

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 3 October 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of October 2022, Gabon will convene a Security Council debate on the theme “Threats to international peace and security: climate and security in Africa”.

In order to guide the discussions on the topic, Gabon has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Michel Xavier **Biang**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: French]

### **Concept note for the Security Council debate on the theme “Threats to international peace and security: climate and security in Africa”, to be held on 12 October 2022 at 10 a.m. (Eastern Daylight Time)**

On 12 October 2022, the Security Council will discuss strengthening the international response to the negative impacts of climate change on peace and security in Africa. The meeting will be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, Michael Moussa Adamo.

#### **Objectives**

- The aim of the debate is to analyse the links between climate change and peace and security in Africa.
- The second objective is to review the resources available to Africa to address the threats posed by climate change to peace and security, and to mobilize those resources in order to achieve lasting peace on the continent.
- The third objective is to explore ways to optimize the international community’s support for Africa in order to minimize the impact of climate change on peace and security.

#### **Background**

It is estimated that Africa accounts for only 4 per cent of the global increase in greenhouse gas emissions, which is responsible for the current unprecedented climate upheaval. Yet several of the regions and countries that are the most vulnerable to climate change are located in Africa. Millions of Africans are thus increasingly faced with a rise in the frequency, severity and duration of extreme, violent and sudden weather and climate events. These disturbances result in periods of drought, heatwaves, heavy rains, floods, forest fires, cyclones and tropical storms, as well as the associated devastating effects (melting glaciers, ocean acidification and warming, disruption of marine currents, etc.). The most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, are most at risk from the devastating effects of climate change.

Climate change not only disrupts the environmental balance; it also threatens livelihoods, as it leads to a drastic reduction in agricultural production. According to the State of the Climate in Africa 2020 report, food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa increases by 5 to 20 percentage points with each flood or drought. The resulting scarcity of vital resources, as well as the difficulties in accessing them, are all factors likely to generate social tensions, or even violent conflicts, between populations at the local or transnational level, for example between farmers and herders.

The negative effects of climate change are also having an impact on population movements, both within countries and across borders. Climate migration can take many forms, including forced and voluntary, temporary and permanent, and internal and international. In 2021, the Global Report on Internal Displacement estimated that 4,299,000 people had already been reported as displaced by natural disasters in sub-Saharan Africa by the end of 2020. The total number of internal climate migrants

in sub-Saharan Africa could reach 86 million by 2050, according to a World Bank report published in 2021.

### **Climate change, a new challenge for peace and security**

In areas affected by climate change where non-State armed groups or terrorists are active, challenges around livelihoods difficulties and access to vital resources increase hardship. Vulnerable local communities are more likely to engage in illicit activities, and are hence recruited more easily. Climate change is thus a factor that exacerbates armed conflicts.

Given the real threats to the stability of the continent, the African Union included the climate-security nexus among the key priorities of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, adopted in 2015. Threats to peace and security have often arisen in areas where climate incidents have been recorded. According to the 2020 Global Peace Index of the Institute for Economics and Peace, which concerns situations of war, almost half of the African countries most affected by climate change are in conflict.

To address the climate emergency facing many parts of Africa, Gabon intends to foster a candid, frank and uncompromising dialogue in order to find holistic and sustainable responses and solutions to the challenges facing the continent.

In that regard, the international community must fully recognize the impacts of climate change on peace and security in Africa and take concerted action to respond effectively.

### **Guiding questions**

1. What are the consequences of climate change for peace and security in Africa?
2. How can the international community, including the members of the Security Council, better support Africa in formulating appropriate responses to the effects of climate change on peace and security?
3. What kind of partnership can be established between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in connection with the climate, peace and security nexus?
4. How can lasting peace be promoted on the continent in the context of climate change?

### **Speakers**

- Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, Amina J. Mohammed (to be confirmed)
- Permanent Secretary of the National Climate Council, former Chair of the African Group of Negotiators on climate change, Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Tanguy Gahouma-Bekale
- Director of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the Africa region, Patrick Youssef