



Security Council

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Letter dated 30 December 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the following current and incoming members of the Security Council, Denmark, France, Greece, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, I have the honour to transmit herewith the updated statement of joint pledges related to climate, peace and security (see annex I).

I also have the honour to transmit herewith the transcripts of the eight joint media stake-outs organized in 2024 by Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and my own country, Malta, in accordance with the joint pledges (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vanessa Frazier
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations



Annex I to the letter dated 30 December 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of joint pledges related to climate, peace and security¹

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, limiting global warming to 1.5°C will be beyond reach. Climate change also poses a direct existential threat to many United Nations Member States. In line with the Security Council's recognition that climate change can aggravate existing threats to international peace and security; act as a driver of conflict; represent a challenge to the implementation of Council mandates; and endanger the process of consolidation of peace, our shared goal is for the Council to address those issues related to the risks and adverse effects of climate change that are relevant to its mandate to maintain international peace and security. Objective data and careful analysis of climate change-related risks and impacts should inform and shape the Council's responses to situations on its agenda.

We, Denmark, France, Greece, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, have pledged to focus on the implications of climate change for international peace and security among the priorities of our respective terms as members of the Security Council, including through our presidencies, in order to advance a systematic, responsive, pragmatic, comprehensive and evidence-based approach to climate, peace and security.

To drive forward mutual understanding and commitment within the Council to address climate, peace and security, where appropriate and relevant, we pledge to:

- Convene at least one Security Council meeting, in thematic or geographical format, addressing topics relevant to climate, peace and security during our respective terms;
- Enhance cross-presidency planning to ensure coherence, continuity, advancement, further development and increased efficiency on the theme;
- Request the inclusion of climate change and conflict analysis as a cross-cutting theme in United Nations briefings to the Council;
- Invite and support the participation of briefers with climate, peace and security expertise in Security Council meetings, inter alia, on specific contexts to share their experiences regarding the implications of climate change in their work on the ground, including briefers from affected countries to draw on the impacts of and risks associated with climate change on peace and security in their contexts;
- Highlight the importance of supporting comprehensive risk assessments and risk management strategies related to climate change, peace and security;
- Strive to integrate language on climate, peace and security in Security Council products;

¹ These pledges were originally launched by Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates in 2023. They were further developed in 2023 together with Albania, France, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, and in 2024 together with Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia. Denmark, Greece and Panama will form part of the 2025 Security Council.

- Seek opportunities to publicly highlight the Council's linkages to climate, peace- and security-related issues, including by holding geographical or thematic press stake-outs;
- Draw attention to, share, reflect and follow up on the recommendations and issues raised in Council meetings on climate-, peace- and security-related issues;
- Highlight the fact that climate change is disproportionately affecting the security of women, youth and people in vulnerable situations, as well as their critical role in improving resilience to and mitigating the effects of climate change on peace and security, and encourage briefings on the gendered impact of climate change in their briefings;
- Work in close collaboration with national Governments as well as regional and subregional organizations and other local actors, associated with situations on the Council's agenda, to address the impacts of climate change on peace and security in specific contexts;
- Integrate views and exchanges on climate and security issues during field trips of the Security Council;
- Encourage the United Nations to support United Nations missions, including peacekeeping operations and special political missions, to minimize their carbon footprint in the contexts that they operate in and increase environmental management actions, when consistent with their mandates;
- Foster evidence-based dialogue and promote common understanding among Council members about the most effective ways of addressing the impact of climate change on peace and security, including human security;
- Highlight the work of the Informal Expert Group of the Members of the Security Council on Climate and Security, as well as work with the Group of Friends on Climate and Security.

We welcome new pledgers and will review this document as necessary, to renew the pledgers' approach to this initiative as the Council continues to address the growing issue of climate change and its evolving nature on international peace and security.

