causes. It is critical that we all raise our ambition to limit global warming to 1.5°C, scale up adaptation action and climate financing and make sure that the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Glasgow, is the success it needs to be to avoid a future where there is truly no safe place. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently made it crystal clear: if the international community fails to make rapid and immediate cuts to greenhouse-gas emissions, there is a greater than 90 per cent chance that global warming will surpass 1.5 °C within the next two decades, and further changes in temperature will only increase the likelihood of extreme events such as heavy rainfall, droughts and wildfires.

Limiting global warming is crucial, but it is only part of the challenge before us. The climate is already changing, and we can no longer completely prevent all of the negative effects of climate change from occurring. But we can, and indeed we must, do more to prevent the unavoidable effects of climate change from contributing to the destabilization of countries and entire regions, which risks leading to new armed conflicts or worsening existing conflicts.

A laissez-faire approach will not be enough to address the security implications of climate change. Building climate-resilient systems that support peace and stability urgently requires a much more concerted international effort. The Group of Friends on Climate and Security was formed to support such efforts.

The entire United Nations system must address this challenge in all relevant forums and within all relevant mandates. The United Nations is already doing

important work on climate and security. The Climate Security Mechanism is one laudable example of inter-agency cooperation, strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to analyse and address the adverse impacts of climate change on peace and security. We encourage all Member States to continue to support and engage with the Climate Security Mechanism. We welcome the Secretary-General's call for an increased focus on the effects climate change has on peace and security in his recent report entitled *Our Common Agenda*.

The Security Council has a critical role to play given its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the agenda item framing today's debate. Far too much time has passed since the last, and to date only, Security Council product explicitly on climate and security — the statement by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2011/15 — which was issued more than 10 years ago. Nevertheless, we welcome the acceleration of tangible progress we see in the Security Council's work on this important issue. We acknowledge and welcome the Council's recognition of the need to integrate the effects of climate change in peacekeeping and special political mission mandates in West Africa and the Sahel, Somalia, Mali, the Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Cyprus and Iraq. Those are all steps in the right direction, but more needs to be done to ensure a more structured and systematic approach to addressing the impacts of climate change on peace and security.

The Informal Expert Group of Members of the Security Council on Climate and Security has grown into a useful forum for improving our understanding of complex country situations, thereby better informing its work and decisions. The Group of Friends has been calling on the Security Council to create the necessary tools to enable the United Nations to do its part in preventing and resolving conflicts that are, at least in part, driven by the effects of climate change, as many of today's conflicts are and more of tomorrow's will be.

Once more we are calling for concrete, tangible actions to be considered: regular reporting by the Secretary-General on the security implications of climate change; the appointment of a Special Representative for climate and security who could improve the United Nations ability to address climate-related security risks; climate-related early-warning systems, conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding; adequate consideration of climate risks in mandates of all relevant peacekeeping and special political missions; enhanced capacity through mandated training for all relevant United Nations personnel to analyse and address the implications of climate change on peace and security and humanitarian crises; and strengthened cooperation with civil society and other regional and national actors, including national weather services and regional climate centres, on climate-related security risks to ensure the United Nations work can benefit from profound local expertise.

Those proposals have been put forward repeatedly in the Security Council. Last year, a group of Security Council members translated them into a draft resolution. A thematic resolution would provide the framework needed to translate those proposals into action. The Group of Friends would very much welcome the Council's consideration of such an ambitious draft resolution.

The need for action by the United Nations in general and by the Security Council in particular has only become more urgent since the Council last discussed this issue in February (see S/2021/198). The evidence is clear: climate change is a threat to international peace and security. No nation can face it alone. We must act now, and we must act together. We must act as one throughout the entire United Nations system. That means that the Security Council must live up to its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations to address threats to international peace and security and, in that context, threats that climate change poses and will increasingly pose.