17 December 2024

**Annex II to the letter dated 30 December 2024 from the
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Transcripts of media stake-outs organized in accordance with the
joint pledges**

**I. Joint pledges related to climate, peace and security: stake-out on
West Africa and the Sahel region/United Nations Office for West
Africa and the Sahel**

11 January 2024 – Switzerland initiative

We, the Security Council members that have joined the joint pledges related to climate, peace and security – France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America – have come together for the first time this year as a group, welcoming the new pledgers. Today the Council convenes to discuss the situation in West Africa and the Sahel and the activities of the United Nations regional office, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). We express deep concern regarding the severe adverse impacts of climate change on peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel and call for urgent action. To this end, the pledgers present today have committed to highlight this issue, including during the Council meeting this morning in our national capacities.

In West Africa and the Sahel, climate change and its impacts on peace and security are already a lived reality, especially in the Lake Chad basin or the Liptako-Gourma regions, but also beyond. The increasing frequency and intensity of droughts and floods, biodiversity loss, desertification and other impacts affect populations who rely mainly on rain-fed agriculture and livestock for subsistence. Climate change amplifies risks of food and water insecurity, loss of livelihoods, migration and displacement that in turn can contribute to competition for resources. These impacts can also fuel violence, including between farmers and herders as well as recruitment into terrorist or violent extremist groups. Women, youth and the most vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected, and humanitarian needs keep growing. In West Africa, where some 400 million people live, the rapid retreat of the coastline due to rising sea levels is already forcing coastal communities inland. In the Sahel, where agriculture remains the dominant activity, recurrent droughts and increased rainfall variability are leading to more internal migration. Temperatures in the region are set to rise by more than the global average.

Prevention is key. Conflict-sensitive climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience actions backed by related funding are an important lever for peacebuilding and social cohesion in the subregion. In this sense, in West Africa, cross-border projects have enabled dialogue and promoted more transparent management of scarce natural resources, transforming the challenges into opportunities as a factor for peace.

We welcome the climate, peace and security work of UNOWAS as it assists the Governments in the subregion and the United Nations system in undertaking risk assessments and risk management strategies that take into consideration the adverse implications of climate change, among other factors. UNOWAS works in close collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its member States, relevant subregional forums, such as the recent Sahel Climate, Peace and Security Forum in Bamako, and civil society – including youth and

women's groups, academia, and United Nations presences to advance climate, peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel.

We encourage continued collaboration between the African Union, ECOWAS and its member States, other subregional forums and UNOWAS, and relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society, including through sustained implementation of the Dakar Call to Action on Climate Change, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel, and the United Nations Regional Working Group on Climate Change, Environment, Security and Development in West Africa and the Sahel. To inform the Security Council and enable more holistic responses to the impacts of climate change, we reiterate the critical need to further enhance data collection, sharing and analysis as well as early warning systems. The UNOWAS Climate Security Adviser has a unique role in this respect.

II. Joint pledges related to climate, peace and security: stake-out on climate change, food insecurity and conflict

13 February 2024 – Guyana presidency

Today, the Security Council convened for an open debate on the impact of climate change and food insecurity on the maintenance of international peace and security. On behalf of France, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and my own country, Guyana, we take this opportunity to highlight the importance that we attach to a holistic approach to these issues in the context of international peace and security.

As countries that have joined the joint pledges related to climate, peace and security, our delegations have acknowledged that climate change can aggravate existing threats to international peace and security. We are concerned that the increasing occurrences of extreme climate events are severely impacting access to vital resources such as water and agricultural lands, abetting intercommunal conflicts, especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world, including in several countries on the Council's agenda.

There is increasing evidence of the interrelationship between climate change, food insecurity and conflict, with each directly or indirectly impacting the other. The science is compelling and we are of the strong view that this issue requires a systematic and strategic approach by the Council.