Annex 18**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations, Yoka Brandt**

We would like to start off by thanking the Republic of Ireland for organizing today's debate on an issue that features so prominently in many interventions at the General Assembly Hall this week.

Like you, the Kingdom of the Netherlands sees an important role for the Security Council in addressing climate-related security risks more effectively and systematically. In fact, it is why we made this topic a priority during our Security Council term in 2018.

As the Secretary-General rightfully mentioned in his speech this week to the General Assembly (see A/76/PV.3), the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a "code red for humanity". The effects of climate change are unprecedented. The consequences of climate change are manifold and affect us all, although not in an equal manner. Yet again, the most vulnerable are most at risk.

The impact of climate change on the lives and livelihoods of people and communities worldwide is increasingly one of the root causes of conflict and instability. Urgent action is therefore needed to reduce climate-related security risks.

In order to prevent conflict, we need to predict, prepare and peacefully manage disputes that may arise as a consequence of climate change. That is why the Kingdom of the Netherlands believes we need to integrate climate considerations in the work of the United Nations on peace and security every step of the way. We would like to highlight three points that are vital in doing so.

First, we need to integrate climate-related security risks in the United Nations conflict-prevention strategy and early-warning tools. Early-warning systems are vital for effective conflict prevention. To that end, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has launched the Water, Peace and Security Partnership. The Partnership pioneers the development of innovative tools that signal potential water-related security risks. Those tools can pinpoint changes in short-term water availability and provisionally assess their potential impacts on society. Based on that information, evidence-based actions can be triggered to prevent or mitigate human security risks.

Secondly, we need to mainstream climate change in the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. In that regard, we welcome the increased attention by the Peacebuilding Commission, of which we are a member, and the Peacebuilding Fund, the work of the Climate Security Mechanism of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme.

Countries where the United Nations implements peacebuilding activities are often located in areas that are highly exposed to climate change. As a systemic risk factor, climate-related security risks to both peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts deserve further scrutiny.

And finally, we need to enhance training for United Nations personnel deployed in the various United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions around the world. United Nations personnel need to be adequately trained and informed about all aspects of security-related challenges, including climate-related risks.

Synthesized existing knowledge should be used to inform training and improve the capacity of United Nations personnel to respond to climate-related security risks.

It is up to the Security Council to maintain peace and security. It is therefore incumbent on the Council to call for appropriate action when stability is at risk, as well as in the case of climate-related risks.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands would therefore welcome a draft resolution on the matter containing those three points. We stand ready to work with you and would like to thank you for your leadership in this regard.

Annex 19**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations**

Poland commends Ireland for convening this timely debate. As one of the founding members of the United Nations Group of Friends on Climate and Security, Poland aligns itself with the statement submitted on behalf of the Group (annex 17) and with the statement of the European Union (annex 8).

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face. We need strong multilateral commitment to make the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change a success story. Cutting emissions in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Katowice Rulebook is essential. We would like to see all major economies update their nationally determined contributions this year to match the current level of the European Union's ambition.

Climate change and environmental degradation increasingly influence the peace and security landscape. Climate insecurity often overlaps with an increase in poverty and social disparities. The scarcity of food, water and other natural resources forces people to migrate, undermining the stability of whole regions. Our understanding of complex interactions between climate, food and conflict is improving, allowing us to better anticipate changes. We need to deliver innovative and cross-cutting approaches to ensure that stabilization and peace efforts are climate-sensitive.

Poland is positive that climate and security challenges should be addressed within the work of the Security Council and in all efforts aimed at sustaining peace. We underline the key role of the Peacebuilding Commission in advising the Security Council on that matter.

We cannot overestimate the role of peacekeeping in integrating climate and security considerations into conflict prevention and resolution. United Nations missions and operations contribute significantly to assessing and managing climate-related security risks. In that spirit, Poland welcomes the progress made by addressing climate change in many specific mandates, notably by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, where the first United Nations Environmental Security Adviser has been appointed. We reiterate our support for following that practice in other United Nations missions and operations, where relevant.

It is pivotal to mainstream climate and security considerations in risk assessment, conflict analysis, early warning and strategic foresight. Tailored training for all relevant United Nations personnel, including peacekeepers, is key in that regard, along with adequate tools to conduct climate risk assessments and deliver operational responses.

Peacekeeping missions more and more often will have to operate in environments affected by climate change. We must address the vulnerabilities resulting from dependence on energy resources, especially for critical infrastructure. Energy efficiency and energy autonomy will be key to making missions more resilient. Without prejudice to their operational needs, we should also limit the footprint of United Nations missions and operations to make them more sustainable.

We also need to enhance coordination among all relevant peacebuilding actors in the field and systematically use climate data to inform early peacebuilding decisions.

As climate security risks vary depending on a specific country or region, Poland underscores the crucial role of partnerships between the United Nations and other organizations, as well as regional organizations, in tackling those challenges.

We also underline the interlinkages among climate and security and the women and peace and security agenda. Women tend to be disproportionately affected by climate change. Therefore, adaptation initiatives must take their situation, needs and perspectives into account.

Poland strongly supports the work of the Climate Security Mechanism and the Informal Expert Group of Members of the Security Council on Climate and Security. We must take decisive action to further operationalize the climate and security agenda. The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change leaves no doubt: we are running out of time, and there is already no going back from some changes affecting the climate.

Annex 20**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, Francisco Duarte Lopes**

Portugal aligns itself with the statements submitted both by the European Union (annex 8) and by the Group of Friends on Climate and Security (annex 17). In our national capacity, we would like to add the following points:

The Security Council has the primary responsibility for ensuring international peace and security. As the impact of climate change is becoming increasingly felt around the world, we welcome the Council's stance on the implications of weather-related events on security.

Higher sea levels, more severe floods, longer periods of drought and increasing scarcity of resources are already taking a heavy toll in a variety of countries and societies, but most evidently in Africa and in small island developing States. Those phenomena are at the root of growing inequality, migration, increase in water stress and biodiversity degradation, tensions among increasingly vulnerable populations and more widespread recruitment by terrorist organizations.

The Security Council and the United Nations system as a whole still need to assume a more direct role in addressing those risks, namely, by designing peacebuilding efforts with a view to strengthening the national resilience and capacity of the countries concerned to adapt to climate change's adverse impacts. One of the means to achieve that is continuing to mandate United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions to assess climate-related security risks and devise appropriate responses, including conflict prevention tools, and to take into account climate risks across United Nations early-warning and planning processes.

The Secretary-General has called for a people-centred approach to this issue. That is important because the consequences of climate change do not affect everyone in an equal manner. The disparities are not only apparent among countries and societies, but also within them, along socioeconomic, age and gender lines.

Consequently, the influence of climate change on security should be considered throughout the Council's horizontal agendas. The information gathered and shared by the Climate Security Mechanism across the United Nations system is crucial to that end.

Women are disproportionately harmed by climate change. For that reason, not only must the United Nations policies be aimed at bringing that disparity to an end, but also the participation of women in sustaining and maintaining peace should be strengthened. More could be done to identify and strengthen the interlinkages between the women and peace and security and the climate and security agendas.

It is also unequivocal that today's children and youth will bear the brunt of the costs of not properly tackling climate change's effects. They should therefore be included in these discussions, both when it comes to appraising the links between security and climate and when devising the necessary steps to address them.

Tackling the adverse impact of climate change on international security will demand a broad and innovative perspective, both by individual countries and, perhaps more important, by the United Nations system as a whole. Given its historical role and concrete responsibilities, the Security Council must take a decisive lead in that effort.