Food and water insecurity and hunger are among the primary pathways through which the effects of climate change on peace and stability and the enjoyment of human rights manifest. Just as with land-based agriculture, blue food insecurity contributes to a number of today's most significant security challenges. Conflict can in turn exacerbate food crises and environmental degradation, creating a vicious cycle: of the 10 countries most sensitive to climate change-related risks, 9 are food insecure. Low-income, fragile, vulnerable and conflict-affected countries/communities are most at risk of being overwhelmed by climate impacts.

As temperatures continue to rise, increasingly unpredictable rainfall patterns, severe droughts, floods, sea-level rise and changing agricultural patterns result in food insecurity, disrupted livelihoods and migration, which are among the key factors driving conflict and violence. Climate change, in this regard, is considered a risk multiplier.

Women and youth, children and older persons are among the most disproportionately affected, while Indigenous Peoples, who for decades have long been considered guardians of the environment and many of whom rely on nature for their subsistence, face the reality of being displaced, forced to seek not only refuge but new avenues to be food secure.

We, therefore, cannot afford to ignore the interlinked nature of these three phenomena and call on the Security Council and the wider multilateral system to take a holistic view of these challenges.

We do note that the Security Council has recognized the adverse effects of climate change on stability in resolutions on the mandates of peacekeeping operations and political missions. However, the Council must endeavour to adopt a long-term strategy based on comprehensive risk assessments, utilizing data and analytics to build resilience.

Finally, as responsible and committed members of the Security Council and to the climate, peace and security agenda, we stand ready to consolidate our efforts to advance a systematic, responsive, inclusive and evidence-based approach.

III. Joint pledges related to climate, peace and security: stake-out on Yemen

15 April 2024 – Malta presidency

We, the Security Council members that have joined the joint pledges on climate, peace and security, France, Guyana, Japan, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and my own country, Malta, have come together to express deep concern at the climate security challenges facing Yemen ahead of today's Security Council briefing.

In Yemen, the interlinkages between climate change, peace and security are evident through ongoing environmental degradation, socioeconomic vulnerabilities and conflict. Environmental stress factors aggravate food and water insecurity, the widespread destruction of infrastructure and the displacement of communities. The ongoing conflict has further exacerbated these challenges and heightened vulnerabilities among the Yemeni population, increasing strains on the capacity of local authorities and humanitarian organizations to respond effectively.

Yemen is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world. It faces increased temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, flash floods as well as drought and desertification, exacerbated by the El Niño phenomenon. Depleting groundwater reserves has negatively impacted agricultural lands and posed significant threats to food security and livelihoods.

Despite these adversities, the resilience of the Yemeni people to strive and adapt in the face of such challenges is recognized. In rural communities, women are frequently dependent upon natural and agricultural resources for their livelihoods and to sustain their families. They play a pivotal role in food security and in mitigating tensions over natural resources, including resolving water and land disputes. We highlight the work of Yemeni women-led civil society organizations in this respect, especially in remote and front-line areas.

Addressing such challenges in Yemen demands our immediate attention. We should strengthen our efforts to end conflict and insecurity in Yemen and enhance community resilience amid the complex socioeconomic and political landscape. A coordinated approach is needed to address climate stressors, impacts on biodiversity and the protracted conflict that has created a vicious cycle of instability. Such an approach should be complemented by measures that promote peacebuilding, while addressing the impacts of climate change and protecting biodiversity.

The Security Council must meet its responsibilities of maintaining international peace and security by recognizing the nexus with climate change and addressing the full range of conflict risk factors. We stress the importance of dialogue, international cooperation and support, which are key in fostering peace, stability and resilience-building in Yemen. We also call for comprehensive climate-related peace security risk assessments and for strengthened disaster risk management, including early warning systems.

In overcoming such challenges, we must continue to ensure immediate humanitarian assistance that addresses the urgent needs of the population, particularly women, children, young persons, older persons, minorities and internally displaced persons, including through providing access to clean water and sanitation, food aid, shelter and healthcare services. The international community should also continue to promote sustainable and integrated resource management practices, implementing

innovative agricultural techniques, enhancing water conservation measures and maritime security and investing in clean and renewable energy sources.

As pledge holders, and as Council members committed to advancing the climate, peace and security agenda, it remains our priority to effectively develop evidence-based and holistic strategies that address the interconnected challenges of conflict and climate change. Only through concerted and sustained action, fostering national and local ownership, can meaningful progress be made towards building a more sustainable, resilient and secure future for the people of Yemen.

IV. Joint pledges related to climate, peace and security: stake-out on Afghanistan

21 June 2024 – Republic of Korea presidency

We, the Security Council members that have joined the joint pledges on climate, peace and security, France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and my own country, the Republic of Korea, have come together to highlight the adverse impacts of climate change on peace and security in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan, a landlocked and mountainous country featuring glaciers and deserts, suffers from scarce water resources and extreme weather events, all projected to exacerbate with climate change. Decades of conflict, coupled with the Taliban's edicts targeting Afghan women and girls, have left the country with limited capacity for adaptation and disaster preparedness.

The interlinkages between climate change, peace and security are evident in Afghanistan.

Human suffering and displacement are on the rise following climate-related natural disasters. Only last month, hundreds of people lost their lives and were displaced due to flash floods.

Prolonged and more frequent drought and floods jeopardize agricultural livelihoods and production, further exacerbating food insecurity and humanitarian crisis. Farmers are pressured into negative coping mechanisms, including drought-resistant cash crops such as poppies.

Tensions over land and water can trigger local conflicts in the absence of proper resource management. The possibility of disputes between riparian States over freshwater resources raises serious concerns in the region, and calls for stronger transboundary water cooperation.

The populations exposed to climate-related risks may be vulnerable to terrorist propaganda and recruitment.

Above all, the systemic human rights abuses Afghan women and girls face, including of their freedom of movement, peaceful assembly and expression, as well as of access to work and education, limit their access to humanitarian aid and significantly undermine the entire Afghan population's capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change. We reaffirm their indispensable role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and the importance of their full, equal, meaningful and safe participation in public life.

We are committed to integrating the climate, peace and security nexus in our deliberations regarding Afghanistan in the Security Council. We welcome the upcoming deployment of a climate, peace and security adviser to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in this regard. We also invite the Secretary-General to integrate the nexus in upcoming meetings of the Special Envoys on Afghanistan. The international community should scale up holistic efforts to ensure that addressing climate change in Afghanistan contributes to our common goal of peace, stability and inclusive development in the country.

V. Joint pledges related to climate, peace and security: stake-out on United Nations peacekeeping operations

9 September 2024 – Slovenia presidency

Today, the Security Council convenes for an open debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations. France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and my own country, Slovenia, underscore the importance of a holistic approach to climate, peace and security in the context of United Nations peacekeeping.

If United Nations peacekeeping operations are to successfully fulfil their indispensable mandates, climate change considerations need to be taken into account. In this context, we take this opportunity to highlight three key messages.

First, climate change and environmental degradation can exacerbate risks to international peace and security. Fragile and conflict-affected countries and communities are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. To enhance the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations, it is essential to integrate data-based environmental and climate security considerations, where appropriate, into risk assessments, monitoring, planning, reporting and mandate implementation. Risk assessment and risk management should be inclusive, comprehensive and gender-responsive, so the needs of all affected communities are addressed and peacekeeping efforts are sustainable.

Climate security advisers within United Nations peacekeeping operations can play a significant role in mapping risks and providing valuable guidance to both missions and host authorities on practical actions that may be taken. We reiterate our call for the appointment of a United Nations special representative on climate, peace and security to address the intersection of climate and conflict from an evidence-based point of view.

Second, we believe United Nations peacekeeping operations can mitigate conflict-related risks that are exacerbated by climate change. By working with the host communities and United Nations country teams, they can contribute to the development of conflict-sensitive approaches to adaptation and mitigation responses on the one hand, and climate-sensitive approaches to conflict management, prevention and peacebuilding on the other, thereby reinforcing the benefits of climate action alongside peace and security efforts.