Annex 21**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani**

[Original: Arabic]

At the outset, we express our sincere appreciation to Ireland for its initiative to hold this important meeting. We particularly appreciate that it is being presided over by the Taoiseach of Ireland. We take this opportunity to commend the commitment of the Security Council to devoting important space on its agenda and its deliberations to the impacts of climate change on peace and security. We would also be remiss if we did not thank His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the briefers for their comprehensive and valuable statements.

Qatar is delighted to take part in this meeting, which addresses an important subject that is a top priority for the entire international community. Many are becoming increasingly concerned about the challenges posed by worsening weather events, climate change and natural disasters, and the threat they pose to peace and security.

Those challenges, which we are all witnessing, presage a dangerous future that threatens the survival of human beings and the planet. The situation has been exacerbated by the coronavirus disease pandemic, which has placed burdens on national health systems around the world and on the global economy. That only underscores the urgent need to marshal efforts and take urgent and earnest action. We must show greater political will to reverse this trend, which is an obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The State of Qatar has taken numerous measures at the national level to address the threat posed by climate change. It is proud that it has not hesitated for one moment to play its role as an active partner in the international community to address the effects of climate change, in keeping with its belief in the importance of multilateral international action. Allow me to recall a major milestone for Qatar in that regard, which occurred in 2012 when it hosted and took an active part in the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Small island developing States and least developed countries are uniquely vulnerable to the challenges associated with climate change. At the United Nations Climate Action Summit held in September 2019, His Highness the Amir of Qatar announced that Qatar would contribute \$100 million to help build the capacities of such States. The Qatar Fund for Development is also making efforts to mobilize support to address climate change and promote green growth in such countries. Qatar is committed to collaborating with its strategic partners to help those countries develop flexible strategies and programmes to deal with climate change.

We are pleased to say that Qatar recently announced its nationally determined contributions. They give a clear and transparent picture of the approach and actions taken, which reflect our ambitious goals for adapting to and mitigating climate change.

Qatar is also proud that it will be hosting the fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries from 23 to 27 January 2022. The conference will produce the Doha work programme. Addressing climate change and mitigating its impacts will be a major item on the agenda and will undoubtedly be among the most prominent issues taken up at the conference. We look forward to the vital opportunity the conference will provide to highlight innovative plans and solutions for combating climate change.

Allow us to conclude by saying that, in keeping with our awareness of the gravity of the challenges and the underlying cause of instability posed by climate change, the State of Qatar will spare no effort to continue to work with all partners and build strong partnerships to address this threat and ensure international peace and security.

Annex 22**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations**

Slovenia would like to commend the Irish presidency for deciding to include climate change and security on the agenda of this meeting.

Climate change is a security challenge and a threat multiplier. According to the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it represents a catastrophic danger. We are to expect extreme heat waves, droughts, flooding and the key temperature limit of 1.5°C being broken in just over a decade.

The blueprints for action are in the Paris Agreement on Climate. We should work together to forge a new and more ambitious international consensus around a climate-conscious future at the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In Glasgow, there will be no time to fail.

The climate emergency is a grave and increasing danger to stability and peace. A failure to consider the risks will undermine the efforts at conflict prevention and peacebuilding and place vulnerable countries and social groups in a vicious cycle of conflict and deprivation. Climate change should be integrated into security and defence planning. In order to undertake this task successfully, we need expertise and capacity-building. We need strong interplay within the triple humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Climate change already is taking a toll across the globe. Allow me to bring to the Council's attention a dire situation in Madagascar, where, due to the worst drought in four decades, more than 1 million people are being exposed to food insecurity. The famine in Madagascar is the first in modern history to be caused solely by global warming.

Slovenia pays particular attention to the linkage among human rights, climate change and environmental degradation. We believe that human rights must be placed at the centre of any measures to tackle the environmental crisis. Therefore, during the current session of the Human Rights Council, Slovenia — together with other like-minded countries — will submit a draft resolution on the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. That will be a step towards global recognition of the right to a healthy environment.

Climate change represents an entry point for engagement in preventing crises and sustaining peace. The Security Council should address the issue in a proactive manner. In doing so, the United Nations should recognize that one of the most critical consequences of climate change is water scarcity. The United Nations system should improve its understanding of the climate-water-peace nexus and increase its capacity to leverage climate and water for peace, including by enhancing the work of the Climate Security Mechanism on water and peace.

It is in our collective interests to shape the global hydropolitics agenda. In practice, that means promoting multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral transboundary water cooperation and applying principles on the protection of water sources and installations in conflict situations.

In experiencing first-hand that water can be an instrument of peace, Slovenia places water diplomacy and the water and peace nexus at the forefront of its foreign policy. In order to promote this topic further, Slovenia co-founded the Group of Friends on Water and Peace, which it is currently chairing, under the aegis of the Geneva Water Hub.

Annex 23**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations**

[Original: Spanish]

Spain aligns itself with the statement submitted by the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, of which it is a member (annex 17).

The relationship between climate change and security continues to be the subject of intense debate both within United Nations entities and in the multilateral system as a whole. At the recent Security Council meeting last February on the issue (see S/2021/198), it was apparent that every State does not similarly view the urgent need to address the challenges related to climate change as a threat to international security. Spain's position on this issue is clear and unequivocal. The impact of global warming is leading to the loss of human lives and economic resources, together with its impact on population displacement and social destabilization. There is clear scientific evidence to that effect. Added to that is the vicious circle in which armed conflicts, environmental degradation and humanitarian emergencies mutually reinforce one another.

In various reports on the protection of civilians in conflict situations, the Secretary-General has stated that those factors have a negative impact on health and the environment, consequently increasing the loss of biodiversity, the excessive exploitation of resources and environmental degradation. The destruction of infrastructure exacerbates the effects of pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions. It is therefore a humanitarian imperative to include environmental protection in the mandates of peacekeeping missions as well as in negotiations, mediation and conflict resolution processes.

We have all witnessed the floods, droughts, heatwaves and fires that have struck our countries this year and the limited ability of all our Governments to react to prevent the loss of human and economic life. Far from being sporadic, such climatic phenomena will occur with greater frequency, as confirmed by the first instalment of the sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was just published, and which Secretary-General Guterres described today before the Council as a "code red for humanity". Spain fully shares his assessment and concerns.

Humankind is facing a triple crisis of unprecedented global dimensions, with the combination of climate change and the accelerated rate in the loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation caused by pollution. Environmental protection and conflict resolution are directly related to one another and must be addressed together in our efforts to ensure international peace and security.

The increasing vulnerability of the most disadvantaged populations and inequalities in access to health and well-being, which has been highlighted by the coronavirus disease pandemic, act as multipliers of conflicts and tensions at all levels. Competition for increasingly scarce resources, food insecurity and the deterioration of health-care infrastructure act as multipliers of intracommunital tensions at the local and regional levels, making conflicts increasingly complex and difficult to resolve.

As the strategic report of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs rightly points out, 60 per cent of the conflicts in the past decade have been recurrent, and traditional negotiation mechanisms are becoming increasingly less effective in such situations.

Spain is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially desertification. Not only have we undertaken meeting the goal of climate neutrality, but we have also adopted ambitious domestic legislation to that end to uphold our commitments. Our second national climate change adaptation plan, which was recently adopted, includes the peace and security dimension and cross-border cooperation, and our national security strategy addresses climate impacts. Finally, one of the four pillars of our new foreign action strategy is building a more resilient and greener planet.

As it is aware that global warming and environmental degradation have a negative impact on people's security, especially in situations of armed conflict, Spain has also introduced the climate and environmental dimension across its diplomatic, humanitarian and cooperation policy.