Consideration of the adverse effects of climate change in the mandates of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus – missions comprising 75 per cent of all currently deployed peacekeeping personnel – represents a decisive contribution towards these goals.

And third, United Nations peacekeeping operations must adapt to ensure their own operational effectiveness and abilities to implement mandated tasks, including the protection of civilians. This requires careful assessment and planning.

We emphasize the importance of the United Nations Department of Operational Support's strategy: "The Way Forward: Environment Strategy for Peace Operations 2023–2030". Good stewardship of resources ultimately contributes to the positive legacy in host countries as part of the wider United Nations efforts beyond missions' deployment.

Finally, we commend the troop- and police-contributing countries for their innovation, professionalism and commitment in adapting their approach and capabilities to effectively operate in environments increasingly impacted by climate change.

We stand in front of you today, ready to forge ahead on our efforts to advance a systematic, responsive, inclusive and evidence-based approach to climate, peace and security in the context of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

VI. Joint pledges related to climate, peace and security: stake-out on United Nations-African Union cooperation

2 October 2024 – Switzerland presidency

Today, the Security Council convenes to discuss the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, focusing on the African Union. On this occasion, the Security Council members that have joined the joint pledges on climate, peace and security, France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States and my own country, Switzerland, have come together to underscore the importance of this cooperation with regards to addressing the adverse effects of climate change on international peace and security.

Climate change can act as a “risk multiplier” that demands immediate and robust strategies. It can increase competition over natural resources, deepen social inequalities and drive forced displacement, especially among vulnerable groups. In addition, its negative impact on the environment and health, as well as on food, water and energy security can exacerbate risks to international peace and security. Climate change can create or deepen existing fault lines between and within States and societies in specific contexts. Those in fragile and conflict settings are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

We underline the leadership of the African Union, together with regional and subregional organizations, in enhancing collective action to address climate-related peace and security risks. Together, they have spearheaded institutional innovations and cross-sectoral cooperation. Such efforts include those of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, which has held regular meetings and adopted relevant decisions. We also welcome the development of the common African position on climate change, peace and security.

Today, we have come together to highlight three key messages:

First, we need to focus on prevention and resilience-building. This involves increasing efforts towards sustainable development as well as collaborative and inclusive multi-stakeholder action, including with women- and youth-led organizations. Conflict-sensitive climate adaptation, mitigation, finance and resilience actions can be an important lever for peacebuilding. We therefore welcome the deepening of the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations on climate, peace and security.

Second, we underscore the importance of proactive and comprehensive joint action for prevention in support of the Secretary-General’s New Agenda for Peace, which calls for strong partnerships between the United Nations and regional frameworks. To deepen this dialogue, we look forward to the forthcoming exchange in the context of the ninth joint informal seminar between the members of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

Third, we reiterate the critical need to further enhance data collection, data sharing, capacity-building and coordination of risk assessments to inform early warning systems related to climate, peace and security challenges. The latter are also at the heart of prevention strategies, support early action and could save lives. We take note of the first continental Africa Climate Security Risk Assessment and the need for support and capacity-building to mitigate risks related to climate security.

We look forward to continuing our cooperation with the African Union and to working towards addressing the growing impacts of climate change on international peace and security.

VII. Joint pledges related to climate, peace and security: stake-out on Yemen

13 November 2024 – United Kingdom presidency

Today, the Security Council convenes to discuss the situation in Yemen. On this occasion, the Security Council joint pledges on climate, peace and security – France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United States and my own country, the United Kingdom – have come together to draw attention to the nexus between climate, peace and security in Yemen, highlighting the links between climate change and Yemen's worsening humanitarian situation, ahead of today's briefing.

The protracted conflict in Yemen has led to the internal displacement of over 4.5 million people, alongside significant damage to infrastructure and economic collapse. Some 18.2 million Yemenis – over half of the population – are suffering from food insecurity and are in need of humanitarian assistance to survive. Seventy-five per cent of these are women and children. This dire humanitarian situation is being exacerbated by climate change-related hazards, such as increased temperatures, drought and desertification, as well as erratic rainfall patterns and flash flooding.

Access to potable water is one of Yemen's most significant challenges. According to the World Bank, it is estimated that 18 million people lack access to safe water and adequate sanitation services in Yemen. Yemen is already one of the most water-stressed countries in the world. Yet the country's water supply is threatened by a range of climate change impacts, including sea level rise, which can cause salt-water intrusion into freshwater sources in coastal areas. Moreover, worsening heavy rains and flooding have heightened the risks posed by displaced landmines and other unexploded ordnance, and have increased the risk of cholera transmission through the contamination of water supplies. Depletion of groundwater reserves, and the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, have led to the degradation of agricultural land. This in turn worsens food insecurity, which is a driver of displacement and local conflict, as competition over scarce resources increases.

We recognize the multifaceted linkages between climate change, conflict, displacement and increased poverty and vulnerability that all contribute to the worsening security and humanitarian situation in Yemen. Prevention, management and resolution of local disputes related to land, water and natural resources is essential. We commend the indispensable role of women in this regard and encourage their continued engagement. An inclusive political settlement under the auspices of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen is the only way to bring sustainable peace and long-term stability to Yemen, and to address these challenges.

We, together with the international community, will seek to address the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, and to enhance sustainable management of natural resources in Yemen as part of broader humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding efforts. Additionally, coordination of global efforts to build local resilience to climate hazards and strengthen disaster risk management and response should be enhanced, including through implementing early warning systems and improved monitoring of groundwater resources. We call on the wider United Nations system to support efforts towards more sustainable food systems, efficient water and energy use, as well as increased renewable energy usage. We will work to address the interconnected challenges of conflict and climate change to ensure that immediate and uninhibited humanitarian assistance can continue to be provided alongside achieving a stable and sustainable Yemen for the future.

VIII. Joint pledges related to climate, peace and security: stake-out on West Africa and the Sahel/United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

20 December 2024 – United States presidency

We, the Security Council members that have joined the joint pledges on climate, peace and security – France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and my own country, the United States – have come together to highlight the adverse impacts of climate shocks on peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel ahead of today’s Security Council meeting on the activities of the United Nations regional office, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS).

By acknowledging the challenges posed by climate change, energy insecurity, environmental degradation and natural disasters, the UNOWAS mandate provides a solid foundation for strengthening peace and security initiatives in the region. We therefore welcome the proactive approach of UNOWAS to climate, peace and security, including its climate security adviser.

We call upon UNOWAS, within its mandate, and the Security Council to join with other United Nations bodies to prioritize global climate mitigation and adaptation measures to address climate impacts in the Sahel. Relevant actors also must mitigate conflict between communities resulting from the competition for increasingly scarce natural resources. Stakeholders must protect water resources, farming and grazing lands, and pursue sustainable forest management practices.

We welcome the recent visit of the Informal Expert Group on Climate, Peace and Security of members of the Security Council to the Lake Chad basin region. This mission highlighted the urgency of addressing climate change as an exacerbating factor in intercommunal violence, including farmer-herder conflicts; recruitment and radicalization by terrorist groups; and increasing vulnerabilities among women, youth and children. It also showcased the potential for regional cooperation, innovative solutions and community-led initiatives to build resilience and promote peace.

We renew our call for the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women at all stages of the peace process, including conflict prevention. The agricultural nexus with the women and peace and security and youth, peace and security agendas is crucial in regions such as the Sahel, where 78 per cent of the labour force’s livelihoods are tied to agriculture and herding.

The time has come to accelerate action and ensure that those who are most impacted by impacts of climate shocks are meaningfully included in designing and funding solutions, from the carbon market mechanism and green bonds to changes in infrastructure and farming, fisheries and aquaculture. Investment in climate action not only strengthens our resilience, but also promotes international peace and security.