The combination of climate and health crises are also seriously compromising food security and access to drinking water for millions of people in especially vulnerable situations. Spain has therefore joined the Sanitation and Water for All partnership, as it is aware of the importance that access to drinking water has in relation to hygiene, especially for women. In addition, we must not forget that climate action entails imperatively focusing on the gender dimension and the empowerment of women. The women and peace and security agenda must also incorporate the climate dimension, which, so far, it has failed to do sufficiently.

As part of the effort to realize concrete and operational commitments, our Permanent Mission to the United Nations has dedicated the annual retreat at the Greentree Foundation to be held June to international humanitarian law and the protection of the environment in conflict situations. In order ensure the continuity of the process, Spain has already begun preparations for a seminar on the environment, peace and security to be held before the end of the year and which will promote greater cooperation among institutions, experts and international organizations in the areas of mediation, humanitarian action and rallying the scientific community in order to identify more effective methodologies to take action based on the link between conflict and the environment.

At the recent Security Council open debate on climate and security, environmental activist David Attenborough delivered a clear message about the impact that the collapse of the ecosystems that sustain life on our planet would have on collective security. The interrelationship between all forms of life and their natural environments is what ensures the renewability of drinking water, food production chains and habitable natural environments.

At the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will take place in a few weeks, countries will have to show our citizens that we are capable of meeting the global challenges and making sufficiently ambitious commitments to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions in order to prevent a maximum rise of 1.5°C in global temperature by 2040. All countries must urgently act and address a problem caused by human activity.

Moreover, it will be necessary to incorporate environmental issues more effectively into the peace and security pillar and conflict resolution processes. Spain advocates that all such elements be reflected in a new thematic Security Council draft resolution specifically addressing the challenges they pose in the area of climate and security. Such a step would be in line with progress in various other forums. The International Committee of the Red Cross, for example, published new rules for the protection of the environment in armed conflict in 2020, and the European Union included the environment as one of the priorities in its December 2020 concept note on mediation.

As for Spain, we will stand ready to promote effective initiatives that reinforce the positive effect of combined action on climate change and conflict resolution in order to build a reinvigorated and more effective multilateral system.

Spain senses that there is an emerging international consensus in that regard, which is gaining in intensity and scope. Important steps have been taken. The establishment of the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security within the Security Council, the Climate Security Mechanism and the Group of Friends is a good example. But we can also develop additional operational mechanisms to turn those principles into specific initiatives.

We cannot waste any time in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. It does not only pose a threat to the future of humankind, but to our lives in the here and now, as evidenced by the increase in the number of natural disasters. Much remains to be done, and the cost of failing to act will become increasingly high.

Annex 24

Statement by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

[Original: French]

Switzerland thanks Ireland for convening this open debate and thanks the speakers for their contributions.

The Secretary-General recalled that humankind faces a stark and urgent choice between progress and a greener future in his presentation of *Our Common Agenda*. He stressed once again the serious level of instability and climate chaos pose an existential threat to us. The consequences of climate change for international peace and security are profound.

As an active member of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, Switzerland would like to highlight three areas of action that require increased engagement by the Security Council.

First, climate risks should be adequately and more systematically integrated into the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Council recently recognized the negative effects of climate change on peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel. With regard to future mandate renewals, such as the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, we call on the Council to provide peace missions with the mandate to analyse and report on the climate risks in their areas of deployment, the measures already taken and the possible improvements that could be made. Such risks should also be taken into account in the context of missions' transitions and withdrawals. Switzerland would welcome a priority component of the Peacebuilding Fund dedicated to climate risks in order to support such efforts.

Secondly, climate change represents a risk factor in terms of conflicts today, and it will be even more acute in that regard in the future. The Charter of the United Nations confers upon the Security Council the task of addressing risks and threats to international peace and security. In carrying out its mandate, the Council will have to make best use of the resources available within the United Nations system. Data collection, climate scenarios and early-warning systems are already being used successfully. It is important to share such knowledge and promote synergies. The Council could benefit more from the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission. Collaboration with academia and civil society is also imperative. Together with various partners, including members of the Security Council, Switzerland has supported the use of digital technology to visualize the links between climate change and violence in West Africa. A similar analysis for East Africa will be made available soon. For every situation on its agenda, the Council will have to base its action on scientific data. The project has also highlighted the importance of partnerships with regional organizations and local expertise.

Thirdly, our shared challenge is also providing opportunities. The Freetown/Blue Peace Initiative, launched by Switzerland, is an example of how the joint management of shared water resources can reduce tensions and help stabilize relations among various States and stakeholders. Several programmes have been implemented in the Middle East, Central Asia and West Africa. The thread linking climate risks, security and conflict prevention through cooperation is also the focus of a training course offered by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, hosted by Switzerland, for public and private sector actors. The Security Council's support for preventive diplomacy through special political missions is inspired by the same approach and has great potential for development.

Prevention entails climate action. The twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Glasgow, will push us to ramp up our joint efforts towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C must be our priority. As a candidate as a non-permanent member in the Security Council for the term from 2023 to 2024, Switzerland will also continue its commitment to mitigate the consequences of climate change on peace and security.

Annex 25**Statement by the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations**

The United Arab Emirates would like to congratulate the Republic of Ireland on its presidency of the Security Council and for bringing this important matter to the attention of the Council.

Every year, intensifying droughts, hurricanes, floods and other climate-induced disasters and strains degrade food and water availability, shelter, human health and ultimately the safety of hundreds of millions of people across the globe, with disproportionate impacts on women and girls. Those worsening trends increase migration, resource competition and societal stress, especially in vulnerable regions. The United Arab Emirates welcomes and strongly supports the growing international consensus that climate change is a contributing factor to conflict and instability. It is crucial for the Security Council to play its part in addressing the climate-security nexus and act to manage the impacts on global stability and security. Climate is not always a determinative factor in the crises and situations on the Council's agenda, but it must be consistently considered by the Council to ensure that we are not underresponding.

As a member of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, the United Arab Emirates aligns itself with the statement submitted by Germany on behalf of the Group (annex 17) at this open debate and would like to make some additional recommendations.

First, the Security Council needs to develop institutional mechanisms to enable early warnings and translate them into timely actions. For example, the deployment of climate security advisers, as we have seen recently in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, can be an effective way to credibly analyse climate impacts and promote coordination and integration across the mission and the United Nations country team to address them. Some of the same analytical experience might also be found in United Nations country teams. The United Nations humanitarian system has developed reliable tools for predicting climate-linked disasters, providing an opportunity for the Council to be briefed earlier and consider its options. We encourage the Council to seek lessons learned from those mechanisms and consider them when discussing issues on its agenda, as appropriate.

Secondly, effective action on climate security needs a gender-responsive approach. The disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls requires their active role in decision-making and consultation around responses to climate threats, as well as systematic analysis of gender when the United Nations and its partners consider climate security issues. That is crucial to building sustainable peace in climate-vulnerable regions. Ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all aspects of conflict resolution, from de-escalation to reconstruction, remains a key priority for the United Arab Emirates.

Thirdly, United Nations peace operations should systematically integrate sustainability considerations into how they operate in order to avoid harm to host communities as well to avoid contributing to global climate change. The United Arab Emirates strongly supports the United Nations commitment to shifting to 80 per cent renewable energy use by 2030. That goal hinges largely on peacekeeping missions. In that regard, the United Arab Emirates is working with the International Renewable Energy Agency, Norway and a number of United Nations partners to support the transition of peacekeeping missions to renewable energy where it is practical, especially by buying from host community providers. Initial results from

the field indicate that there are cost, security and host community benefits alongside greenhouse-gas emission reductions.

Climate security threats must be treated with the same urgency as any other security threat. As for the United Arab Emirates forthcoming term on the Security Council and our offer to host the twenty-eighth Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2023, we are committed to ensuring that the different components of the international system play their part to deliver the climate security we all need.
